Special points of interest:

- New Graduate Students Introduced
- Don Bobbit and Shimadzu Scientific meet on campus
- Koeppe and Greathouse featured in International Innovation
- Summer travels and experiences for students
- CUME schedule announced

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New Graduate Students Join the Department

Musaab Al Ameer
Hometown: Al Kut, Iraq
B.S. Univ. of Baghdad
M.S. Al-Nahrain Univ.
Cell & Molecular Biology

Eric Barber
Hometown: Floral, AR
B.S. Harding University

Lin Chen
Hometown: Qingdao, China
Bachelor Inner Mongolia Univ.
M.S. Texas A&M, Commerce

Matthew Jackson
Hometown: Memphis, TN
B.S. Univ. of AR
Cell & Molecular Biology

Randee McBride
Hometown: Cookson, OK
B.S. Northeastern State Univ.

Valérie McKinney
Hometown: Chelsea, OK
B.S. Northeastern State Univ.

Jon Moldenhauer
Hometown: Stuttgart, AR
B.S. Valparaiso Univ.

Matthew Moudy
Hometown: Burk Burnett, TX
B.S. Midwestern State Univ.

Marlena Patrick
Hometown: Jefferson, TX
B.S. Univ. of LA-Monroe

Colette Robinson
Hometown: Horton, KS
B.S. Kansas State Univ.

Thaddeus Vasicek
Hometown: Tulsa, OK
B.S. Univ. of Arkansas

Lucas Whisenhunt
Hometown: Kirby, AR
B.S. Henderson State U.

(Cont. page 3 for Haibin Wu)
Faculty News

On the Go

Bob Gawley attended the National ACS meeting as a member of the executive committee of the Division of Organic Chemistry and as Program Chair-Elect of the Division, Aug 18-22, Philadelphia.

Roger Williams presented a poster “Proton-Conductive, High-Temperature Stable Membranes of Nafion(C)/TiO2 Nanobelt Composites” at the 2012 NSF EPSCoR Annual Meeting held at Crystal Bridges Museum, Rogers AR.

Ryan Bauer gave a seminar entitled “Structural Characterization of Collagenases” at Nippi Inc. in Tokyo, Japan.

Presenting posters at the 26th Annual Symposium of the Protein Society, August 5-8, San Diego, CA, were:

Arshan Dehbozorgi presented a poster “Characterization of a Thermostable Quadruple Mutant of Human Fibroblast Growth Factor-1.” Other authors of the work are Rebecca Kerr and Suresh Kumar.

Alex Jones presented a poster “Thermodynamic Characterization of a Destabilized Mutant of the Human Acidic Fibroblast Growth Factor.” Other authors of the work are S. Jayanthi and T.K.S. Kumar.

Julie Tran presented a poster “Characterization of the Structure of the C-terminal Domain of Alb3.” Other authors of the work are R. Henderson and T.K.S. Kumar.

Ryan Thurman presented a poster “Characterization of FGF Receptor Mutations Involved in Disease.” Other author is T.K.S. Kumar.

Emily Crossfield presented a poster “Purification and Characterization of a Novel Affinity Tag.” Other authors are S. Jayanthi and T.K.S. Kumar.

Bea Kachel presented a poster “Characterization of W-WAP and Overexpression of Full Length Anosmin in Pichia pastoris.” Other authors are J. Morris, S. Jayanthi, and T.K.S. Kumar.

Rebecca Kerr presented a poster “The Role of Heparin in Fibroblast Growth Factor Signaling” at the NIH-COBRE Symposium, Philadelphia, PA, March 17-19. Other authors are Nicole Webb, Carmen Padilla, David McNabb, and T.K.S. Kumar.

Matt McIntosh gave a talk “Irrelevantly Relevant Azole Synthesis via Novel Rearrangement Reactions” at the Telluride Science Research Center meeting on Accelerating Reaction Discovery, Aug 8, Telluride, CO. He was also a co-organizer of the meeting.

Bill Durham was invited to present “Application of metal complex mediated laser flash photolysis to the investigation of the electron transfer pathway in cytochrome bc” at a symposium entitled Photochemistry in Biology: Photoinduced Processes and DNA, at the 244th ACS meeting, Aug 19-23, Philadelphia, PA. Other authors are Jeffrey Havens, S. Yang, Q. Yuan, C.-A Yu, Frank Millett.

Publications


Koepp & Greathouse Featured

Drs. Roger Koepp II and Denise Greathouse were featured in International Innovation, (North America, Issue 1, June 2012), by Research Media Ltd. where they discuss their work on peptide-lipid interactions, which offers potential for understanding membrane protein function and treating in multiply resistant strains of bacteria. The article can be viewed at http://www.research-europe.com/newsletters/NA1-120612-digitaledition.htm Please click on “view the full digital edition,” then find numbered pages 70-72; actual pages 72-74 in the document, since the first two pages are not numbered.

Shimadzu Visits Campus

The Arkansas Statewide Mass Spectrometry Facility and the Department of Chemistry hosted a meeting initiated by Don Bobbitt, the UA system president and Shimadzu Scientific (represented by Derek Selvidge, Dave Jorissen, and Ben Figard) to discuss potentially upgrading the scientific equipment holdings of the U of A for both teaching and research applications. Shimadzu Scientific has become interested in increasing its influence in the US market, in part by making substantial donations to US colleges and universities. They have had prior successful interactions regionally with Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, and the University of Texas at Arlington, where they established the Shimadzu Center for Advanced Analytical Chemistry. In fact, it was reported that last year they gave the single largest donation to the University of Texas at Arlington. The aim of this visit to our campus was to explore establishing a similar sort of arrangement with researchers on this campus and perhaps system wide.

Pictured left to right: Don Bobbitt, Derek Selvidge, Dave Jorissen, Ben Figard. Photo and story courtesy of Jack Lay.
Christena Nash and her husband Will spent part of their summer on a mission trip to Haiti that was sponsored by their church, Center St. Church of Christ. They stayed at an orphanage in Cap Haitien, where they got to know the 63 wonderful children who live there. Because of the climate, building upkeep is an ongoing project so while they were there, they did some painting projects around the orphanage, including a couple of murals. They also made it a priority to spend time with the children in the orphanage, including a day at the beach, which for native Haitians is a rare treat. Another objective was providing relief to some of the families outside the orphanage, so they took bags of rice to families living in the countryside surrounding the city. “Our trip to Haiti was an eye-opening experience and certainly made us thankful for the opportunities and blessings we had previously taken for granted,” said Christena.

Scott and Jacqueline Morris left August 26 for a 2 week mission trip to Malawi, Africa. They are providing hunger relief for the orphans and widows who live and visit Esther’s House, an orphanage and ministry outreach program through CrossChurch in NWA. They are also doing construction on the widows’ huts and the orphanage, along with sports ministry. Crafts are being done with the girls through the support of Nehemiah’s Wall, a ministry that provides a trade of sewing for the orphans in Malawi, so that when they age out of the orphanage they will have a job skill.

As part of the Rotaract Club of Fayetteville, Matthias Knust helped organize and carry out a pet food drive that concluded with the car & dog wash “Dogs and Wheels” on Saturday, August 18th. With this hands-on commitment, the Rotaracts were able to raise more than 900 pounds of cat and dog food for the local pet food bank “Ranger’s Pantry.” This non-profit program is run by the Community Services Division of the City of Fayetteville. It supports local families during times of economic hardship by providing pet food to those less fortunate. The program has been active for over two years, and has currently given away over 40,000 pounds of dog and cat food to those in need, helping to spare the fate of public animal shelter to hundreds of pets. Dr. Dan Davis contributed to the event by paying for the cost of printing the posters advertising the event. More information on the Ranger’s Pantry pet food bank can be found on their public page on Facebook.com, or by calling 479-575-8260.
Safety Tip:
by Bill Durham

It's the beginning of a new academic year. This is a good time to look around the lab and refresh your mental notes on where the safety equipment resides. Look for the fire extinguisher, safety shower, first aid kid, eye wash, and supply of safety glasses.

Calendar of Events

September
14 CUME
15 Registration closes for INBRE Conference
17 Department Seminar series begins with Dr. Bradley Smith of Notre Dame University. CHEM 144, 3:30 p.m.
24 Dept Seminar—Dr. David Case, Rutgers
28 CUME

Library Hours

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

Fall Hours
Monday –Thursday  8 a.m.-9 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Closed Saturdays and Sundays
Closed Labor Day (September 3)

A Special Thanks to...

Dean Todd Shields sent special thanks to Lorraine Brewer and Kola Ayinuola for their assistance during the 2012 First Year Graduate Student Orientation. In addition, Mrs. Brewer also led the Mentoring vs. Advising session. Over 450 students were served during a day of activities designed to give students the best possible start to their graduate studies.

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The chemistry and biochemistry library resources can be accessed in the following LibGuides: http://uark.libguides.com/content.php?pid=110953. Please bookmark for future use.

Theses and dissertation resources can be found on the following LibGuide: http://uark.libguides.com/content.php?pid=123035&sid=1057466.