

Head of School Welcome

As we begin a new academic year, I would like to welcome our new staff and all our new students, including those at undergraduate, honours and postgraduate level and congratulate staff on recent promotions. 2007 was another good year for Chemistry. I want to thank all staff and students for their contributions to the teaching and research activities of the School. Your dedication and commitment is much appreciated. Summer has been a busy time for the School with the retirement of one of our longest serving academic staff members, A/Prof Don McWilliam (you will be sorely missed, Don!), the relocation of the Chemistry School in Launceston, and the submission of 15 ARC grant applications by our hard-working researchers. I look forward to another good year in 2008 and wish everyone success in their endeavours.

Staff

Dr Ashraf Ghanem—ACROSS Postdoc
Dr Emily Hilder—Profile Lectureship
Dr John Keske—ACROSS Postdoc
Dr Jianfeng Li—ACROSS Postdoc
Mr Anthony Malone—ACROSS Computing
Dr Joselito Quirino—ACROSS Strategic appt
Ms Deb Wagner—Admin Assistant, Launceston

PhD Students

Carrie Bloomfield
Jason Hon
Naama Karu
Anung Riapanitra
Haitao You

Honours Students

Tim Causon
Nathan Tivendale

Staff Promotions

Prof Brian Yates—to Level E
Dr Michael Breadmore—to Level C
Dr Emily Hilder—to Level C
Dr Jason Smith—to Level C

Grants & Awards

IRGS \$12,000—Prof Pavel Nesterenko
Tas Alkaloids \$100,000—Dr Jason Smith
Academy of Science Travel Grant—
Dr Emily Hilder
HTC-10 Conference Award —Dr Robert Shellie

Siemen's Science Schools



Peter Molesworth making a point to the students

About 60 year 9 students enjoyed a Siemens Science Experience in **Hobart** at the School of Chemistry on 15 January 2008. They completed various experiments under the grouping of "Colourful Chemistry", Smelly Chemistry - Making Scents of Esters", Crystalline Chemistry" and Slimy Chemistry". The participants appreciated the "hands-on" approach. Special thanks are due to the demonstrators Roderick Jones, Brendon Gourlay, Peter Molesworth, Sarah Ng, and Damien Stringer as well as to Jarrod Coad whose preparation ensured everything worked smoothly. *Adrian Blackman, coordinator.*

In **Launceston** 30 students participated in the 2008 Siemens Science Experience with sessions in chemistry, environmental science, aquaculture, computing, human life sciences and a tour of the AMC.

A three hour "Synthetic Chemistry" lab kicked off the three day Experience, with the group

synthesising aspirin and then checking the purity of their product (and their ability as synthetic chemists) with a simple colorimetric test. The students then moved on to producing a series of polymers, and again, the take-home slime was the star of the show. On the following day the environmental science session was run with the assistance of WaterWatch with the students assessing the environmental health of Newnham Creek through sampling and classification of macro-invertebrates and by the analysis of the dissolved oxygen concentration in Newnham Creek water using the Winkler titration.

Faculty Marketing Officer, Jeannie-Marie Leroy noted some feedback from schools in her report:

“And did the program achieve its aims? According to the evaluation surveys, 80% of participants said that they were more motivated to take Yr 11/12 science, and 75% agreed that they were more interested in studying science at a university level. Students also commented that the program provided a great opportunity to meet new people, get a better understanding of Uni life, and learn more about different career pathways.”

Chemistry on the move in Launceston



Assoc Prof Don McWilliam at home in his new office

Associate Professor Don McWilliam, after a long-standing career with the School, retired at the end of 2007. We are very grateful for all the contributions Don has made over many years and a farewell function will be held for him during first semester. He will be staying on as an Honorary Associate with the School.

School of Chemistry staff in Launceston, along with School of Geography & Environmental Studies staff, have recently relocated from level 3 in the Science Building in Launceston to level 2. The moves are a part of the process of accommodating the AMC National Centre for Marine Conservation and Resource Sustainability within the Science Building and will enable the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology and the Schools of Chemistry and Geography & Environmental Studies to maintain a high profile presence on the Launceston campus.



Deb Wagner in her temporary accommodation awaiting the "new" reception area

A new reception/admin centre is currently being developed and Deb Wagner, formerly in the School of Aquaculture, has taken on the role of part-time admin assistant to the Faculty and Schools of Chemistry and Geography & Environmental Studies. When the dust settles and all the refurbishment is complete the plan is for a sparkling "new" level 2 able to provide support for Faculty staff and students in Launceston.

A marriage to celebrate



Congratulations to Juliette Tria and Hamish Cunningham, who celebrated their wedding on 9 February in great style at the Woodstock Reception Centre.

New Babies for the "ChemClub"



Congratulations to **David & Georgie McGuinness** on the birth of their first baby, Charlotte Josie, who was born on 28 January, weighing 3.715kg.



Also congratulations to **Anne Palmer and Michael Breadmore**, who had their first baby on Sunday 24th February, Hannah Eileen Breadmore, weighing 3.220kg.

Seminars

Wednesday 5 March

Dr JianFeng Li—Chemistry Staff

"Chemometrics: a data analysis discipline for chemists"

Wednesday 12th March—Newly Appointed Staff Seminar

Dr Joselito Quirino—Chemistry Staff

" Sample Control in Capillary Electrophoresis using Micelles"

Wednesday 19 March

Malcolm Wilson—BHP Billiton

" Building a career on Chemistry - A world full of opportunities!"

Monday 31st March

Dr Florian Jaroschik, Monash University

" TBA"

Wednesday 9th April

Dr Ashraf Ghanem—Chemistry Staff

"Medical Relevance of Chirality and Chromatography"