



# THE MOLE STREET JOURNAL

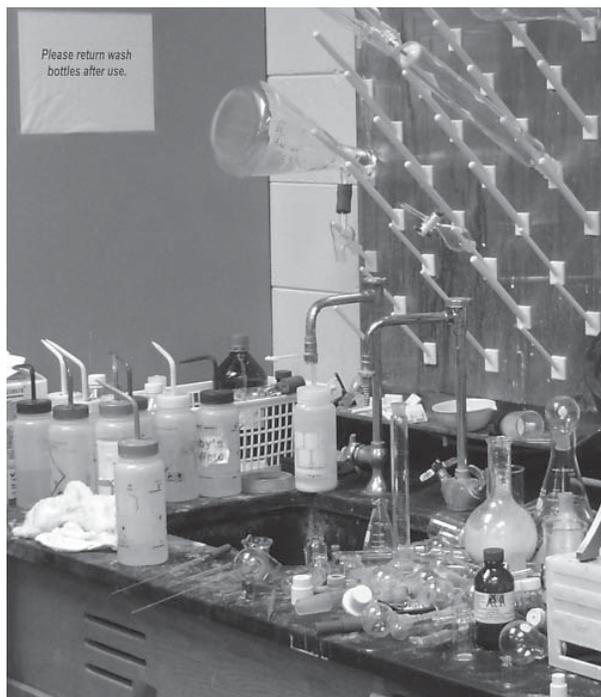
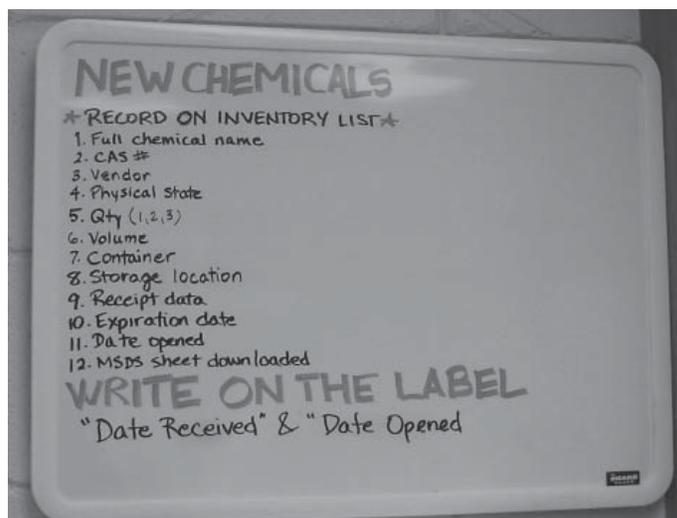
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY

JANUARY 2010

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## Make “Safety First” Your New Year’s Resolution

A recent tour of research labs by chairman Bill Durham noted many good things to emulate in the new year and many habits that need to be broken.



The violations in the lower photos warrant little explanation.

## Faculty News

### Wilkins Top Contributor

**Charles Wilkins** appears on the 20 year cumulative index of the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* (1990-2009). He is recognized as one of the top 54 contributors to the journal.

### Adams to aid Home State

**Paul Adams** will serve as an expert reviewer for the Louisiana Board of Regents' Research Competitiveness Subprogram, an EPSCoR-Style grants program to stimulate competitive research in the state of Louisiana.

### On the Go

2nd Conference on Nanotechnology and Healthcare, University of Arkansas Winthrop Rockefeller Institute, January 6-9.

**Bob Gawley** presented a poster "Monofunctional, Water-Soluble Nanocrystals for Biomedical Imaging."

**Roger Koeppe** presented a poster "Influence of Proline upon the Dynamics of Peptides that Span Lipid Bilayer Membranes."

**Ryan Tian** attended.

Gordon Research Conference on Electrochemistry, Ventura, Calif., Jan. 10-15

Graduate student **Melissa Weston** will present a poster "Redox-Magnetohydrodynamic Microfluidics without Channels and Compatible with Electrochemical Detection Under Enzyme-Linked Immunoassay Conditions."

**Ingrid Fritsch** will attend.

## Undergraduate Statistics

According to a report from the dean's office there are 270 undergraduate chemistry majors and minors this spring.

- 199 students have a GPA above 3.0, 44 of which with a 4.0 GPA.
- 104 seniors, 52 juniors, 63 sophomores and 48 freshmen
- 75 honors students
- 20 students pursuing a chemistry minor

Trivia, the most common male names — David, Jacob, Matthew and William. Most common female names — Lauren and Ashley.

## Home Notes

**Lorraine and Dennis Brewer** are grandparents again with the birth of their third grandson Asher Greeley Johnson. Baby Asher was born to the Brewer's daughter Amanda and her husband Brian, Nov. 29 at 7:01 p.m. He weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce and was 20 inches long. The Brewer's also have one granddaughter.



Asher putting his best foot forward

## Williams Aids Homeless With Holiday Project

**Liz Williams** organized a drive to collect items for the homeless.

The successful project resulted in the donation of 50 gift buckets filled with hats, gloves, food and other necessities — items definitely needed during this month's cold snap.



Buckets and bags await delivery.

Many in the department contributed to the cause that took two truckloads to deliver to the Seven Hills Homeless Shelter.

Even recycled items were found to be useful. Plastic coffee cans with lids and 10-gallon buckets used in the food industry provide a weather proof container. For those who donated cash, Williams shopped the four county area for bargains.

"The next time you put on gloves or a hat in the cold...or eat when you're hungry...remember that someone is getting to do the same because you helped," she said.

Special thanks to the admissions/recruiting staff at the Graduate School and VWR, who also contributed.

## Graduate Student News

Items on this page were submitted by Dan Davis, graduate studies advisor, to all faculty and graduate students being advised by chemistry faculty

Last year, we began enforcing the rules regarding graduate student evaluations more rigorously beginning with the spring 2009 semester. This is especially true of the timing of proposal preparation and submission and scheduling of the annual committee meeting.

As a result of these efforts, we went from having less than 50% of our students in compliance in the spring of 2008 to greater than 90% in the spring of 2009. Our target this year is 100% compliance.

The rules regarding these issues are found on pages 15-17 of "Graduate Student Guide". This document can be found on the department's Blackboard page and Web site. The essence of the rules is summarized below.

First year graduate students are required to have a committee meeting before April 14.

Beginning with their second year committee meeting, **ALL** graduate students whose advisor is a member of the chemistry and biochemistry faculty must prepare a written proposal which must be submitted to their committee **no later than March 1**.

The proposal must be defended orally before the student's committee **no later than April 15**. (Note that this also applies to students who may be pursuing PhD degrees in fields other than chemistry – the operative definition is whether one's advisor is a member of the chemistry and biochemistry faculty.)

### General Points To Remember

- **The contents of a proposal for annual committee meetings can be found on page 16 of the "Graduate Studies Guide".**

A proposal is more than a progress report on what you have done in the past year. It should also include a detailed plan for what you intend to accomplish during the coming year and how you intend to do it.

A statement saying that you plan to "synthesize and characterize molecule X" or "characterize the properties of protein Y" is not an Experimental Plan" unless you describe how you intend to do so.

Students nearing the end of their degree programs should also present a time line for completion of their research, dissertation preparation, and defense thereof.

- **The proposal must be submitted to the committee by March 1 – not just to your advisor by March 1.**

Your advisor should have time to review and approve the proposal and its contents BEFORE it goes to your committee. This means that you should start thinking about this process well in advance – today is not too soon.

Discuss with your advisor how far in advance they wish to see the proposal in order to have time to review it before it goes to your committee.

- **Proposal defenses are graded – Pass, Intermediate or Fail.**

A score of Intermediate on either the written proposal or the oral defense thereof requires that the portion be repeated and re-evaluated within six weeks.

A score of Fail in either area results in loss of financial support for the coming year.

- **Exceptions to these policies cannot be made by the student's committee or their advisor.**

Exceptions can only be made by the department's graduate advisor. Prior (that means BEFORE the deadline) approval is necessary for extensions to the dates listed above. If such an extension is granted, it will not be open-ended but a new deadline will be assigned by the graduate advisor.

- **Students failing to meet these requirements will have a hold placed on their summer registration. Note that no registration also means no pay!**

### Top Ten Reasons for Graduate Students to Attend Departmental Seminar

10. **It's required.**
9. **The chairman takes attendance.**
8. **You can fail seminar.**
7. **The department spends a lot of money on the seminar program.**
6. **You are only supposed to come and partake of the post-seminar refreshments if you come to the seminar first.**
5. **The post seminar refreshments are awesome.**
4. **You can see some good models as to how professional presentations should be made (things to pattern yourself after).**
3. **You can also see some not-so-good models as to how professional presentations should be made (mistakes you want to avoid).**
2. **In the case of faculty candidate seminars, you can get some idea as to what the competition for positions will look like when you finish.**
1. **YOU MIGHT LEARN SOMETHING!**

## Calendar of Events

### January

- 10..... Last day to receive 100% cancellation of fees for spring 2010  
 11..... Classes begin  
 15..... Last day to add a full semester course  
 18..... Martin Luther King Day Holiday, university closed  
 22..... CUME  
 25..... Spring seminar series begins  
 25..... Last day to drop a full semester course without a "W"  
 28..... Special seminar

### February

- 05..... CUME  
 24..... Progress reports e-mailed for 1000 and 2000 level courses

### March

- 01..... Last day for graduate students to submit a research proposal  
 05..... CUME  
 19..... Last day to drop a full semester course with a "W"  
 22-26 ..... Spring Break

### April

- 5-16 ..... Priority registration for summer and fall courses  
 09..... CUME  
 15..... Last day for graduate students to defend research proposal  
 23..... CUME  
 29..... Last day of classes  
 29..... Last day to officially withdraw from all courses  
 30..... Dead Day, no classes

### May

- 1-7 ..... Final exams  
 8..... Commencement  
 17..... First day summer I  
 31..... Memorial Day holiday, university closed

The above dates and campus and area events are listed on the department's Blackboard site <https://courses.uark.edu/>

## University Closed

The university will be CLOSED Monday, Jan. 18 for Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday

The department of chemistry and biochemistry at the University of Arkansas strives for excellence in research, teaching and service in chemistry — the central science.

We aspire to positions of leadership regarding the discovery of new scientific knowledge, the training of students, and the economic development of the State of Arkansas.

We seek to recruit and retain a diverse group of the best faculty, students and staff to address the challenges of the future through interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research and education.

## January Birthdays

- 01.....Sefat Alwarsh  
 01.....Benard Omogo  
 01.....Samaresh Jana  
 06.....S. Mariccor Batoy  
 06.....Marissa Geels  
 10.....George Blyholder  
 12.....Lindsay Rutherford  
 26.....Bill Durham  
 26.....Kola Ayinuola  
 30.....Brandon Suttles

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

## Spring CUMES

The cumulative exams for graduate students will be the following Fridays from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in CHEM 144.

- January 22
- February 5
- March 5
- April 9
- April 23

## Library Hours

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

### Spring hours begin Jan. 11

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

### Exceptions to regular hours

Jan. 10 .....CLOSED  
 Jan.17 .....CLOSED  
 Jan.18 .....CLOSED  
 March 21 .....CLOSED  
 March 22-25.....8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
 March 26-28.....CLOSED  
 May 9 .....CLOSED

## Fry Lecture - Save the Date

The 2010 Fry Lecture Series presents Dieter Seebach, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zürich, Monday, April 26.