Greetings to all UST Chemistry alumni,

As summer begins, I am again reminded of all the amazing things being done by students and faculty in the Department. We again have over 50 students working on research projects this summer, making the 4th floor of Owens Science Hall buzz with activity. Last year, the research results of our students and faculty resulted in several publications and student presentations. Two of our students won local or national awards for their presentations. Another student won a Goldwater Scholarship and an ACS International Research Experience for Undergraduates Program Award (one of only 17 given nationally).

Our 2014 graduates have moved on, and my colleagues and I are eager to see the things they do as they begin the next stage of their lives. One of our recent projects is to better document and advertise the wide range of activities and professions of Chemistry Department Alumni. We are using our new website as a place to gather and display this information. We hope this effort will help alumni share their status with each other and also help current and prospective students learn more about the opportunities a UST Chemistry degree affords them. Please visit the alumni section of the website and see if you are listed and if your information is up-to-date.

Finally, as always, I want to remind you of ways that you can interact with the Department. I very much hope you will join us at the summer research poster session in August as well as the Larson Lectures in September. In addition, keep an eye out for information regarding an alumni reunion in the next year. This newsletter has more details about all of these opportunities, and you can always keep up to date on our activities by checking out the Departmental website.
**Department News:**

- The Department had nearly 500 students enrolled in spring 2014 classes.
- Eighteen students and two faculty attended the National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Dallas.
- We recently added a new GC for the teaching labs along with a new incubator and a new fluorescence spectrometer to the current suite of lab equipment in the Department.
- Dr. Kris Wammer received the Undergraduate Research Award for Faculty from the UST Grants and Research Office.
- Megan Talbot, a student working with Dr. Tess Guino-skwarek, won an Excellence in Science and an ACS Poster Award at the recent Winchell Symposium.
- Kirsten Mueller, a student working with Dr. Lisa Prevete, won the POLYED Undergraduate Research Award at the National Meeting of the ACS.
- Junior Cecilia Gentle received both a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and an ACS International Research Experience for Undergraduates, 1 of 17 in the country.
- Milt Andrus won the Lyle Hall Senior Chemist Award from the MN ACS.
- Justin Donato and his collaborator received a grant from the MN LCCMR fund.
- Gary Mabbot published an article in *The Chemical Educator*.
- Eric Fort published an article in *Tetrahedron Letters*.
- Tom Ippoliti was awarded a US patent related to biodegradable polymers.

See more Department News at: www.stthomas.edu/chemistry/news

**Alumni News**

-Eric H. Fort ehfort@stthomas.edu

Check out news items and information for alumni on our website: www.stthomas.edu/chemistry/alumni

Congratulations to our newest alumni:

**Chemistry:** Ashlyn Johnson, Alex Loomis, Gabi Mattos, Ethan Rasmussen, Kayla Ryan, Michael Sirianni, Olivia Trefilek, Maura Walsh, Mark Scwerkoske

**Biochemistry:** Ryan Augustin, Kristin Braden, Brooke Capelle, Bronwyn Crandall, Taylor Fischer, Ben Flood, Matt Folstad, Danielle Francen, Mark Frommelt, Derek Hilgers, Danielle Hinckley, John Hirsch, Katie Jacobsen, Jackie Kapla, Becca Kummer, Theo Larson, Suzanne Mages, Logan McDermott, Maia Moffatt, Jen Moore, Deb Moriarty, Loshia Ndemeno-Tegomeh, Christina Roeske, Gemma Shaffer, Daphne Welte, Nicole Will

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**Raising the Bar: New Tracking System**

By: Eric H. Fort ehfort@stthomas.edu

There has been a great deal of beeping coming from the stockroom lately. It is not an alarm, but a new way of keeping track of the chemicals throughout the Chemistry Department. Whether in a fridge or flammable cabinet, no bottle can escape the new barcoding system implemented by Stockroom Manager Nick Honigschmidt and Assistant Stockroom Manager Sarah Fink. In a Herculean effort, the two have barcoded nearly every chemical container in the Department and cataloged the location. Now, any chemical entering or leaving the stockroom is scanned and categorized by destination. This approach allows for closer tracking of chemicals for safety, convenience, and legal reasons. This past year marked the required adoption of the Globally Harmonized System for chemical safety labeling, and the Chemistry Department is on schedule.

Nick and Sarah do not take this task lightly. For the classic “16 Bottle Experiment,” the capstone laboratory experiment for general chemistry, every single bottle was accounted for. Considering the 187 students enrolled in general chemistry for the spring of 2014, that resulted in nearly 3000 individual bottles that had to be scanned out and then scanned back in following the experiment.

The technology is improving the efficiency of taking inventory. According to Ms. Fink, “Taking inventory without barcodes used to be a two person job that took all summer, and that was for just our department! Now it only takes one person.” “The technology is pretty amazing.” said one student. In fact, some reagents in the stockroom from Eastman Chemical, Mallinckrodt Chemical Works, and others are older than the existence of computers. When that bottle was received back in Albertus Magnus Hall, nobody would have even imagined technology such as this.

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**Chemistry Awards Spring Chemistry Banquet 2014**

- **Outstanding Chemistry Senior:** Kayla Ryan
- **Outstanding Biochemistry Senior:** Becca Kummer
- **Chemistry Service Award:** Kristen Braden, Danielle Francen, Jackie Kapla
- **Inorganic Chemistry Award:** Kayla Ryan
- **Physical Chemistry Award:** Kayla Ryan
- **Analytical Chemistry Award:** Maggie Malone-Povolny
- **Environmental Chemistry Award:** Maia Moffatt
- **Organic Chemistry Award:** Michael Sirianni
- **Organic Chemistry Senior Award:** John Kummer
- **William D. Larson Scholars:**
  - Liz Beck, Evan Eklund, Cecilia Gentle, Abi Heuer, Dan Kremer, Maggie Malone-Povolny, Kirsten Mueller, Meghan Talbot, Holly Wang
- **Henry M. Neumann Scholarship:**
  - Alison Yang
  - Kyle Mayne, Landon Crippes, Francesca Ippoliti, Melissa Jackels, Megan Manor, Daniel Nicholson, Amanda Kaing, Salman Irfanullah, Whitney Lloyd, Maya Audi, Paige Gernes, Justin Roche, Katie Skwarek
The University of St. Thomas Department of Chemistry, with financial support from The College of Arts and Sciences, presents:

The 3rd Annual Distinguished Larson Lecture
Presented by Dr. Geri Richmond Sept. 25-26, 2014

For General Audiences:
Surf, Sink or Swim: Understanding Environmentally Important Processes at Water Surfaces
7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25 — OEC Auditorium

Technical Presentation:
From Lava Lamps to Salad Dressing: Where Oil Meets Water
12:15 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26 — JRC 126

About Dr. Richmond: Dr. Richmond is the Presidential Chair and Professor of Chemistry at the University of Oregon.

She is the president elect of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the winner of numerous prestigious awards including the Pittsburgh Spectroscopy Award, Davisson-Germer Prize for Atomic or Surface Physics, and the ACS Charles L. Parsons Award.

Her research focuses on molecular structure interactions at surfaces and interfaces. This work is relevant to environmental remediation, biological self-assembly, atmospheric chemistry and alternative energy. She is also an outspoken advocate for women in science. She is the Chair of COACch International. COACch is a grass-roots organization working to increase the number and career success of women scientists and engineers through innovative programs and strategies.

Summer Research Is Under Way
-Kris Wammer khwammer@stthomas.edu

Summer research is again under way and thriving in the UST Chemistry Department. Although we maintain active research programs throughout the academic year, summer represents an opportunity for both faculty and students to devote ourselves to full-time laboratory work, without as many academic year responsibilities. We tend to seize this opportunity and go big in the Chemistry Department, working with as many interested and qualified students as possible. This summer, 55 students are working with 10 faculty members.

Projects range from synthesis of novel molecules to development of new analytical methods to investigation of chemical and biological processes. Student researchers include those who have completed their first year up through recent graduates. While most are chemistry or biochemistry majors, we also have biology, neuroscience, and mechanical engineering students as part of our groups. Each week on Wednesday we all gather over lunch and three students speak about their projects. This is a wonderful way for students to become exposed to areas outside their own advisor’s expertise. Students are encouraged to ask each other good, probing questions, and they rise to the occasion admirably. In addition to these weekly meetings, we met with all the other ACTC chemistry departments at St. Kate’s in mid-July to share what we have been doing. This is done through platform and poster presentations. Finally, the Department will host our annual poster session on Friday, Aug. 8, from 10 a.m. until noon. All students will present posters summarizing their work. If you’re in the area and curious what these students have been working on, feel free to join us. Contact Kris Wammer (khwammer@stthomas.edu) for details.
Attention Alumni!

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the alumni reunion planned for August 2014 has been postponed.

Keep an eye out for future notices regarding the reunion. We want to make sure as many alumni as possible can make the event. We will be sure to keep you informed well in advance through our website, newsletters, and email. Have a wonderful summer, and we look forward to seeing and hearing from you soon.

In the meantime, please join us for the many seminars and talks this coming fall, including the Distinguished Larson Lectures on Sept. 25-26. Find more information at: http://www.stthomas.edu/chemistry/series/