Donald J. Darensbourg, class of 1964, Cal State L.A., was the 2006 Lloyd N. Ferguson distinguished lecturer. He received his B.S. degree in chemistry from California State University, Los Angeles in 1964 and his Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from the University of Illinois in 1968. After a year at the Texaco Research Center in Beacon, New York, he joined the department of chemistry at SUNY Buffalo. In 1973 he moved to Tulane University where he quickly rose to the rank of full Professor. Then in 1982 he moved to Texas A & M University where he is currently Professor of Chemistry. Dr. Darensbourg’s research activities are focused in the organometallic and inorganic chemistry of transition/main group metals, homogeneous and heterogeneous catalysis (including polymerization and biphasic properties), and applications of infrared spectroscopy.

Don presented two exciting talks, one describing his research in utilization of carbon dioxide as a source of carbon for building larger, more useful molecules. The other was entitled “Academic Life: It’s a Wonderful Life “ and presented the road to a career in a top notch academic institution. The presentations were both insightful and enjoyable.

Sally Ride Science Festival
On October 14, The College of Natural and Social Sciences (NSS) hosted the Sally Ride Science Festival at Cal State L.A. Hundreds of girls in fifth through eighth grades interested in a career in science and math attended. The exhibits and demonstrations presented by the Chem Club and MORE programs were among the most popular at the street fair which included representatives from all departments in NSS as well as major corporations and organizations. Following the street fair, students performed hands-on experiments in their choice of two workshops from among two dozen.

Keynote Talk
A veteran of three shuttle missions, Wendy Lawrence describes being inspired to become an astronaut while watching the first moon landing.

What’s in your Tap Water?
Grady Hanranahn’s workshop provided students with an introduction to environmental chemistry and hands on chemical analysis of arsenic in tap water and bottled water. Students performed a simple colorimetric reaction with a positive test for arsenite characterized by a blue color.

What is Air Pollution Anyway?
Krishna Foster and James Rudd conduct an atmospheric chemistry workshop. Particulate matter, nitrous oxides, ozone and invisible irritants are the types of pollution simulated and discussed.

Applied Science
In one demo, students use phenolphthalein for invisible ink and develop it using Windex. In Tie-dye chromatography artwork is created with Sharpie markers on stretched muslin. Rubbing alcohol is applied with droppers to get the desired patterns. MORE and Beckman Scholars Participants were Herbie Pech, Raymond Diaz, Rayshonda Williams, Laura Lazarus, Aileen Ariosa, and Nohemy Sorto.

FAQ
Faculty Activities

New Faculty
Dr. Xin Wen
Assistant Professor of Chemistry
Dr. Wen received both her Master’s and her Ph.D. from the University of Rochester, New York. Her research interests are at the chemistry-biology interface, where she aims to understand the relationship between protein structure, dynamics and function by integrating molecular biology techniques with biophysical methods (primarily NMR and CD). At the moment, she is working on two biological systems to address how the interactions of protein-small molecule affect the structure of the protein, and accordingly the biological role of the protein.

Dr. Krishna Foster
Associate Professor of Chemistry
Dr. Foster earned her Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry in 1998 from the University of Colorado at Boulder and conducted her postdoctoral research at the University of California, Irvine.

Her current research focuses on the characterization of chemical changes that occur at environmental interfaces when pollutants react with sunlight. For example, the rates of light-induced degradation of carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons are different on model soot and dust particles. She works to investigate variations in the chemical mechanisms responsible for these differences using HPLC and mass spectrometry techniques.

Promotion
Feimeng Zhou
is now directing a NIH-sponsored Research Infrastructure at the Minority Institutions Program at CSULA. The program aims at building research capacity for biomedical research, fostering collaborative research, and helping and guiding faculty members to establish productive research programs. He gave an invited lecture at a conference entitled “Single-Molecule Spectroscopy Meets Chip Technology” at Heidelberg University in Germany. He was also invited by the 4th Conference for Analytical Chemists in China.

Retired Faculty
Dr. Donald Paulson
Life Without Chemistry
Retiring from Cal State L.A. was a very difficult thing to do because I love classroom interactions with students. However, life in Ouray, Colorado is also wonderful. I keep very busy with my 30’ x 40’ HO model railroad and other activities. I sit on the governing boards of The Ouray County Historical Society (OCHS) and the Ridgway Railroad Museum. I lead mining history and railroad history hikes for those museums and I spend about 20 hrs per week volunteering at those two museums. I edit the OCHS History Journal, I write railroad articles for two local papers, and I publish articles on mining history. In addition, I am active in St. John’s Episcopal Church in Ouray where I am in charge of the physical plant. Finally, there are hundreds of high country hiking trails and jeep trails to explore in the San Juan Mountains near Ouray.

Class of 2006

Linda Tunstad and Carlos Gutierrez welcomed their new baby, Joaquin Gabriel Gutierrez-Tunstad, into the world June 24, 2006. 8 lbs 13 oz.
Alumni News

Rhodes Scholar

Leana Wen is one of 32 U.S. students chosen from 896 nominees for graduate study at the University of Oxford in England. A native of Shanghai, China, she entered California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA), when she was 13, earning a bachelor's degree, summa cum laude, in biochemistry in 2001 at the age of 18. She will pursue a master's degree in global health science at Oxford.

Wen was on leave last year from medical school to serve a one-year term as national president of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) in Reston, Va. A seven-year member of AMSA, she was elected a member of the organization's board of trustees three times.

Wen also recently served as a Global Health Fellow at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, and as a Department of Defense David L. Boren Fellow, working on conflict and HIV in Kigali, Rwanda. She was also recently appointed to be a member of the Council on Graduate Medical Education.

Additionally, Wen has received the School of Medicine’s Dames Prize in Physiology; a James E. Slater Award from the Phi Kappa Phi national honor society; a Katherine E. Carter Award in Scientific Writing; the CSULA Raul Henderson Eagle Pride Award in Service and Leadership; a National Institutes of Health Fogarty Minority International Research Fellowship; an Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation Research Fellowship; and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Biomedical Development Scholarship.

Faculty-Student Volleyball

The faculty continues its winning ways, defeating the student team two games to one, including a crushing 11-1 victory in the rubber game of the match.

Rhonda Larson (M.S. 1995) In 2001, she completed her Ph.D. at UCLA. Larson currently works at Net App, a computer storage company in Silicon Valley. There she manages a team that focuses on strategic analysis mainly providing valuable information to help keep sales force on track.

Dilys Man Yee Chow (B.S. 1997; MS 2000) Currently works for the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department as a Senior Criminalist in the Scientific Services Bureau.

Eva Heintz (2000) Now lives in Atlanta, GA and works at Solvay Advanced Polymers as Microscopy Facility Manager. Her husband, Joe Heintz, works at Coca Cola as Quality & Technical Program Manager II.

Robert Ramirez (2001) Recently finished his graduate studies at UCLA, and is currently writing his Ph.D. dissertation entitled “Noncovalent Functionalization of Single-Walled Carbon Nanotubes.” His manuscript published in Nano Letters has been featured in the website of journal Nature. In addition, Ramirez started a company called Rydezilla (www.rydezilla.com), a website that provides the interactive online viewing of GPS coordinates in three-dimensions.

Dr. Shantanu Sharma (2001) has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of physical chemistry and PI, Center for Macromolecular Modeling and Materials Design (sounds like a bit of everything) at Cal Poly, Pomona and started Fall 2006. He thoroughly enjoys being in a position that keeps him a well rounded chemist.

Jose Antonio Cabrera (2001) In June 2006, he completed his doctoral studies in Physical Chemistry at UC Irvine. At this time, Cabrera is in a two year postdoctoral appointment at Stanford University.

Alfred J. Baca (2004) Recently awarded a Science, Mathematics, And Research for Transformation (SMART) Department of Defense Scholarship Program administered by ASEE. The SMART program is highly competitive and confers high honors upon its recipients.

Nancy Carrillo (2004) Former MARC student is currently in the chemistry Ph.D. program at UC Santa Barbara. Her research in reinvention of peptide synthesis was featured in Chemical & Engineering “News of the Week” January 30 issue.

Stacie Dahl (2006) She is currently in the Chemical and Material Physics (ChaMP) PhD program at UC Irvine.

Who’s getting married?

Stephanie Stoll (1997) engaged to Wes Hawthorne. They plan to have their wedding in Los Gatos, CA on August 5, 2007.

Rob Ramirez (2001) will marry Susan, his best friend for over 14 years. Their scheduled wedding date is May 26, 2007.
Class of 2006

Bachelor of Arts, Chemistry
Abby Lyn Brown
Nicholas Lee Castro
Proseen Dahdouh
Cuong N. Hoang
Kevin Laptu Ly

Bachelor of Science, Chemistry
O. Veronica Barahona
Amy Eunjoo Chung
Stacie Dahl
Eric Jordan Fromer
Lala A. Khachatryan
Lydia C. McDonald
Marco A. Orozco
Jorge Osuna
Chik Yu Pang
Herbe Nicolas Pech
Francis Ugochukwui Udeh
Mario R. Vargas

Bachelor of Science, Biochemistry
Jose Francisco Alvarado
Rosie Alvarez
Angela Carlin
Cindy T. Chau
Rex G. Chen
Terry T. Cho
Alex A. Contreras
Michael Fantuzzi
Renee M Garcia
Alvaro H. Gomez
Carlos Hernandez
Maritza Hernandez
Alice Hsueh
Helena Thi Le
Tammy Thi Le
Aditi H. Mhaskar
Ramon A. Mercado
Adriana Navarro
Ebrahim Pahlavan
Cuong A. Phan
Maral Sariikhankhorami
Diane Irene Scaduto
Hai-En J. Sun
Ronald W. Tan
Ha Thien Trinh

Master of Science, Chemistry
Xiping Cao
Jeremiah D. Fields
Steven Han
David C. Hernandez
Giao Minh Hua
Myongho Jeong
Jake Leon
Wendy Yonghong Liu
Xiangli Liu
Vicky Ling-Ling Ng
Anuja A. Prabhutendolkar
Iris Ester Rauda
Shefali Sharma
Exequiel Tostado
Bin Ye
Jose A. Zavaleta

2006 Department Award Winners

ACS Organic Chemistry Award
Danielle Barrios

ACS Organic Chemistry Award
Yoon E. Ra

Anthony J. Andreoli Scholarship
Susana Nava

Katherine Carter Award for Scientific Writing
Teda Arunrut

Rashad Razouk Award
Alexandra Carlton

Robert Loudon Award
Veronica Barahona

Phoebe K. Dea Scholarship in Analytical Chemistry
Alvaro Gomez

LLoyd N. Ferguson Scholarship
James Horne

Graduate Student Award
Iris Rauda

Graduate Student Award
Yanwei Cai

John R. Spielman Award
James O’Hearn

Outstanding Teaching Associate Award
Grace Xiping Cao

Gutierrez-Tunstad Chemistry Award
Noemy A. Sorto

Vicki Kubo-Anderson Award
Jorge Osuna

Anthony Fratiello Award
Luis Gomez

American Institute of Chemists Award
Cindy Chau

Jacobo M. Patlan Memorial Scholarship
Ruth Montes

Chemistry and Biochemistry Club Faculty Award
Matthias Selke

Contributions to these scholarships or other Department activities can be arranged by calling the Department Chair at 323.343.2372.