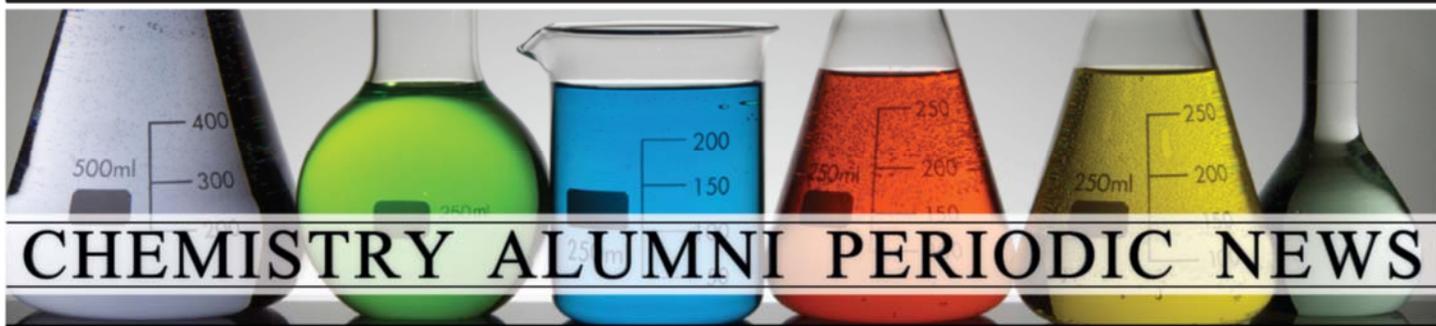


# 2015

# 11th edition

CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY



## From the Chair...

Dear Alumni and Friends

Last year, a lot of exciting things happened in the chemistry department. We have been celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, hired great new faculty and staff, further expanded our graduate program, implemented a new departmental advising model, faculty received new grants and published in strong journals, and we have seen a booming student population.

At the events celebrating our department's anniversary it was good to see many current and former students, faculty, and staff. Thank you for celebrating with us! Because of all of you we were able to become the strong and thriving department that we are today.

Last year, in response to the continually increasing demand for our service and general education courses we expanded the number of faculty to the highest level yet. To better meet the demand and further improve the educational experience for our students we were able to add additional sections of general chemistry, organic chemistry, and introductory biochemistry and to decrease enrollment caps in more of our courses. Furthermore, partly due to obtaining partial funding from the university Learning Commons, we were able to expand the availability of our highly successful tutoring center.

Since chemistry became an independent department in 1965 we have witnessed a substantial growth and over 400 graduates, 51

faculty members, 27 staff members, and eight department chairs! Despite the increasing pressures and uncertainties due to shrinking public support for higher education, several higher level administrator changes, internal reorganizations, several operational changes, increasing enrollments, and limitations of our current staffing and facilities we remain optimistic and continue to provide a high quality, contemporary, and competitive educational experience for our students.

This is the last year of my four-year term as department chair. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve and work with such great colleagues and dedicated and highly talented faculty, staff, and students. Drs. Anthony Diaz and Bob Rittenhouse will be taking over chair responsibilities this summer.

In closing, as always, I invite you to visit our department and stay engaged and in contact. We always like hearing from you and look forward to seeing you at the two remaining events celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary (see more information on these events on the next page)!

Best wishes,

*Levente Fabry*  
Levente Fabry-Asztalos

## 50th Anniversary Celebration

Chemistry was officially recognized as a department in 1965 and the department has planned several events to commemorate this milestone 50th anniversary.

Our first event, the **Chemistry of Brewing**, was held October 3.



Steve Wagner (left) speaking to the Chemistry of Brewing audience

We had three alumni talk about their connections to brewing: **Bill Reichlin**, current graduate student and owner of Colocum Craft Brewery; **Sara Rybka-Grabenhorst**, lab manager at S.S. Steiner, Inc (hops industry), and **Steve Wagner**, director of the CWU Brewing Program.

After the talks, those interested went to the Ellensburg Pasta Company to enjoy appetizers and to taste a flight sampler of six different beers. The brewing event was sponsored in part by Pace International, which employs several of our alumni.



Clockwise from upper right: Alumna Lindsay Groce, Anthony Diaz, JoAnn Peters, Todd Kroll and guest Paul Baker at the Ellensburg Pasta Company

## Coming Events



It would not be a departmental celebration without alumni in attendance, so **we're hoping you'll mark your calendar** and plan to attend at least one (if not all!) of these remaining events.....

- **May 18-20, 2016:** **SOURCE** will take place on Wednesday and Thursday, featuring posters and talks by students campus-wide, then Friday will be the **annual end-of-the-year picnic**. There will be organized kickball and a cornhole tournament at the picnic!

CWU appreciates alumni who are willing to come back to campus to judge posters and talks at **SOURCE**. If you're interested, please contact the program coordinator, Jamie Gilbert, as soon as possible at gilberja@cwu.edu. Chemistry was well represented in 2015 by **Heather Durkee** (BS 2009) and **Tracy Watrous-Kelley** (BS 2004/MS 2006)!



If you or your company would like to be a sponsor for our 50th anniversary celebration, please contact Brad Weekly at 509-963-2725 or weeklyb@cwu.edu.

## Staffing changes...



**Timothy Beng** joined the department as our new tenure-track organic chemist in fall 2015. After earning his PhD in Chemistry from the University of Arkansas, Beng was an NIH postdoctoral fellow at the University of California Berkeley for two years. He came to CWU from a visiting assistant professor of organic chemistry position at Susquehanna University. His research interests focus on the development of synthetic methodology for the efficient and stereoselective construction and functionalization of nitrogen and oxygen-containing heterocycles.

Three new lecturers were hired in fall 2015:

**Alex Brewer** earned his doctorate in Toxicology from Oregon State University in 2012. He was an NIH post-doctoral fellow at the University of Kansas prior to coming to Central.



**M. Scott Long** was awarded a PhD in analytical chemistry from Pennsylvania State University in 2005. He has since held post-doctoral research and visiting

professor positions as well as being employed as a freelance scientific copy editor for six different companies.



**Derek Ricketson** earned his PhD in biochemistry from the University of Oregon in 2009. He was a post-doctoral research fellow and taught some classes at the University of California Davis before being hired as an adjunct professor at CWU in winter 2015, teaching for Biological Sciences and Continuing Education.

**Ian Seiler** joined the team as safety officer in August 2015, replacing Julie Khyler who left to manage a chemistry lab at a regional winery. Ian graduated from CWU with a BS in biology in spring of 2012 and is currently working on his MS in biology. He came to us with six years of experience as a safety inspector with the United States Navy and is excited to be in a position to provide quality support for students, faculty, and staff at CWU.



June 2015, End of Year Faculty/Staff potluck

*Back row (L to R): Dan Hall, Anthony Diaz, JoAnn Peters, Whitney Swain, Anne Johansen, Yingbin Ge, Levente Fabry, Tim Sorey and daughter.*

*Middle row (L to R): Tony Brown, Gil Belofsky, Todd Kroll, Lisa Stowe, Carin Thomas, Martha Kurtz, Young Kim and son.*

*Front row: Belofsky children and Tatiana Fadeeva.*

## Featured Wildcat Chemist...



No brag, just fact: chemistry graduate student **Zack McCarley** is the world's strongest 198-pound man. Zack earned the title with his feats of strength during November's 2015 World's Strongest Man competition in Spydeberg, Norway.

It was a dominating performance by McCarley, 27, of Maple Valley, Washington, a six-time, 231-pound national champion in the sport of strongman. Facing off with 26 elite international competitors, who were all top three finishers in their respective countries, he won an unprecedented seven out of eight events, placed second in the other, and set a new world record with a 365-pound lift in the axle clean and press. Despite limited training for the two-day event, he entered the competition—as an invited “wildcard” participant—among the favorites.

“I took nine months off, then did 10 weeks of training and I almost swept the world competition—it doesn't get much better than that,” he said enthusiastically. “No one has ever done that, in that fashion. I've had a lot of success in this sport but that was quite the high note.” McCarley was quick to credit a supportive university community for his success.

“I got high fives from my professor and members of the staff when I got back,” he said. “That was awesome to return to.”

## The 50/50 Challenge for Chemistry...

Support current chemistry students by joining the 50/50 campaign. **We're challenging every chemistry alumni to give at least \$50** in honor of our 50th anniversary as a department—current faculty and staff have each done this and now we challenge YOU to do the same! **DONATE NOW** at <http://www.cwu.edu/give> to catalyze us to reach the activation energy needed for the next 50 years!



To designate your funds to the chemistry department, select “other” and write in Chemistry 50/50.

Please let us know if your employer has a matching gift program—we'd love to help you double your donation!

**All contributions to the CWU Foundation are tax deductible to the extent provided by IRS regulations.**

*Thank you for supporting the CWU Foundation. As required by law, the CWU Foundation is registered with the Washington State Charities Program and financial information may be obtained by calling 800-332-4483 or 360-725-0378.*

**Once a Wildcat, always a Wildcat. Thanks for your support!**