

ChemNews Selects

School of Chemistry
University of Tasmania

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RENEWAL AND GROWTH

The School has undergone substantial changes in the past few years. Principal among these have been the formation of the cross-campus school with colleagues located in Hobart and Launceston, new staff appointments representing ~50% of academic and general staff, and a re-emergence of growth in the number of students studying chemistry at the higher years. Student enrolments in 2nd year in 2002 and 2003, and in 3rd year in 2003, are higher than at any time since the 1980s. The School is working hard to sustain and build on this improvement.

Generational change in the academic staff profile is particularly notable, encouraging fresh re-evaluation of teaching and research programs. New research programs are being developed, and in some cases with substantial success in attracting external funding. Increased enrolments and generational change, together with the exchange of ideas between campuses, cross-campus operations encouraging an identification with the wider University, and a broadening of the research base, are enhancing the spirit of the School and encouraging optimism in the future.

Our positive outlook has been assisted by the support we receive from others, and of particular note are our supporters in industry, Schools and organisations with whom we share common building space in Hobart and Launceston, the Tasmanian Branch of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute, members of our External Advisory Committee, and a substantial group of science teachers in Tasmanian colleges who welcome us into their classrooms.

We wish you well for the coming year.

Professor Allan Canty, FAA
Head of School

VISITING LECTURESHIP SCHEME IN 2002

Four visitors funded by Tasmanian industries and CSIRO Molecular Science visited the School during 2002. The visitors interacted with research groups, industries and other organisation in Tasmania, and contributed to the teaching program:

- **Ecka Granules** Visiting Lecturer: Associate Professor Bill Maher from the University of Canberra.
- **Pasminco Hobart** Visiting Lecturer: Professor Ian Ritchie from Murdoch University
- **Woolmers** Visiting Lecturer: Dr Noni Johnson from CSIRO Molecular Science
- **Tasmanian Alkaloids** Visiting Lecturer: Dr Mark Rizzacasa, University of Melbourne.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- **Professor Paul Haddad** who has been awarded the 2002 A.J.P. Martin Gold Medal, an international award given by the Chromatographic Society for outstanding contributions to the advancement of separation science. The Chromatographic Society, based in the UK was established in 1956 and has membership in more than 40 countries. Professor Haddad is the first Australian to receive the medal inaugurated by the Society in 1978 and named after Nobel Laureate A.J.P. Martin.
- **Associate Professor Don McWilliam** who was awarded a Teaching Merit Certificate for 2001.
- To **Tim Jordan** (PhD student, Launceston) who has been awarded an AINSE Postgraduate Research Award. In addition to a top-up to his APA Scholarship, Tim will be provided with access to the accelerated mass spectrometry facilities at ANSTO over the next three years to quantify the contribution of fossil fuel and biomass combustion to air pollution in Launceston using radiocarbon analyses. The project will form part of Tim's PhD research and be carried out under the supervision of Dr Andrew Seen, Dr David Fink (ANSTO) and Dr John Gras (CSIRO).

- **Dr Karen Stack** has been awarded the 2002 Oertel Nadebaum Award by APPITA, the Technical Association of the Australian and New Zealand Pulp and Paper Industry
- **Doug McLean** (Masters Student, Hobart) who won the National APPITA Young Speakers Competition in Melbourne on 8 October 2002.
- **Dr David McGuinness** who has been placed on the 2001 Dean's Commendation List for Outstanding Doctoral Theses.

ARC GRANTS 2003

Congratulations to staff members who have been awarded the following new grants by the Australian Research Council for 2003:

- *Discovery Project Grant* for **\$275,035** (over 3 years) to **Dr Andrew Bowie** for "Targeting organically-complexed iron species in seawater using selective solid-phase adsorbent resins".
- *Discovery Project Grant* for **\$440,000** (over 4 years) to **Prof Allan Canty** for "High Oxidation State and Related Chemistry of Organic Compounds of Palladium".
- *Discovery Project Grant* for **\$255,000** (over 3 years) to Dr R Stranger, **Dr Brian Yates** and Prof K Morokuma for "Activation and Scission of Small Molecules using Three-Coordinate Metal Complexes".
- *Linkage Infrastructure Equipment & Facilities Grant* for **\$210,000** to Prof J B Reid, Prof R C Menary, Dr C L Mohammed, A/Prof S R Mclean, Dr J J Ross and **Dr Adrian Blackman** for purchase of a Benchtop Triple Quadruple Gas Chromatograph Mass Spectrometer.

SENIOR APPOINTMENT IN HOBART

Professor Tony Haymet has been appointed as Chief of CSIRO Marine Research. Professor Haymet was the inaugural Woolmers Lecturer, in 1997, and is establishing a research program in the School of Chemistry. The School is delighted with this appointment, and the University has appointed Professor Haymet as an Honorary Research Professor in the School of Chemistry. His presence in the School enhances the longstanding cooperation with the CSIRO Marine Laboratories, mainly as co-supervision of postgraduate students and contributions by CSIRO staff to our teaching program since the mid-1980s.

NEW STAFF IN 2002

Kym Knights and Jarrod Coad have joined the School in 2002 as laboratory technicians in Launceston and Hobart, respectively.

CHEMISTRY PRIZES FOR 2001

Percy Ash Scholarship (2nd Year)
 RACI Prize (1st Year)
 JN Baxter Memorial Prize (1st Year)
 JN Baxter Memorial Prize (2nd Year)
 EJ Browne Memorial Prize (3rd Year)
 RACI Prize and Medal (3rd Year)
 Harry Bloom Memorial Prize (4th Year)

Juliette Tria
 Damien Stringer & Claire Trenham
 Shan-Shan Lu
 Samantha Fung
 Michael Bermingham
 Shane Robertson
 Christopher Tuttle

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