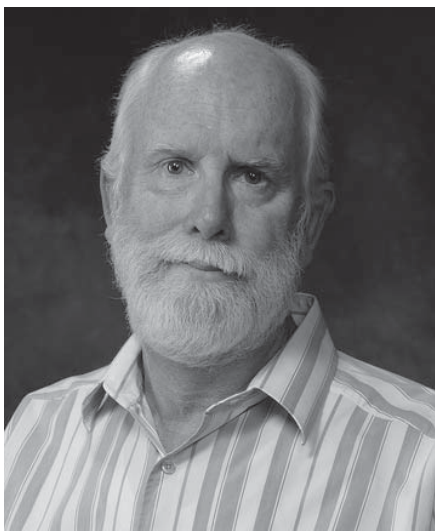


The Mole Street Journal

Volume 8, Issue 3

Gawley Named Secretary of AAAS Chemistry Section



Bob Gawley

Distinguished Professor **Robert Gawley** has been appointed secretary of the chemistry section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Gawley was named an AAAS Fellow in 2006. He is internationally recognized as one of the leading experts in the chemistry of chiral organolithium compounds, and he regularly speaks at national and international conferences on his work in this area. He is also known for his work with marine toxins, including brevetoxin and saxitoxin.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is the world's largest general scientific society and publishes the journal, *Science* (www.sciencemag.org). AAAS is a non-profit that fulfills its mission to "advance science and serve society" through initiatives in science policy, international programs, science education and more.

Other AAAS members in the department are **Peter Pulay** and **Charles Wilkins**. Alumna Mary Good is also a member.

Graduate Students Defend

Jason Martin defended his doctoral dissertation "Experimental and Theoretical Explorations of Titanium Dioxide Based Materials," under the direction of Peter Pulay.

Martin is from Fayetteville and has a bachelor's degree from Lyon College. He plans to do mission work.

Quan Yuan defended his doctoral dissertation "Rapid Kinetic Studies of Cytochrome bc_1 and Cytochrome b_5 ," under the direction of Frank Millett.

Yuan is from Beijing, China and has a bachelor's degree from Shandong University.



Quan Yuan



Jason Martin

Faculty News

Paul Adams was appointed to the search committee for the Fulbright College dean position by Robert McMath, interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. Senior chemistry major **Rachel Thomas** was also appointed to the committee as the undergraduate representative.

Neil Allison was named to the university Commission on Affordability and Cost Containment. The group is charged with identifying and recommending ways each college and administrative unit can be more efficient in the delivery of academic programs and services – with particular focus on services and expenditures that are not essential to the academic mission of the university.

Research News

A paper “Unidirectional Binding of Clostridial Collagenase to Triple Helical Substrates,” by **Joshua Sakon, Leena Philominathan** and authors Koide T., Hamada K., Yasui H., Seifert S., and Matsushita O. was accepted for publication in *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, Feb. 2009; doi:10.1074/jbc.M807684200

On the Go

237th ACS Meeting

Salt Lake City, March 22-26

Peter Pulay and graduate students **Juliette Rivero-Castro, David Clay, Silvana Dormi** and **Maha Shrestha** will attend.

Roger Koeppe will present a seminar at Oxford University March 20, “Influence of Proline and Arginine on Transmembrane Helix Geometry and Orientation Investigated by Solid-state NMR.”

Peter Pulay will travel to Tokyo March 3-7 to give an invited seminar at the symposium “Simulation and Dynamics of Nanoscale and Biological Systems,” in honor of Prof. K. Hirao. Pulay will give a seminar at the University of Puerto Rico March 16.

Joshua Sakon will present “Molecular Description of PTH-CBD,” at Amgen, in Thousand Oaks, Calif. March 2.

Ryan Tian gave a seminar Feb. 19 at the University of Cincinnati.

Staff Notes

Staff Complete HR Program

Department accountant **Judy Sluppick** and administrative office supervisor **Heather Jorgensen** successfully completed the Human Resources Certificate Program this spring. The program is a series of workshops covering HR-related topics for each stage of employment at the university with the goal of helping participants gain knowledge of procedures and resources to develop skills and better serve university employees.

Family Addition

Congratulations to **Janice Chapman** on the birth of her second granddaughter Emma Kate, born to Chapman’s daughter and son-in-law Shannon and Brett Lawson. Baby Emma was born Feb. 20 and weighed 6 pounds and 9 ounces and was 19 3/4 inches long.



Emma Lawson

Fire in the Lab

The recent fire in one of the research laboratories brings up two very important questions that are worth a few minutes of thought.

The fire, in a hood, was caused by the ignition of ether on a hot plate probably by way of a spark from the stirring motor. In this case, an occurrence that is not very common given the air flow in a hood.

The student’s reaction was very good. He tried to extinguish the fire with the appropriate extinguisher but the flames were too large so he decided to call 911. This is a critical decision (flight or fight) and there is little time in which to make it. What would you have done with a hood full of flames?

The other important point of this fire is actually chemical hygiene. If there is nothing to burn, the fire will not spread and, as in the present case, will burn itself out. If however, the hood is cluttered with solvent bottles or a 5-gallon can — we have a potentially disastrous situation.

If the reaction you are running catches on fire, is your lab clean enough to prevent the fire from spreading? You can be sure that the occupants of the lab with the fire are making some adjustments to prevent a repeat.

March Safety Tip

Attention Graduate Students
Do a good job on your research presentations.
It is good for your mental health and your financial support.

Student News

Graduate Students Pass Cumes



Above left: Abby Hubbard. Right: Maha Shrestha.

Congratulations to **Abby Hubbard** and **Maha Shrestha** for passing the appropriate number of cumulative exams and are now admitted to candidacy. Hubbard is in the Gawley lab and Shrestha is in the McIntosh lab.

Undergraduate Dean's List

Last fall 57 undergraduate chemistry majors made the Dean's List. Approximately 24 percent of department majors are in the top 10 percent of students in the Fulbright College for coursework last fall.

Brandon Achor
Alyse Allison
Jaclyn Anderson
Andrew Avery
Tammy Binz
George Bloom
Ryan Boswell
Laura Bradney
Natalie Brown
Geri Burkett
Courtney Chandler
Lauren Cochran
Christopher DuVall
Andreas Eiberweiser
Amir Francis
Will Fraser
Whitney Gammill
Omar Goss
Valerie Green
Lauren Hall
Ross Harmon
Hannah Henson
Deborah Ho
Christena Hooten
David Hopkins
Sigrid Johannesen
Matthias Knust
Shigehiro Komatsu
Rodney LaGrone

David Lee
Lisa Lunkenheimer
Grant Meredith
Marie Morris
Jacob Mott
Devin O'Dea
Kellie Ong
Kyle Peterson
Olena Pickett
Mark Pickhardt
Leah Ramey
Miles Ritter
Kara Robertson
Christopher Ryan
Omar Salem
Sara Schneider
Preston Scrape
Matthew Sharum
Ryan Shinabery
Molly Steen
Jessica Sutton
Junho Tak
Hiroko Takeuchi
Nicholas Tingquist
Nathan Tobey
Natalie White
Caitlin Williams
Sidney Winford

Student Athletes Excel in Classroom

Several chemistry majors who are student athletes excelled in the classroom last fall. A total of 208 university student-athletes earned grades at or above a 3.0 grade point average for the fall 2008 semester.

Lisa Lunkenheimer made the Fulbright College dean's list and Arkansas Athletics list of Academic Champions for earning a 4.0 GPA. She is a member of the swimming and diving team. The No. 18 Razorback swimming and diving team led all university teams with eight members of the squad earning 4.0 GPAs. Overall, 25 swimmers and divers were honored for their work in the classroom.

Kim Schlieff was named to the Athletic Director's List for earning a between a 3.5 and 3.99. She is among sixteen university soccer student-athletes named to the 2008 Southeastern Conference all Academic Honor Roll.

Arkansas had the most soccer student-athletes of any SEC soccer team named to the list.



Lisa Lunkenheimer
 Photo courtesy of Arkansas Athletics



Kim Schlieff
 Photo courtesy of Arkansas Athletics

The 16 soccer players were among 31 Arkansas student-athletes selected to the conference's fall academic honor roll. Among the requirements a student-athlete must have a grade point average of 3.00 or better, be a letter winner or a non-scholarship two-year varsity team member, have successfully completed 24 of 36 quarter hours of non-remedial academic credit toward a degree and have been a member of the varsity team for the sport's entire NCAA Championship segment.

Other chemistry majors who are student athletes include member of the men's track team — **Randy Parker**, **Benjamin Skidmore** and **Galen Tobey**.

Goldwater Scholars Recognized

Undergraduates **Whitney Gammill** and **Rachel Thomas** were recognized as Goldwater Scholars at half time during the men's basketball game against LSU, Feb. 18.

Calendar of Events

March

- 03..... Deadline for grad students to submit written research proposals to their committee
 02..... No department seminar
 06..... CUME
 06..... Analytical seminar - Nelson Torto, Rhodes Univ., South Africa
 09..... Department seminar - Krishnan Raghavachari, Univ. of Indiana
 16..... No department seminar
 16-20 Spring Break, no classes
 20..... University CLOSED
 22-26 ACS Meeting, Salt Lake City
 23..... No department seminar
 27..... Last day to drop a full semester course with a "W"
 30..... Department seminar - Carl Koval, Univ. of Colorado at Boulder

April

- 03..... CUME
 06..... Department seminar - Squire Booker, Penn State Univ.
 13..... Fry Lecture - Nobelaureate Robert Grubbs, Cal Tech.
 15..... Deadline for grad students to orally defend proposals to committee
 17..... CUME
 20..... Department seminar - Cynthia Larive, UC Riverside
 23..... Department Honors Night
 24..... Analytical seminar - Jamie Hestekin, University of Arkansas
 27..... Department seminar - Xiao Cheng Zeng, Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln (seminar series concludes)
 30..... Last day of spring classes
 30..... Last day to officially withdraw from all courses

May

- 1..... Dead Day, no classes
 2-8 Finals
 9..... Commencement

Spring Break

There are no classes March 16-20 but the university is open. The university will be closed Friday, March 20.

Spring Forward

Daylight-saving time begins Sunday, March 8. Set your clock forward 1 hour.

In 2007, daylight-saving time was extended one month and begins for most of the United States at 2 a.m. the second Sunday in March and lasts until 2 a.m. the first Sunday of November.

Spring officially begins March 20 on the Spring Equinox.

March Birthdays

- 09..... Colin Heyes
 10..... Art Fry
 14..... Ryan Farris
 18..... Lois Geren
 21..... Teresa Waddell
 24..... Matt McIntosh
 25..... Adam Kriedermacher
 25..... Mike Rutherford
 31..... Juliette Rivero Castro
 31..... Sasa Miladinovic

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

Chemistry and Biochemistry

- Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
 Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Saturday CLOSED
 Sunday 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Exceptions to regular hours

- March 15 CLOSED
 March 16-19 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 March 20-22 CLOSED

<http://libinfo.uark.edu/chemistry/>

2009 CUME Dates

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

March 6, April 3, April 17

Nobelaureate to Give Fry Lecture

Organic chemist Professor **Robert H. Grubbs**, California Institute of Technology, will give the Fry Lecture April 13, 2009.

Grubbs won the 2005 Nobel Prize in chemistry for his work on catalysis, which has led to a wide variety of applications in medicine and industry.