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DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY

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## Bobbitt Takes the Lead

As of November 1, alumnus, B.S. '80, **Donald R. Bobbitt** is now President Bobbitt – President of the University of Arkansas System.

Bobbitt graduated with a degree in chemistry from this department in 1980. After working in the private sector he



Don Bobbitt

*Photo courtesy of the University of Arkansas System office*

decided to go to graduate school and earned a Ph.D. from Iowa State University in 1985. That same year he returned to campus and joined the faculty where he rose through the ranks from assistant professor to professor, vice-chair to department chair, associate dean to interim dean to dean. In 2008, he left the Fulbright College to be the provost and vice president for academic affairs at the University of Texas at Arlington.

He replaces B. Alan Sugg, who is retiring from the position

after 21 years. Sugg is a well-liked and respected leader, responsible for hiring all the current chancellors in the system.

In his latest role, he will have big shoes to fill but as Board of Trustees chairman Dr. Carl Johnson said of Bobbitt upon being voted into the position "He has the vision, the leadership and the right skills, and also the academic background to bring

us into the future." All solicited parties agree. Bobbitt has the goods to get the job done.

Bobbitt joins a short list of those who were chosen to lead the systems highest office. Most recognizable of those is J. William Fulbright, for whom the Fulbright College was named, who served as system president briefly from 1939-1941. Fulbright established the International Fulbright Program in 1946, while serving in the U.S. Senate.

From the beginning, system leaders were from varied backgrounds including early members of the American Society for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in occupations including economists, engineers, historians, lawyers, mathematicians, ministers and philosophers. All weathered controversies that shaped higher education in Arkansas.

Bobbitt will address modern day challenges with his arsenal of perspective as student, professor, chair, dean and provost. He also briefly worked in the private sector before attending graduate school.

With more than 66,000 students and over 17,000 employees, the University of Arkansas System is a driving force in the state's economy.

Since the inception of the flagship campus in Fayetteville in 1871, the system has developed a tradition of excellence that extends to five universities, five community colleges, a college of medicine, two schools of law, a presidential school, a math and science high school and divisions of agriculture, archeology and criminal justice.

## Alumnus Gets Award

**Tommy Love, Jr.**, B.A. '70, was awarded the Alumni Community Service Award by the Arkansas Alumni Association during homecoming weekend at the Arkansas Alumni Awards Banquet.

Love, who is a physician with Central Medical Group in Little Rock, was nominated for the award that recognizes unselfish and extensive service by alumni to their community and to humankind.

In the 1990s, he created a health fair to provide free access to health-related services for those in the public who express medical need. The fair offers free screenings for various illnesses and diseases, such as glaucoma, cholesterol, HIV and prostate cancer.

## Kumar First for Honors College Award

**Suresh Kumar** received one of six inaugural Honors College Distinguished Faculty Awards, at the annual Honors College faculty reception on Wednesday, Oct. 19.

The awards were developed to recognize the hard work and dedication of Honors College faculty who go above and beyond their regular teaching duties to mentor students and prepare honors courses.

Each recipient will receive a bronze medal, currently being designed by sculptor Hank Kaminsky, and \$1,000 to support undergraduate research.

Since 2006, Kumar has directed 20 honors theses and served on 15 additional defense committees.



Provost Sharon Gaber congratulates Suresh Kumar *Photo courtesy of the Honors College*

## Faculty News

### Research News

The paper "High Accuracy Benchmark Calculations on the Benzene Dimer Potential Energy Surface," by **Peter Pulay** and postdoc **Tomasz Janowski** (Volume 447, Issue 1-3, 15 October 2007, Pages 27-32) continues to be the second most highly cited paper in *Chemical Physics Letters* during the past five years.

### On the Go

ACS Joint 46th Midwest & 36th Great Lakes Regional Meeting, St. Louis, Oct. 19-22

**Colin Heyes** made an oral presentation. **Matt McIntosh** attended a recruiting session.

Graduate student **Benard Omogo** made a poster presentation "Contribution of Core/Shell and Core/Shell/Shell Lattice Interfaces on the Optical Properties of Quantum Dots."

ACS Southwest Regional Meeting (SWRM), Austin, Texas, Nov. 9-12

**David Paul** and **Julie Stenken** will attend.

**Tomasz Janowski** will present "Generalized Multipole Moments and Polarizabilities, and their Use in Ultrafast Quantum Mechanics/Molecular Mechanics Monte Carlo Simulation of Solutions," **Tomasz Janowski**, **Peter Pulay**, in the theoretical/computational chemistry section dedicated to James E. Boggs.

Graduate student **Ben Jones** will present a poster "Developing Low-cost, Versatile, Gold Nanocrystal-Based Bioassays," **Benjamin Jones**, **John Q Xia**, **Z. Ryan Tian**.

Graduate student **Roger Williams** will present a poster "Lattice-intercalation Effects on Surface Properties of Titanate Nanobelts," **Roger Williams**, **Raman Subramanian**, **Z. Ryan Tian**.

Honors College scholar **Ryan Shinabery** will present a poster "Intermolecular [3+2] Cycloaddition of Cyclopropylamines with Olefins by Visible Light Photocatalysis," **Ryan S. Shinabery**, **Nan Zheng**, **Soumitra Maity**, **Mingzhao Zhu**.

**Paul Adams** presented "Characterization of Molecular Details of RAS-Related Proteins that Highlight their Diverse Roles in Cell Signaling Activity," Oct. 24 at BMB seminar series biochemistry and molecular biology at Penn State University.

**Bob Gawley** was the speaker at the "Paquette Organic Workshop" at Ohio State University Sept. 23-24. He presented "Catalytic Dynamic Resolution - Discovery and Applications," and "Why did Alice say to Kitty: 'Perhaps looking glass milk isn't good to drink' - Implications for the Origins of Life," which was followed by a discussion on stereochemistry and enantioselectivity. The workshop ended with Gawley dis-

cussing research with graduate students.

He attended his first MASUA meeting of chemistry department chairs Oct. 21-22 at the University of Missouri.

**Roger Koeppe** participated in an NIH review panel Nov. 3 in Santa Clara, Calif.

**Matt McIntosh** presented "The Allylic Diazene Rearrangement: Mechanistic Features and Synthetic Applications," Oct. 27 at New Mexico State University.

**Julie Stenken** and undergraduate **Casey Dye** attended the Diabetes Technology Conference in San Francisco, Oct. 27-29.

Dye presented a poster "Measuring Glucose Calibration Changes during Foreign Body Reaction Manipulation with Dexamethasone-infused Microdialysis Probes."

**Ryan Tian** attended a symposium "The Origin, Development, and Future of the Lithium-ion Battery," hosted by the Center for Electrochemistry at the University of Texas Oct. 22 in Austin, Texas.

### Student News

Honors College scholar **Leah Ramey** made a poster presentation "Proliferation and Metabolism of Human Pluripotent Stem Cell Growth on Membrane Substrates," **Leah Ramey**, **Huantong Yao**, **Kaiming Ye** and **Sha Jin**, at the Biomedical Engineering Society's Annual Convention Oct. 12-15 in Hartford, Conn.

## Save the Copier

Printing large jobs on the department copier wastes time and resources when more than 125 copies are needed. Plan ahead and send the job to PMC Solutions (aka Printing Services).

Copy request forms are available at the reception desk or online at <http://pmcs.uark.edu/cpyrqst.pdf>.

The form should be attached to the document and placed on the reception desk for pickup. Allow five days for delivery.

See **Mona Dyer**, **Heather Jorgensen**, or **Markeeta LeRay** to obtain the correct purchase order number or to ask any questions.

## Safety Tip

### ***Never work alone in the lab - It is not safe***

Over the past year there have been some fatal accidents reported that involved students working alone in academic settings. All of these were preventable.

If you must work after regular hours make sure that people know that you are working in the laboratory so that they can check on you. Let other people in the building know that you are working as well.

Remember that accidents happen when you least expect them! Even a cut finger can escalate into a catastrophe under some unfortunate circumstances.

## Arkansas INBRE Research Conference

The 2011 Arkansas INBRE Conference took place October 21-22, at various venues in downtown Fayetteville.

More than 300 students and faculty from the State of Arkansas and surrounding states joined 200 University of Arkansas participants in the fields of biology, chemistry and physics.

The following chemistry majors and members of the Honors College made poster presentations:

- **Courtney Cagle**, advisor Jeff Silberman (BISC)
- **Hunter Dunn**, advisor **Paul Adams**
- **Gayatri Suresh Kumar**, advisor **Suresh Kumar**
- **Karen Ramey**, advisor **Paul Adams**

Members of the ACS Student Affiliates joined volunteers in biology and physics in hosting the Student Mixer and

also helped to setup and take down more than 100 poster boards.

Department staff members who gave extra time to the conference include **Judy Sluppick**, **Jerry Homesley**, **Marv Leister** and **KZ Shein**. Note that **Janice Chapman** will give her time post conference as she will process hundreds of travel subsidies.

Many faculty and alumni attended the conference and served as judges.

INBRE Conference Planning Committee

- **Roger Koeppe**, chair
- **Bill Durham**
- **Denise Greathouse**
- **Jennifer Sims**
- Kim Smith, biological sciences
- Reeta Vyas, physics

Special thanks to the following

- Chartwells
- Cosmopolitan Hotel
- Creative Awards
- Daylight Donuts
- Dickson Street Inn
- Eventures Party Rentals
- Fayetteville Town Center
- Gerald's
- Jammin Java
- Homewood Suites by Hilton
- Inn at Carnall Hall
- PMC Solutions
- University of Arkansas Global Campus
- University Relations
- VWR

<http://chemistry.uark.edu/INBRE/3642.htm>



Alumnus Howard Hendrickson, B.S. '87, Ph.D. '96, with Honors College scholar Gaya Kumar. Hendrickson is assistant professor in the department of pharmaceutical sciences at UAMS.



Bill Durham hauls a stack of poster boards.



Frank Millett questions Honors College scholar Hunter Dunn about his poster.



Alumnus Andy Williams, Ph.D. '09, discusses research. Williams is assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Arkansas at Monticello.



Jingyi Chen judges a poster during the poster session.

*INBRE photos by Denise Greathouse*

## Calendar of Events

### November

- 04..... CUME  
 07..... Department seminar - Greg Hartland, University of Notre Dame  
 14..... Department seminar - Michio Kurosu, University of Tennessee  
 18..... Last day to drop a full semester class with a "W"  
 21..... No department seminar  
 23..... Thanksgiving break, no classes, the university will be open  
 24-25 ..... Thanksgiving holiday, the university is closed  
 28..... Department seminar - alumnus Tom Goodwin, Hendrix College

### December

- 02..... CUME  
 02..... Dissertation and theses due to the Graduate School for fall graduation  
 06..... Scientific Solutions vendor show  
 08..... Last day of the fall 2011 semester and last day to officially withdraw from all full semester classes  
 09..... Dead Day - no classes  
 09..... Annual department potluck  
 12-16 ..... Final exams  
 17..... Fall commencement  
 23-31 ..... December holiday, university closed

### January

- 02..... University is closed for the New Year holiday  
 11-23 ..... Open registration  
 16..... University is closed in honor of the Martin Luther King holiday  
 16..... Last day to withdraw from all spring 2012 without penalty  
 17..... Classes begin for the spring 2012 semester  
 23..... Last day to register for a spring 2012 course  
 30..... Spring seminar series begins - Aaron Aponick, University of Florida  
 30..... Last day to drop a full semester course without a "W"

## University Closes for Thanksgiving

The university will be CLOSED for Thanksgiving, Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24-25. There are NO CLASSES Wednesday, Nov. 23 but the university will be open.

## Save the Date - Fry Memorial Service

The date for Art Fry's memorial service has been scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 19 at Butterfield Trail Village in Fayetteville.

## Scientist Solutions Events Vendor Show

The Scientist Solutions Vendor Show has been rescheduled from its November date. The date for the show is confirmed for Dec. 6 from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Harrison Hale Lounge (CHEM 224).

## November Birthdays

- 07.....Ashley Ramsey Howard  
 07.....Bob Gawley  
 08.....Kwangyul Moon  
 11.....Latisha Puckett  
 12.....Ingrid Fritsch  
 14.....Shobha Mysore Swamy  
 15.....Nicole Vanderbush  
 15.....Cameron Crane  
 18.....Dale Johnson  
 23.....David Paul  
 27.....Chris Rupar

*The publishing of birthdays is not intended to invade the privacy of anyone. If you prefer not to be included, please let us know.*

## Library Hours

CHBC Library (CHEM 225)  
<http://libinfo.uark.edu/chemistry>  
 575-2557

### Fall hours

Monday - Thursday....8 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
 Friday .....8 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
 Saturday - Sunday.....CLOSED

### Exceptions to regular hours

Nov. 22-23 .....8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
 Nov. 24-25 .....CLOSED

*Note: the CHBC library will be closed Saturdays and Sundays this fall.*

## CUME Dates 2011-2012

Cumulative exams for graduate students will take place the following Fridays from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in CHEM 144.

November 4  
 December 2

January 27  
 February 17  
 March 2  
 April 6  
 April 27