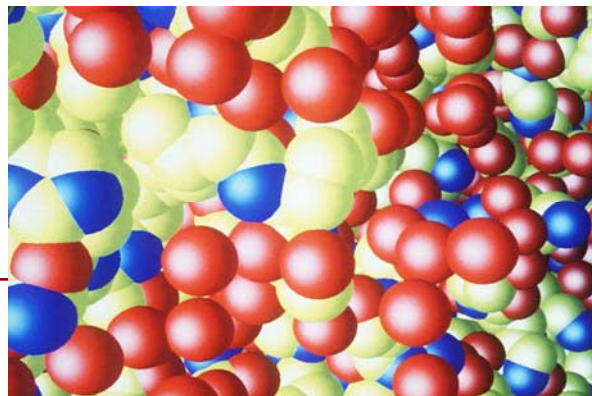


CHEMISTRY CHRONICLE



CWU Chemistry Department
Quarterly Newsletter

Faculty Activities...

Martha Kurtz was honored as the Washington Science Teachers Association (WSTA) Higher Education Science Teacher of the Year at the WSTA Conference on March 20. The award recognizes her "excitement and enthusiasm for teaching science, effective delivery of scientific content and processes, and promotion of science education beyond the classroom."

Anthony Diaz had his talk on "Investigating the Function of Gd^{3+} in $(Y,Gd)BO_3:Eu^{3+}$ through Measurements of Host-to-Activator Transfer Efficiency" accepted for presentation at the June meeting of the Society for Information Display. Katie Warren (BS class of 2008) and Rosa Rabinovitz (junior major) are co-authors on this work.

Levente Fabry had a manuscript accepted for publication in the Proceedings of the IEEE International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN 2009): "Fuzzy ARTMAP Rule Extraction in Computational Chemistry" Authors include Razvan Andonie (computer science faculty), Levente Fabry-Asztalos, Bogdan Crivat (Microsoft), Sarah Abdul-Wahid (computer science adjunct), Christopher "Badi" Abdul-Wahid (chemistry senior).

JoAnn Peters' proposal to the Douglas Honors College for a course entitled "Chemistry of Materials for Art" has been accepted. She will teach the course next academic year.

Gil Belofsky was awarded a faculty research appointment for summer of 2009, based on his proposal entitled: "Plan Natural Products for Overcoming Multi-Drug Resistant Bacteria and Fungi."

Dion Rivera had poster presentation accepted to the ACS National Meeting in Salt Lake City entitled "Use of in situ IR and UV spectroscopies to understand the behavior of poly(sodium 4-styrene-sulfonate) at the TiO_2 /water interface over a broad range of concentrations of the surfactant cetylpyridinium bromide monohydrate" for the Fundamental Research in Colloid and Surface Chemistry session. The following CWU former and current students are co-authors: Mike Hase (BS class of 2008) Ryan Scheffelmaier (senior major), Sarah Hayden (senior major), and Brittany Best (BS class of 2008, current MS student).

Carin Thomas gave an invited seminar to the Chemistry Department at Whitworth University on March 18 titled "Mitochondrial Metabolism of Environmental Contaminants".

Anne Johansen was invited to serve as an expert scientist in a workshop on iron solubility in marine aerosols and surface oceans. This event took place on March 23 and 24, at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, United Kingdom. Anne is on sabbatical this year in Germany.

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Department Activities...

On Thursday, February 19, chemistry teaching alumna **Alenda "Ali" Schiro** brought seven of her advanced placement biology students to visit CWU from East Valley High School in Yakima. These students were specifically interested in the pre-med program, and met with Drs. **Levente Fabry** and Blaise Dondji to learn more about it. They were also given a tour of the Science Building (**Tim Sorey**, chemistry), and shown several research laboratories (**Anthony Diaz**, chemistry; **Levente Fabry**, chemistry; Blaise Dondji, biology; Lucinda Carnell, biology).

Chemistry Club partnered with a local Relay for Life team to host "Concert for a Cure" Friday, February 20 and raised more than \$2,000 for the American Cancer Society. *Roadfever*, the featured band, is comprised in part by chemistry department members **Tony Brown**, **Anthony Diaz**, **Mari Sorey** and **Tim Sorey**.

Tim Sorey (faculty member), **Mari Sorey** (stockroom technician), and Chemistry Club President and Vice President, **Rosa Rabinovitz** and **Bethany Jackson**, judged the Sunnyside High School Science Fair on Saturday, February 28th. There were a total of 26 science fair projects across 9th-12th grades.

The chemistry department hosted the Lincoln 3rd graders on a field trip on March 9th that culminated their quarter-long study of chemistry. The 3rd graders toured various labs and the chemistry stockroom and learned about the many facets of chemistry. Participating faculty: **Gil Belofsky**, **Anthony Diaz**, **JoAnn Peters**, and **Tim Sorey**; participating staff member: **Mari Sorey**; and participating chemistry students: **Jesse Nye**, **Badi Abdul-Wahid**, and **Donald Clayton**.

Anthony Diaz and **Tony Brown** submitted an article to the Journal of Chemical Education: "Tuning the Optical and Electrochemical Properties of Coordination Compounds: An Upper Division Inorganic Laboratory." This lab was developed mostly by Tony and is taught in CHEM 383Lab.

The Center for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Education (CESME) hosted the Expanding Your Horizons conference (EYH) on March 7th where over 400 middle school girls came to the CWU campus to learn about careers in math, science, engineering and technology from local female professionals. This is the 17th year that CWU has hosted an EYH conference. **Martha Kurtz** served as the EYH Coordinator, **Mari Sorey** (with the assistance of several students) presented a session called CSI: Ellensburg, and **Tim Sorey** served as the Volunteer Coordinator.



Student Activities...

Senior major **Heather Durkee** had a poster presentation accepted to the ACS national meeting in Salt Lake City entitled "Synthesis and Characterization of zinc based quantum dot materials with blue to green fluorescence from an aqueous based synthetic method." Dion Rivera is a co-author on the poster. The poster was presented in a session on undergraduate research at the frontiers of inorganic chemistry.

Student Activities...

Brittany Best (WATERS grad student) and Dave Hodges (Ellensburg High chem teacher) submitted a grant to the Toyota NSTA Tapestry competition entitled "Chemistry In Action - Monitoring the Yakima River Basin". The grant was for \$10,000 to purchase air sampling equipment for Ellensburg High and institute a long term atmospheric monitoring program at the high school. Brittany is working with Mr. Hodges through the WATERS program. **Dion Rivera** is Brittany's mentor.

Sarah Hayden, senior major conducting research with Dion Rivera, has been awarded \$400 for an undergraduate research proposal.

Heather Durkee had an oral presentation on her Science Honors research accepted to the Western Regional Honors Conference in Spokane Washington.

Sarah Clark, sophomore biochemistry major conducting research with Steve Chamberland, has been awarded \$500 for an undergraduate research proposal.

Tyler Schaffeld, senior major, has been accepted to dental school at Oregon Health & Science University (OSHU) for the fall of 2009.

Next Edition...

The newsletter will be published quarterly with the next edition to be published at the end of the academic year. Please send items to be included in the next edition (photos welcome!) to Lisa at stowel@cwu.edu