



Chair's Newsletter - September 17, 2012

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

NEWS ITEMS

1. As you all know, we have three new professors who have joined us this year. Trisha Andrew and Étienne Garand are new assistant profs, and Kyoung-Shin Choi is a new professor. Welcome!
2. Welcome to new staff: Jeanne Hamers (UG Chem Coordinator), Libby Dowdall (Communications/publicity and Outreach), Joe Wright (Genchem office), Jim Zernicke (Stockroom), Brian Esselman (Organic Lab Staff), Stephen Block (GenChem Lab Staff).
3. The \$65 million "budget lapse" suffered by UW System in the last biennium is on track to be restored. This is excellent news.
4. The Chancellor's office is planning an overhaul of funding allocations to programs and colleges. We are hoping the L&S funding allocation will improve under the new plan.
5. Major campus leadership turnover coming this year: Chancellor, Grad School Dean/VC for Research, Dean of Engineering, Dean of L&S.
6. Human Resources Redesign to be implemented in 2013-15.
7. Plans for a new chemistry instructional facility are on track. We are the top campus priority and approved in the Board of Regents' budget request for the 2013-15 biennium. That would be the detailed planning phase. If funded by the state, construction would begin in the 2015-17 biennium. Bob McMahon has led the charge on this major effort.
8. Recent/ongoing hiring: New communications/publicity person in place (Libby Dowdall). Hello, Libby! New Machine Shop Supervisor in progress. We are working on hiring a new NMR staff person to re-fill the slot that opened when Bob Shanks moved over to x-ray/mass spec. Also a replacement for Diana Duff in GenChem.
9. Faculty hiring for Fall 2013. Ad has appeared in C&E News. October 15 application deadline. Synthetic organic chem, catalysis, analytical, and GenChem are priorities.
10. Second Board of Advisors meeting October 26-27. Have new members David Bem (Dow) and Carol Carmichael (Caltech).
11. Matt Sanders, Rosana Ellmann, and JCW will begin a series of "listening sessions" on Thursday afternoons throughout the fall semester. These are chances for different groups of voices in the Department to let us know what is working and what could be improved and how.
12. The UW Foundation is launching a new campaign called "Share the Wonderful." It is aimed at enhancing alumni contributions in these times of difficult budgets. Chemistry is likely to coordinate some of our outreach activities with this campaign.
13. Tom Brunold came in 10th in the Ironman Wisconsin competition (best non-professional).
14. CHOPS ("Chemistry Opportunities") will assemble a group of 21 college juniors and seniors to visit the Department on Friday, October 12. Cheri Barta and Silvia Cavagnero are spearheading this recruiting effort aimed at underrepresented minority students.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS AT SEPT. 4 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

1. The main topic for discussion was the “Critical Compensation Fund”, an attempt by the campus to provide bonuses and salary increases for staff and faculty. L&S is a little late providing a detailed plan in comparison to other colleges around campus. We are supposed to receive details this week. The Finance Committee is contemplating our strategy; details will follow in the next few weeks.
2. The deadline for graduate student applications for the Chemistry Ph.D. program will be moved to January 1, with December 15 the deadline for full consideration for fellowships. The old application deadline was February 1. We hope this will help us make more timely acceptances and enhance visiting rates.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS AT SEPT. 11 DEPARTMENT MEETING

We had a long discussion of whether or not to add Chem Bio and Materials Chem representatives to the Finance Committee. This was just a preliminary discussion, and opinions diverged. Finance Committee will continue the discussion on Sept. 18.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS AT SEPT. 11 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

We had a long discussion of possible ways to find matching funds for raises for staff and faculty in the College’s Critical Compensation Fund effort to enhance salaries. This was also a preliminary discussion, to be continued on Sept. 21 and again at a special Executive Committee meeting to be held Sept. 25.

RECENT FACULTY AWARDS

- J.R. Schmidt: Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow
- Randy Goldsmith: DARPA Young Faculty Award, ACS PRF New Investigator Award
- Jim Skinner: ACS Langmuir Award, member of the National Academy of Science, ACS Fellow
- Mark Ediger: WARF Named Professor (UW-Madison), ACS Joel Henry Hildebrand Award in the Theoretical and Experimental Chemistry of Liquids
- Helen Blackwell: Romnes Faculty Fellow (UW-Madison)
- Song Jin: Vilas Associate Award (UW-Madison)
- Thomas Brunold: Vilas Associate Award (UW-Madison)
- Shannon Stahl: ACS Cope Scholar
- Marty Zanni: Raymond and Beverly Sackler Prize in the Physical Sciences, National Academy of Sciences Research Initiatives Award
- Bob Hamers: ACS Award in Colloid and Surface Chemistry, Finalist in the WARF Innovation Awards Competition

RECENT STAFF AWARDS

- Kristi Heming: Governor’s Award for Partners in Giving
- Jim Maynard: Academic Staff Excellence Award (College of L&S)
- Rosana Ellman: L&S Classified Staff Excellence Award and University CERA Award
- Kat Myhre: L&S Classified Staff Excellence Award
- Ed Vasiukevicius: L&S Classified Staff Excellence Award
- Jeanne Hamers: James Taylor Distinguished Teaching Award
- Tracy Drier: (1) UW-Madison L&S Mid-Career Award. (2) Helmut-Dreschel Achievement Award for outstanding contributions to the American Scientific Glassblowers Society (ASGS). (3) Wale award for Best Poster at the annual ASGS symposium. (4) Northeast Section Karl Walther Award for best technical article published in *Fusion*, the ASGS journal

RECENT AWARDS TO COLLEAGUES

- Martha Casey: Elected as ACS Fellow. Also received a joint award with Chuck Casey, The Joyce and Harry Mosher Award from the Santa Clara ACS Section.

RECENT HONORED INSTRUCTORS (UNIVERSITY HOUSING AWARD):

Alice Reznickova, Cheri Barta, Clark Landis, Daniel Fredrickson, Eric Strieter, Fabian Suchy, Fleming Crim, Gilbert Nathanson, Jeanne Hamers, Jeannine Szczech, John Moore, Jorge Torres, JR Schmidt, Matthew Bowman, Nuru Stracey, Oana Martin, Paula Piccoli, Steve Hutchison, Teresa Larson, Tracey Oudenhoven, Shea Ramey

All the best to you in the new academic year,
Jim