

September 2008

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Fall Semester 2008

We are back with the 2008-2009 Chem Mess. Welcome to all new Chemistry students and all returning students. For your ideas and input into these editions of the Chem Mess, please contact, Karen Renneke renneke@stolaf.edu, or Janice Pellino pellino@stolaf.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

St. Olaf College Awarded another National Science Foundation Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (S-STEM) Grant

The Chemistry Department's \$600,000 project "Providing Support Structures for Chemistry Majors" will begin in the 2008-09 academic year. This recognition gives St. Olaf College the distinction of having three funded S-STEM grants. Chemistry joins the funded S-STEM projects in the [Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science](#) and [Biology](#) Departments.

The Chemistry grant, co-written by Mary Walczak (Associate Professor and Chair of Chemistry), Doug Beussman '92 (Associate Professor of Chemistry) and Kathy Glampe '92 (Director of St. Olaf Student Support Services) is designed to support students throughout their undergraduate chemistry education as excellent preparation for meaningful scientific careers. To qualify for PSSCM scholarships, students must demonstrate significant financial need and show promise for success in chemistry. An application process will be established during the fall semester, with initial awards expected mid-year.

<http://www.stolaf.edu/depts/mcs-old/ecms/>

<http://www.stolaf.edu/depts/biology/bff/>



NEWS FROM SOCS

Welcome back to St. Olaf, chemistry enthusiasts! The St. Olaf Chemistry Society (SOCS) is excited to begin another year with events that help to bring the chemistry community at St. Olaf together. As introductions go, our president this year is Alyssa Zuehl, our secretary is Lauren Vandeventer, and I am this year's VP/treasurer. We are excited to meet up with everyone and get some fun activities going, and the dedication ceremony for Regent's Hall will certainly be an opportunity to do this.

Therefore, we propose to have our first meeting of the year **THIS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND AT 8:00 PM**. The agenda includes getting to know our crew this year, reviewing the objectives for the year, and figuring out/delegating events for the dedication ceremony (taking place on Saturday, October 4th). We would like to put on some demonstrations, so I would encourage people to remember their favorite chem demos that they have seen through the years, or perhaps go online and find some interesting ones. Our Faculty advisor, Prof. Bob Hanson, will also be there to help brainstorm and meet with our organization.

If you cannot make it to this Monday's meeting please respond back and let me know what times work for you ASAP. If the time does not work for enough people, we will try to reschedule to a more accommodating time. Thanks, and we look forward to seeing you!

-Dan Kohler

The Saint Olaf Chemistry Society (SOCS) is a student organization for those who have an interest in chemistry.

Throughout the year, SOCS hosts events that seek to foster students' interests as well as help them get to know professors outside of the classroom. We host events such as ice cream socials, titration contests and dinner with the professors. If you want to get involved in SOCS as a member or through the executive committee, email_zuehl@stolaf.edu.

-Alyssa Zuehl

Earn Distinction with your Chemistry Major

Students wishing to earn “distinction” with their chemistry major must fit some eligibility requirements and then complete a series of learning tasks. The process and requirements are outlined in a document that you can find at

<http://www.stolaf.edu/depts/chemistry/major/>

The learning tasks can be completed in either a fall or spring semester. Deadlines for this academic year are given in the following table. Going through the process of earning distinction will allow you to take any research project to the next level and be a great asset as you look for positions after graduation from St. Olaf. Check it out!

Distinction Dates

Table 1. Deadlines for Fulfilling the Requirements for Graduation with Distinction in Chemistry

| Event | 2008 – 2009 Fall Deadlines | 2008 – 2009 Spring Deadlines |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Identify on-campus mentor | September 15 | February 13 |
| Name faculty committee | October 6 | February 27 |
| Rough draft of paper due to faculty mentor | October 20 | March 13 |
| Revised draft of paper due to faculty committee | November 10 | April 9 |
| Deadline for committee meeting | December 5 | April 24 |
| Deadline for public presentation | December 5 | April 24 |
| Final signed paper due to Chemistry Department Chair | December 11 | April 28 |

Junior and Senior Chemistry Majors: Attention!

The first Chem Mess is a great place to remind the current Juniors and Seniors that there is more to a Chemistry Major than courses alone. There is also

The Seminar Requirement!

“What’s that?” you say. Each and every Chemistry Major must attend *at least* twelve departmental (or other approved) seminars sometime during their junior and senior years. That’s 12 total, not 12 each year. The Honor’s Day Science Symposium talks always count. If you go to all three of those presentations both years you’re half-way done with the requirement from that alone! Chemistry seminars are scheduled most weeks on either Thursday or Friday afternoons... occasionally both! The talks begin at 3:15, but treats, usually donuts and lemonade, are served up at about 3:00. Plan on the seminar running at least an hour, but seldom more than one hour, 15 minutes. Some of you may have to pay attention to the seminar times in scheduling courses. For at least one term in your junior and senior years avoid having a course or lab on Thursday afternoons! Some students find that going to the Friday afternoon Chemistry seminars at Carleton is a good way to bolster their list of attended seminars.

Fall 2008 Chemistry Department Seminar Program

| Day | Date | Speaker | Speakers Institu- | Speakers Topic |
|--------|----------|--|---|---|
| Th | Sept. 11 | Dr. Truman | Macalester | <i>Science and the Liberal Arts</i> |
| Th | Sept. 18 | Dr. Yan Zhao | Iowa State University, Chem | <i>Learning from Nature: A Conformational Approach to Responsive Supramolecular Hosts, Catalysts, and Sensors</i> |
| F | Sept. 19 | Dr. Mary Walczak | St. Olaf College, Chem | <i>Promoting Scientific Literacy and Critical Thinking: News Assignments in Chemistry Classes</i> |
| F | Sept. 26 | Dr. Doug Beussman | St. Olaf College** Chem | <i>TBA** This seminar is at Carleton College at 3:30 in Olin Room 04</i> |
| Th-Sun | Oct. 2-5 | | | Regent’s Hall Dedication Events, No Departmental Seminar |
| M† | Oct. 6 | Dr. John Schaus | Lilly Research Laboratories | <i>Imaging the Brain with Positron Emission Tomography (PET): The Discovery of PET Ligands for Neurotransmitter Receptors</i> |
| Th | Oct. 9 | Kelly Baustian, St.O Chem Major 2006 | Graduate student at the Univ. of Colorado | <i>Using Optical Microscopy and Raman Spectroscopy to Study Cirrus Cloud Formation</i> <i>Plus: Life as a Graduate Student</i> |
| F | Oct. 17 | Dr. Carrie Wilmot | Univ. MN, Biochem. | <i>Crystalline enzymology (including movies of catalysis via x-ray crystallography)</i> |
| Th | Oct. 23 | Dr. John Ene-mark | Univ. of Arizona | <i>TBA</i> |
| F | Oct. 31 | TBA | Cima Labs | <i>TBA</i> |
| F | Nov. 7 | Dr. R. Lee | Univ. MN, | <i>TBA</i> |
| Th/F | Nov | <i>Reserved for candidates for tenure track faculty position</i> | | |
| Th/F | Nov. | <i>Reserved for candidates for tenure track faculty position</i> | | |

**This seminar is at Carleton College

†This seminar is jointly sponsored by the St. Olaf Biology Department and takes place at their regular seminar time: 4:00 on Monday afternoon.

How do you “get credit” for seminar attendance? For St. Olaf Chemistry Department seminars there is: **The Book**, a notebook in which you legibly place your name when coming into the seminar room (if Karen Renneke can’t read your

SUMMER RESEARCH'S 2008 REGISTER TO GO TO CHICAGO OR ST. LOUIS NOW!

This is the time you need to apply if you are interested in going to the PEW Undergraduate Research Symposium's. This trip is paid for by the PEW Midstates Consortium, and a great opportunity to present your summer research, and meet your fellow science peers.

PLEASE CONTACT DR. WES PEARSON pearson@stolaf.edu if you are interested in attending.

2008 Undergraduate Research Symposia in the Physical Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Science

Event date: Fri Oct 31st 2008 - Sun Nov 2nd 2008

The URS in the Physical Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Science will be held October 31 - November 2 at Washington University in St. Louis. Students are invited to make presentations on research topics including computer science, environmental science, chemistry, physics, mathematics and geology. On Saturday afternoon students and faculty will have several hours to explore one of St. Louis's many attractions including the zoo, the Gateway Arch or the Art Museum.

2008 Undergraduate Research Symposia in the Biological Sciences and Psychology

Event date: Fri Oct 31st 2008 - Sun Nov 2nd 2008

On the weekend of Oct 31-Nov 2, The University of Chicago is hosting the Biological Sciences and Psychology Symposium. Students are welcome to make their research presentations on subjects ranging from ecology, zoology, biochemistry, medicine, and molecular biology, to behavioral and cognitive science, pharmacology and neuroscience. On Saturday afternoon students and faculty will have several hours to explore one of the many attractions on Chicago's waterfront including the Museum of Science and Industry, the Shedd Aquarium, the Field Museum of Natural History or the Adler Planetarium.

<http://www.mathsciconsortium.org/>

Dr. Muth and summer research.



More fun and ice cream.



Spring 2008
Ice Cream
Social put
on by SOCS



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