Welcome to the second edition of the CSULA Chemistry and Biochemistry Department Newsletter, featuring department and alumni news. Please feel free to send us news as it happens. For a PDF version of the newsletter, visit www.calstatela.edu/dept/chem/, and be sure to send it to alumni who are not on our database. We hope you had a great holiday season.

Department News:
Carlos Gutiérrez garnered numerous national awards this year, earning the prestigious 2005 U.S. Professor of the Year, presented by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in Washington, DC. He also received the 2005 Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Award Corporation (HENAAC) Education Award, and the 2005 Outstanding Chemistry Professor Award, selected by students in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Dr. Robert Vellanoweth was promoted to full professor this year. Congratulations!

The CSULA-Caltech Partnerships for Research and Education in Materials (PREM) Collaborative was established in April 2004 through funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The program is designed to enhance and promote diversity in materials science research and education in Southern California by fostering and nurturing interdisciplinary interactions between faculty and students at CSULA and Caltech that advance the discovery and understanding of new materials. The PREM program is directed by Frank A. Gomez and includes Yong Ba, Grady Hanrathan, and Matthias Selke of CSULA and Julie Kornfield, Axel Scherer, and Brian Stoltz of Caltech. Since its inception, the PREM program has supported 27 undergraduate, graduate, high school, community college students, and postdoctoral fellows.

Events

National Chemistry Week at Cal State L.A.
October 21, 2005 was a special day at Cal State L.A.—not only did we welcome our students back with the annual fall reception, but our celebration was joined by Dr. William (Bill) Carroll, president of the American Chemical Society. The department, the Chemistry and Biochemistry Club and the MORE programs joined forces to host a number of events to welcome him and to show our excitement about science. A poster session displayed work from more than 20 students’ research projects. Participants were sponsored by the MORE programs, Project SEED and NSF-REU and PREM programs. The Chemistry and Biochemistry Club performed demonstrations, and information booths helped our visitors from community colleges including Pasadena City College and East Los Angeles College learn more about our programs. (We congratulate Gayane Godjian and Joaquin Arias for securing positions at ELAC.) CSULA president, James M. Rosser, also partook in the festivities. Stan Pine, professor emeritus and Western Regional director of the American Chemical Society, later said that Bill Carroll found his stop at CSULA to be the highlight of his 16-city marathon National Chemistry Week tour.

2005 Ferguson Lecture
Dr. Sharon L. Neal was the 2005 Lloyd Ferguson distinguished lecturer. Neal received her B.S. in chemistry from Spelman College, Atlanta, GA in 1980. She was a staff chemist for the Coca Cola Co. from 1981-1983. She received her Ph.D. in computational chemistry from Emory University in 1988, and after postdoctoral positions at the University of Washington, Spelman College and the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, she joined the department of chemistry at the University of California, Riverside in 1991. In 1998, she moved to the University of Delaware where she is associate professor of chemistry.

Neal gave two talks, one on her research area of photo kinetics and the dynamics of proteins and protein-lipid interactions. Neal has developed new spectrochemical methods for extracting information about the behavior of fluorescent molecules using dynamic multidimensional fluorescence methods by measuring the fluorescence as a function of wavelength and time simultaneously. These measurements facilitate the study of complex interactions between fluorescent probes and biomolecules. She also presented a talk on the challenges of being a woman of color in the sciences.

2006 Ferguson Lecture
Dr. Donald Darensbourg of Texas A&M University will be the 2006 Lloyd Ferguson distinguished lecturer. A Cal State L.A. alum, his work in inorganic and organometallic chemistry is highly respected. The lectures will be held February 9 and 10, 2006. To reserve seats, call (323) 343-2300.
Ferguson Scholarship winners

(L-r) Randolph Cooper (class of 1992), currently assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics at CSULA; Rayshonda Williams; Ikena Madu (class of 2005); Lloyd Ferguson; and Monica McDowell (class of 2005).

High fields in low places

A state-of-the-art, 600 MHz solids capable NMR (Nuclear Magnetic Resonance) spectrometer is now up and running at Cal State L.A. Not only is this instrument capable of the usual solution and solids spectral acquisition, but it can also perform micro-imaging. The instrument was purchased with NIH, Keck Foundation and CSULA funding. It is located in the basement of the Physical Sciences building, in a room that required significant customization for climate control, power regulation and ventilation. The NMR will be available for general faculty use in the immediate future and will bring us new capabilities in the study of many chemical systems that we couldn’t previously investigate in-house.

The spin doctor, Yong Ba (l.), in front of the 600 MHz ultra-shielded magnet along with Wayne Tikkanen (r.), chair, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry; Anthony Fratiello, not pictured, was also instrumental in helping to acquire this instrument.

IN MEMORIAM

Sigmund H. Jaffe, emeritus professor of chemistry, died January 3, 2005 at the age of 83. Jaffe was born in New Haven, CT. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Wesleyan University with high honors in chemistry in 1949 and earned his Ph.D. at Iowa State University in 1953. During World War II, he served in the Navy where he was an NCO in charge of the engine room on ships landing in North Africa, Italy, France and the Pacific. In the D-Day Invasion, he was among a handful of survivors when his ship, fully loaded with troops and tanks, was torpedoed in the English Channel.

In 1958 he came to Cal State L.A., where he helped form the chemistry department and served as its first chair. He was active in academic governance and research and consulted for Hughes Tool Co. and Jet Propulsion Lab. He received the University’s Outstanding Professor Award in 1974. He was an excellent lecturer in courses as varied as physical science, introductory chemistry for health sciences, general chemistry, quantitative analysis, and physical chemistry. He published 20 papers on aqueous electrochemistry, propellant chemistry, and atmospheric kinetics related to air pollution. He became emeritus in 1986. In addition to Phi Beta Kappa and the ACS, he was a member of Sigma Xi and Phi Lambda Upsilon.

After he retired to Camarillo Leisure Village, he continued to teach and lecture to high school and community college students on a volunteer basis. He headed many activities at the Village, where he was known for his quick wit and his consummate puns.

Donations in Sigmund Jaffe’s memory may be made to the Robert Louden Scholarship, named for one of his students.

Rashad Elias Razouk, emeritus professor of chemistry, died January 17, 2005 at the age of 93. Razouk was born in Dumiat, Egypt. He received a B.Sc. in chemistry with honors in 1933, an M.Sc. in 1936 and a Ph.D. in 1939, all from Cairo University. He was an assistant and associate professor of chemistry at Cairo University from 1939 to 1950. He held the position of head of the chemistry department at Ain Shams University in Cairo from 1950-1966 and was the vice dean of the Faculty of Science from 1954-1960. He was a professor of chemistry at the American University in Cairo from 1966-1968. He came to the United States in 1968, and held the position of professor of chemistry at Cal State L.A. from 1968-78. While at Cal State L.A., he taught general chemistry, quantitative analysis, and physical chemistry, and consulted for the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Lockheed Aircraft Service Co. He was appointed professor emeritus at Cal State L.A. in 1979. Razouk published 48 papers, mainly in the field of adsorption and surface chemistry. He was a member of the Egyptian Academy of Sciences, the Institut d’Egypte, and the Board of Editors of the Egypt J. Chem. He was also a fellow of the American Institute of Chemists (emeritus), a member of the American Chemical Society (emeritus) and the California Association of Chemistry Teachers. He recently received his 60-year membership in the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Donations in Rashad Razouk’s memory may be made to the Rashad Razouk Scholarship fund.
2004  Cecilia Zurita is working in the lab of Steven G. Clarke at UCLA. Cecilia was awarded a three-year cellular and molecular biology graduate training grant. Congratulations, Cecilia!

2003  Chris Vinci is working in the lab of Steven G. Clarke at UCLA.

2002  Joyce Sayegh and her husband, Nabil, had a baby girl this past November. Joyce is working in the lab of Steven G. Clarke at UCLA.

2001  Tanya Porras is working in the lab of Steven G. Clarke at UCLA. Rebecca Lee completed her Pharm.D. in May 2005. She is currently working as a staff pharmacist at Costco in Goleta, CA.

Shantanu Sharma earned his Ph.D. in biophysical chemistry from Caltech in 2005 under the guidance of Bill Goddard and Harry Gray. His dissertation (in collaboration with a major biopharmaceutical company) focused on the development of a new approach to determining the three dimensional structures of integral membrane proteins, ultimately used to guide drug design and discovery. Shantanu is currently employed as a management consultant at OC&C Strategy Consultants, working with senior management at Fortune 100 companies in the private equity, financial services, retail, media, and consumer goods sectors. Way to go, Shantanu!

2000  Eva (Huang) Heintz and Joe Heintz graduated in 2000, and their lives have been intertwined ever since. After graduating, Joe and Eva were married. Eva began a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry with a minor in organic chemistry at Georgia Institute of Technology (GIT) in 2004, and later joined Procter & Gamble as its technical leader of North America Beauty Microscopy Facility. She currently manages the facility. After a successful career at Coca Cola, Joe joined Eva at Procter & Gamble in 2005, working for its Fabric and Home Care Packaging Design Group.

1999  Kenneth Wong is still working as an environment regulator for the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. He will finish his second master's degree in urban and regional planning at Cal Poly Pomona this year.

1998  Deborah J. Lee and Kenneth Wong got married July 24, 2004 after 10 years of dating! Deborah completed her Ph.D. at UCI in March 2005, identifying and characterizing an Human Immunodeficiency virus type I integrase inhibitor-binding pocket. She is currently applying for residency programs in internal medicine with a subspecialty in infectious disease or hematology/oncology. She was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA), the national medical honor society, and to Sigma Xi National Research Society. Congratulations!

1997  Andrew H. Trinh worked for Diagnostic Products Corporation (DPC) from February 1998 to September 2001 as a research associate in the biochemistry department. In October 2001, he was promoted to assistant supervisor in allergy and biochemistry. He left DPC in October 2005 and is currently working for Herbalife International of Americas as a global licensing specialist.
Class of 2005

Bachelor of Arts, Chemistry
Mariamawet D. Ambachew
Carole Baca
Abby Lyn Brown
Nicholas Lee Castro
Baongoc Quang Le
Mona-Gekanju Toque
Tony Su

Bachelor of Science, Chemistry
Orfa Veronica Barahona
Amy Eunjoo Chung
Stacie Dahl
John F. Dang
Eric Jordan Fromer
Luis Fernando Gomez
Billy Hernandez
Parivash Moradi
Gina Elizabeth Ramirez
Michael Munoe Tsuno

Bachelor of Science, Biochemistry
Jaime Anguiano
Grace I. Aldana-Masangkay
Jose Francisco Alvarado
Michael Rudy Amador
Andranik Aykazyan
Dinora Beatriz Chinchilla
Serenity T. DeArman
Arturo Diaz
Patricia E. Dominguez
Maria Shahla B. Eugenio
Miguel Angel Gonzalez, Jr.
Carlos A. Guadamuz
Joanne Guerrero
Carlos Hernandez
Nina Tianning Lu
Ikenna Gregory Madu
Tyrone Lemar Martin
Monica Marcel McDowell
Julio Esteban Moran
Vi Ngoc Nguyen
Chin Hyong Park
Yaching Peng
Furqan Abbas Raja
Brenda Ramirez
Jean-Carlo Roncagliolo
Stacy Chan San
Maira Soto
Amy Khoa Tran
Tina Wong

Master of Science, Chemistry
George Abuelkhair
Maryam Hesabgar Monfared
Marisa Jennifer Monreal
Karara Muhoro
Vicky Ng

Photos not available:
Organic Chemistry Award: James Nunnelly
John Spielman Award in Freshman Chemistry: Laura Lazarus
Richard Perrigan Award: Billy Hernandez
Jacobo M. Patlan Memorial Scholarship: Dinora Chinchilla