

CHEMNEWS

School of Chemistry - University of Tasmania
30 March 2001 No. 01/01

WELCOME TO THE NEW SCHOOL OF CHEMISTRY

by Head of School, Professor Allan Canty

Staff in Hobart and Launceston joined on 1 January 2001 to form a new School of Chemistry. As for staff on both campuses prior to this development, the School has a strong commitment to excellence in teaching and research, has innovative teaching programs and has a vigorous and modern research program covering major areas of chemistry.

In addition to teaching Chemistry in the Bachelor of Science degree, chemistry is taught to students enrolled in degrees in the Bachelor of Applied Science during the teach-out of this degree, Agriculture, Aquaculture, Biomedical Science, Engineering, Health Science, Human Movements, Medicine, Pharmacy and students at the Australian Maritime College. The School is active in a wide range of research programs in both fundamental and applied chemistry. The fundamental chemistry programs relate directly to applied programs and underpin their success.

The School has made a series of important new appointments in recent months. These include Dr Michael Gardiner as a Lecturer, Dr Vicki Tolhurst as an Associate Lecturer (25%) and ARC Postdoctoral Fellow, and Miss Ann Parkin as School Secretary in Hobart. In addition, Dr Jason Smith will join us as a Lecturer in July this year.

Welcome to our new First Year Students

Welcome to chemistry studies and experiences in the School of Chemistry. The coordinator of first year programs, Dr Rudi Thomas (Room 203 near the main office) welcomes any enquiries you have, as also do your other lecturers in chemistry and the Head of School.

Welcome to our 2001 Honours Students

Narelle Best and Bjorn Lundstedt will be working with Dr Adrian Blackman, Owen Johnston with Dr Greg Dicoski, Jeff Mason with Professor Paul Haddad, Tell Tuttle with Dr Brian Yates, Bronwyn Lerner with Dr Andrew Seen and Karen Wherry with Associate Professor Don McWilliam.

Welcome to our new PhD Students

Lauren Wise will be working with Dr Michael Gardiner, Joe Hutchinson with Professor Paul Haddad, Jun Wang with Dr Michael Gardiner, Tim Jordan with Dr Andrew Seen and Doug McLean with Dr Karen Stack.

2000 Honours Students (where are they now?)

As mentioned above, Lauren Wise, Joe Hutchinson and Tim Jordan are all continuing in chemistry as PhD students.

Shane Seabrook - moved to Sydney, working part-time in an exclusive night club on the north shore (\$8 for a standard drink).

Clive Brettingham-Moore - Bachelor of Teaching.

OVERSEAS

Three PhD students from Hobart (David Graham, Alison Magill and David Nielsen) are currently visiting Professor Cavell's group in Cardiff for up to a year each. Reports are that things are going well for the trio (apart from the obvious rain, cold weather, and cattle diseases).

Mel Done will leave for an overseas study trip in Europe at the end of this month, returning in July. During her absence John O'Reilly has agreed to be the Postgraduate representative.

FAREWELL

To Dr Takashi Yokoyama who this month finished his 1-year postdoctoral fellowship in ACROSS where he worked on the use of zwitterionic surfactants for separations of inorganic ions by capillary electrochromatography.

To Dr. Yasuyuki Miura, Professor of the Department of Chemistry at Tokai University who visited ACROSS for 7 weeks in Feb-March to work with Prof. Paul Haddad on sensitive determination of gold thiosulphate complex by ion chromatography.

To Dr. John Madden who has finished his postdoctoral fellowship at ACROSS working on optimisation and prediction software for ion chromatography, and who will be leaving this month for California to work for Dionex in Sunnyvale.

To Michael Breadmore who submitted his PhD thesis and will be leaving soon for USA where he is going to work as a postdoctoral fellow with Prof. James Landers at the University of Virginia.

To Dave McGuinness who has completed his PhD thesis and shortly will be leaving for Aachen.

CONGRATULATIONS

- To our new Fellows of Australian Academies:
 - Professor Paul Haddad who has been elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (FTSE) for his outstanding contribution to the technological sciences.
 - Professor Allan Canty who has been elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science (FAA) for his outstanding contribution to organometallic chemistry.
- To Brian Yates who recently has been awarded a Teaching Merit Certificate for 2000. This is the third time that the high quality of his teaching has been recognised in this way by the University's Teaching and Learning Committee. He was also recently awarded a Teaching Development Grant for \$5000 to support his initiative to introduce molecular modelling into the undergraduate curriculum in 2001.
- To Tim Jordan who was awarded the University Medal on his recent completion of a Bachelor of Applied Science with first-class honours at the Launceston campus. Tim has decided to continue his PhD in Launceston.
- To Philip Zakaria who married Jane Stansfield on 27th January.
- To Michael Breadmore who married Anne Palmer on 3rd March.
- To John O'Reilly who will be getting married to Karen Hardwick on 28 April.
- To Karen and Bruce Stack on the birth of their son, Mark Ryan, who was born on 26 October 2000.
- To Andrew Grosse and Melysa Hamilton on the birth of their daughter, Djatalysianne Elizabeth Grosse Hamilton who was born at 5:57 pm on the 28th of November 2000 in the Hobart Maternity Hospital (Queen Alex). Birth Weight 2.8 kg, Length 48.5 cm. She still has blonde hair and grey eyes at 4 months. Her brother Beowulf already enjoys reading to her.

VISITORS

Dr Narumol Vachirapatama, from the Thammasat University of Thailand, who did her PhD with Prof. Haddad finishing last year, arrived in March for 3 1/2 months to undertake, in ACROSS, research on separations of complexes of vanadium.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Undergraduate Representative: Alison Radford

Postgraduate Representative: Mel Done (John O'Reilly in Mel's absence)

SEMINARS

Dr Brian Yates, the Chemistry seminar coordinator, has organised a varied and interesting series of School seminars in Hobart for first semester. For the latest details on the schedule, please see <http://www.chem.utas.edu.au/general/seminars.html>. If anyone has any suggestions for future seminar speakers or topics, please let Brian know.

Thanks to Seminar Speakers

28 February	Dr Simon Orchard, School of Chemistry, University of Melbourne "The Synthesis and Coordination Chemistry of Telluroether Ligands"
7 March	Prof Gus Silveira, State University of New York, Oswego "Project-Oriented Undergraduate Organic Laboratories - A Trend in the New Millennium"
14 March	Dr John Madden, School of Chemistry, University of Tasmania "Simulation and Optimisation in Ion Chromatography"
21 March	PhD Introductory talks Philip Zakaria, "Multi-Mode Capillary Electro-Chromatography" Melanie Done, "The Investigation of Carbon-Heteroatom Coupling Involving Palladium(IV) Intermediates"
28 March	Prof Robert Glaum, Chemistry Department, University of Bonn "The Colour of Transition Metal Phosphates"

Seminars Coming Up

All seminars will be held in Chemistry Lecture Theatre C2 at 12 noon.

4 April	Dr Vicki-Anne Tolhurst, School of Chemistry, University of Tasmania "Chemistry of the Chalcogens: Structural and Solution Studies of Organometallic"
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- 11 April Compounds"
PhD Final Seminar
Michael Breadmore, "Ion-exchange Electrochromatography: 2 years, 11 months and 7 days in under an hour (or its free)"
- 12 April 10.00am RACI Organic Chemistry Lecturer 2001
Dr Dennis Taylor, Department of Chemistry, University of Adelaide
"Novel Approaches to Chiral Cyclopropanes"
- 18 April Prof Sam Adeloju, School of Science, Food and Horticulture, University of Western Sydney
"Fabrication and Characterisation of Conducting Polymer Biosensors"

NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

The Faculty of Science and Engineering has arranged an exciting series of activities for National Science Week to be held in Launceston 7-8 May and in Hobart 10-11 May. Chemistry's contributions will be coordinated by Dr Andrew Seen (Ltn) and Dr Brian Yates (Hbt). For further information or offers of ideas and help, please contact them.

CONFERENCES

Prof Allan Canty, Dr Barry O'Grady and Dr Brian Yates all attended the international chemistry conference PacifiChem 2000 (along with 9400 other people from 54 countries!). This conference is held in Hawaii every five years and is heavily attended by Australians. Allan presented an invited lecture to the Inorganic Division on recent advances in organopalladium chemistry related to catalysis.

Barry presented an invited lecture to the Chemical Education section on instrument simulation in the undergraduate laboratory. Brian presented an invited lecture on the reductive elimination of palladium catalysts with carbene ligands to the Theoretical Chemistry section in a symposium in honour of Prof Paul von R. Schleyer. The conference was enjoyed by all and provided an excellent opportunity for meeting chemists from throughout Australia and the rest of the world.

APCELL

The Australian Physical Chemistry Enhancement of Laboratory Learning (APCELL) workshop was held at Sydney University in February. This CUTSD funded project aims to collect physical chemistry experiments from Australian Universities and to refine them so that they will provide the basis for a set of experiments which represent 'best practice'. The workshop, which was attended by Barry O'Grady and Alison Radford, and staff and student representatives from most Australian Universities reviewed submissions from Chemistry School/Departments throughout Australia. The feature of the review process was the sight of academic staff actually doing experiments and trying to follow the instructions normally given to students. A typical day included doing experiments and then reviewing them in terms of an educational template which covered the aims, and the way that both students and staff would know that these aims had been achieved. This review process was done over a few beers(?) at the end of the day. Overall it was a stimulating week for staff and students and by the end of the year a set of experiments which have been through an extensive review process should become available.

LIBRARY

Dr Brian Yates is the Library Liaison Officer for Chemistry - if anyone has any queries, problems or requests about the library, please contact him.

PUBLICATIONS DATA

Rudi Thomas would like to extend his thanks to everyone in Hobart for their efforts to get the publications data in on time - a total of 88 entries. Yet to discover how many \$\$ this effort is worth.

SAUSAGE SIZZLES

Sausage sizzles for undergraduate students in all years in Hobart were organised in the second week of semester by Dr Brian Yates. Approximately 290 people were fed over three days and many enthusiastic conversations took place. It was a good opportunity for students to meet staff and mingle with their peers.

CHEMISTRY CLUB

by Lauren Wise

Well the Chem Club got off to a flying start during O-Week on Societies Day with the signing up of over 100 members. This may have been due to their interest in Chemistry or the colourful alcoholic jellies on offer. With O-week out of the way it was time to start planning the first Chem Club event. The best minds were given the task of thinking up something, but in the end it was Pete and Chris who came up with the idea of a spit roast. This was held on Friday the 16th of March along with \$1 pales, and also became our AGM where the new committee was "elected". Thanks to Cornel and Chris for their hard work as part of last year's committee and organising the stall for Societies Day and the spit roast this year. Those that came to the spit roast experienced

Cornel's superior spit skills that he was putting to the test for the first time, the meat was worth waiting for Cornel. Thanks to all that came along and supported the event, especially Peter Traill who helped with the organisation of the spit and the Ag. Science department for the loan of the spit.

In the next few weeks we are expecting our very own Chem Club beer coolers to arrive on our doorstep, designed by Kai and Cornel. Thank you Grant for organising the coolers and the following for their donations, enabling the purchase of the coolers: Crown Scientific, School of Chemistry, ACROSS and The Mayfair Tavern. If you are yet to become a member of the Chem Club for 2001 contact your nearest committee member ASAP. If you are a member, look forward to a range of functions and activities during the year, these will include barrels, a quiz night, cocktail party and the end of year dinner.

Committee 2001

President: Lauren Wise

Secretary: Helmy Cook

General Committee

Phil Zakaria

3rd Years: Gina Kalodimos

2nd Years: Adele Wilson

Sam Fung

Mascot: Greg Dickinoski

Vice President:

Treasurer:

Alison Radford

John O'Reilly

Owen Johnston

Makrina Tsinoglou

Carly Harington

Juliette Tria

CHEM INDOOR SOCCER TEAM

by Matt Shaw

Thursday 22nd March saw the inaugural game of the chemistry 2001 team, originally named FUB FC (figure it out), but due to a typo we are now FLIB FC – helpful suggestions as to what that stands for appreciated.

At 1pm an unknown bunch of Anglo-Australian soccer stars with empty wallets after paying 100 dollars to enter, took to the field against the might of Concu, never having played as a unit before. The rules were loose, the referee easy to let the game flow, and for most of the first half it was an even affair, with perhaps Concu having more shots on goal. Sublime keeping by Shep and exquisite defence by all players kept us in the game when pegged back by the speed of Concu, until a lovely and cheeky individual move by Andy set the ball up to be thumped into Concu's goal, 1-0 at half time.

The second half was a different kettle of fish altogether. Flib's players, sensing victory was possible, gelled more as a team and some smooth moves began to emerge as Concu faltered and tired. A nice move by phil and jeff, with jeff latching onto a return pass to drive the ball home, settled the second goal. After that, the floodgates opened and chances abounded. Concu ran out of ideas to penetrate the solid defence, and pushed up for a goal. This caught them out as a lovely weighted free kick by Cam set up Andy for the hat-trick. Jeff finished them off with a fine finish at an awkward angle, so 4-0 the final score and a good solid start.

KOONYA CAMP FOR 2ND YEARS

A camp for 2nd year chemistry students in Hobart will be held at Koonya for the weekend 11-13 May.

NEWS OF PAST STUDENTS

Yos Ginting, who completed a PhD in Chemistry several years ago, has written that he is currently working in Indonesia with a Singapore based internet venture called Trade Alliance. He passes on his regards to everyone. *Yos says: "My Fiancee, Christina, is working with British Oxygen Co (BOC). She is currently working on a project in Malaysia and Singapore. We are still waiting for the right time for the wedding day..:-)."*

Thank you for your contributions for this issue of *ChemNews*.

Due to the Easter Break, the next *ChemNews* will be issued on 18 May 2001.

**Please e-mail all contributions (as and when you think of them) to
Ann.Parkin@utas.edu.au**