

THE PERIODIC TABLOID

from Wayne State's Department of Chemistry

WINTER 2018

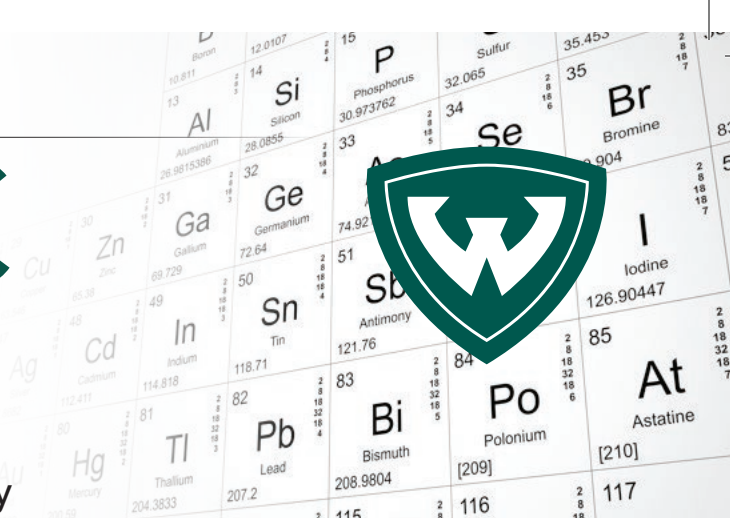


Photo by Mary Iverson

What is happening in the atrium?

Written by Maryfran Barber

When you enter the Chemistry Building's atrium, you can feel the energy immediately. Students are studying at tables, writing on whiteboards and working together to learn course content.

Central to these activities are the peer mentors who work with chemistry classes including CHM 1040, 1220, 1240, 2220, and 2280. Each quiz class has both a teaching assistant and a peer mentor. The teaching assistant is the content specialist and the peer mentor is the student-centered learning aide who helps establish the learning groups.

Peer mentors have office hours in the atrium, where each course has a specific area and access to a large whiteboard. Students gather to assist each other throughout the day, even when no peer mentors are on site.

In a true win-win situation, not only do peer mentors help students and teaching assistants, but working as a peer mentor provides students with professional development and priceless re-exposure to content they need for exams such as the MCAT, PCAT and DAT.

NOBCChE chapter started at WSU

Written by Fidelis Ndombera

This summer, the chemistry department launched a chapter affiliated with the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE). NOBCChE's mission is to build an eminent community of scientists by increasing diversity in the chemical sciences through conference attendance, outreach programs, mentorship and networking sessions.

Benefits include scholarships, travel grants and career guidance. Previously, students participated in NOBCChE activities without being members of a chapter. Recently, two of those students — Fidelis Ndombera of the Ahn Lab and Philip Adero of the Crich Lab — received NOBCChE travel grants to present their research at the organization's regional conference, held in Pittsburgh last March.

The chemistry department is supportive of and excited about the new chapter, and Professors Sarah Trimpin and Aaron Rury volunteered to serve as faculty co-advisors. Membership is open to all WSU students. Visit nobbche.org for more details.



Photo by Shima Nagi



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

A lot has happened in the chemistry department this year. Please follow us on social media for the latest information.

The following is a sample of news from the department this year: Stas Groysman was promoted to associate professor. Mary Kay Pflum was promoted to full professor. Cláudio Verani became the associate dean for research in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Young-Hoon Ahn received a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Teaching Award. Christine Chow received the Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award. David Crich was elected to the WSU Academy of Scholars. Andrew Feig received a Lifetime Service Award from the RNA Society. Wen Li received a Career Development Chair Award. Jenn Stockdill and Mary Kay Pflum were awarded a Faculty-Driven Course Reform Grant through the NSF-funded Student Success Through Evidence-based Pedagogies (SSTEPs) program.

Our students are also thriving. The WSU Chem Club won the Battle of the Chem Clubs for the second straight year. Matt Bailey (Allen Lab) received the Best Poster Award at the Rare Earth Research Conference; Zachary Devereaux (Rodgers Lab) and Chenchen He (Rodgers Lab) received the best Graduate Student Oral and Poster Awards at ANACHEM; Da Li (Brock Lab) received outstanding presentation awards at the Michigan Catalysis Society Spring Symposium and the Annual Electrochemical Society Detroit Chapter Conference; and Hansamali Sirinimal (Stockdill Lab) was selected to participate in the internship program with Boehringer Ingelheim

My thanks to returning alumni Dinuka Abeydeera (Ph.D. '09, now at Fortebio), Sanjaya Abeyirigunawardena (Ph.D. '08, now at Kent State University), Emily Aubie (Ph.D. '11, now at Andrew Peller Limited), Derek Averill (Ph.D. '14, now at Shimadzu), Stephanie Brouet (Ph.D. '06, now at Saginaw Valley State University), Martha Faner (Ph.D. '13, now at Michigan State University),

Patrick Grohar (Ph.D. '01, now at the Van Andel Research Institute), Karl Gust (Ph.D. '02, now at BASF), Edwin Hortelano (Ph.D. '88, now at Loparex), Tamiika Hurst (B.A. '97, now at Cincinnati State University), May Khanna (Ph.D. '01, now at the University of Arizona), Paulina Karwowska-Desaulniers (Ph.D. '07, now at Lassonde School of Engineering), Thomas Knisley (Ph.D. '12, now at Applied Materials), Kyriacos Koupparis (B.S. '07, now at USAID), Michael McGillivray (Ph.D. '06, now at Shimadzu), Irina Pala (Ph.D. '12, now at the Office of Naval Research), Donna Seibert (Ph.D. '98, now at Perrigo), and Marla Swain (Ph.D. '07, now at the FDA) for participating in a variety of programs to network with students and share their post-WSU experiences.

The department is preparing for a large initiative to support third-year graduate students and planning to host receptions at National ACS Meetings. Please plan to visit us!

This newsletter contains several great stories about recent events, alumni achievements, new faculty members and other great news around the Department of Chemistry. I hope you enjoy it.

For alumni, please stay in touch. Send updates with your achievements so that we can include them in future newsletters. Please share this newsletter with anyone for whom we do not have a current address. Also, next time you're in Midtown, stop by to see the building and meet with friends, colleagues, and mentors.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Allen
Professor and Chair

WSU represented at Cottrell Scholars National Teaching Assistant Workshop

Written by Maryfran Barber

Senior Lecturer Maryfran Barber and graduate student Fredricka Morgan made up the Wayne State team at the Cottrell Scholars National Teaching Assistant Workshop, held at Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta last summer. The workshop included chemistry and physics teams from around the country.

The workshop introduced evidence-based methods for pre-service training

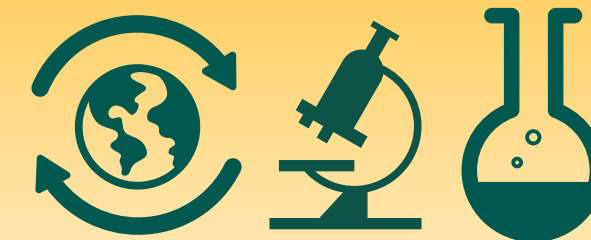
for teaching assistants in student-centered learning. The Wayne State team took the lessons learned and created a plan for in-service training that will support student-centered teaching, cultural competence and motivation. Implementation of the plan began this fall and included matching each new teaching assistant with a mentor teaching assistant; structured observations by the

mentor; and establishing a six-week seminar to address topics such as classroom management, cultural competency and time management.

The final session included a ceremony where the mentors gave the new teaching assistants their lab coat and goggles. Both new and mentor teaching assistants expressed interest and showed motivation.



Fredricka Morgan and Maryfran Barber at the Cottrell Scholars Workshop



What are you up to? We want to know!

We're eager to hear about your successes in the years since you've graduated from Wayne State University. Please visit chem.wayne.edu to update your alumni profile. If you would like an update to appear in the next edition of this newsletter, please contact us at info@chem.wayne.edu. We can't wait to see what you've been up to!

SAFETY UPDATE

Written by Barb Munk

Our department is currently working on research projects that will advance our understanding of chemistry and lay the foundation for future advances in medicine, material science and technology. The Chemistry Department Safety Committee's goal is to provide our colleagues with the support needed to conduct their research in a manner

that is safe, efficient and compliant with local, state and federal laws. In fall 2016, the department launched an ongoing effort to improve eye safety by providing prescription safety glasses to faculty, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Last winter, new fire resistant and fire retardant lab coats were distributed to researchers working with flammable

or pyrophoric materials. Our latest project is an electronic chemical inventory system called Chimera. When fully implemented, the system is expected to help with the annual inventory updates and reduce hazardous waste removal costs through improved use of chemical resources and effective tracking of expiration dates.



Photo by Boehringer Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Written by Christiana Castillo

Chris Senanayake chose Wayne State University for his Ph.D. program and postdoctoral research with Professors Jim Rigby and Carl Johnson, respectively. Senanayake is now the vice president of chemical development at Boehringer Ingelheim, where he leads a group of 80 people and collaborates with scientists around the world.

During his career, Senanayake has developed patents, contributed to more than 400 publications in the world of organic chemistry, and written book chapters and review articles in areas of synthetic organic chemistry, drug development and the design of improved chemical entities.

He also serves on several alumni panels at Wayne State.

Senanayake is passionate about sharing his knowledge with others. He enjoys mentoring students and has created an internship program to help them excel.

Graduate student Christine Arbour had an opportunity to intern at Boehringer Ingelheim under Senanayake, where she obtained hands-on experience and contributed to a publication in the journal *Organic Letters*.

"From working with Dr. Senanayake, along with the rest of the chemical

development team, I was able to gain a familiarization with the pharmaceutical industry. This not only enhanced my scientific knowledge, but also provided me with a large network of professional connections," said Arbour.

Senanayake credits much of his success to Wayne State University. When asked what advice he would give to chemistry students, he said, "Take the opportunities to engage with internships and make connections with Wayne State collaborators and people outside of the community. Do not be afraid to diversify your experiences."

ALUMNUS MAKES PIPELINE FOR WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

WELCOME, TENECIA SMITH

Written by Tenecia Smith

In 2017, the Department of Chemistry welcomed Tenecia D. Smith as Office Service Clerk II. Smith has over 20 years of management experience and has quickly adapted to her new position in the main office. Her experience is accompanied by an associate of arts with a major in business administration, and she is currently pursuing her bachelor's in

business. In her new position, Smith is responsible for assisting with the needs of the department and for the overall leadership of the main office staff. Smith serves on the committees for both Graduate Recruiting and Honors Convocation, and was recently promoted to co-chair for the 2018 Honors Convocation.



Photo by Tenecia Smith



Photo by Jackie Baldyga

The Crich Research Group in their new labcoats

DEGREES AWARDED 2016-17



Dr. Don Liyanage

BACHELOR'S

Nina Ahrabian	Hannah Fine	Michael Moussa
Evan Albazi	Monika Franco	Alexander Ochocki
Ahmed Albo Jawad	Laimar Garmo	Vaishali Patel
Talal Alsheqaih	Irgena Hafizi	Leon Popaj
Mohammed Alzamami	Amanda Jurgelewicz	Rakesh Porob
Ehinor Arhebamen	Adam Kareem	Mariam Raheem
Bushra Azom	Manpreet Kaur	Andrew Roberts
Kethrine Badria	Jacob Kay	Justin Robinson
Dania Baraka	Nathan Kelley	Mawadah Samad
Jaskarn Bawa	Alaa Khadoori	Erich Schafrick
Brendan Blazejewski	Shelby Koppinger	Aftab Shaik
Diane Brikho	Bogdan Kulikowski	Aryana Sharrak
Jordyn Burdick	Alexandra Lemieux	Erik Soley
Abigail Burns	Tiffany Los	Pankti Thaker
Aaron Chalifoux	Ibrahim Majed	Julie Truong
Aivy Dao	Harjot Mann	Ryan Washburn
Mary Dzieszowski	Natalie Mannino	Susan White
Kassem Farran	Gregory Marsh	

MASTER'S

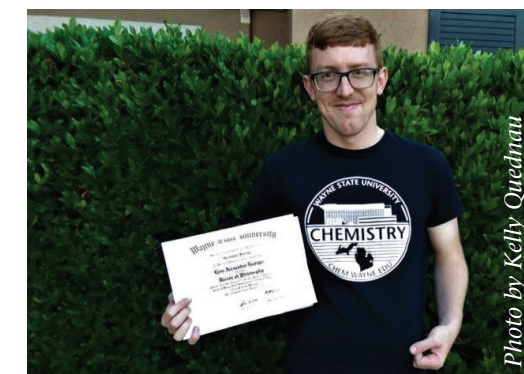
Name	Degree	Advisor
Wilson Kokroko	M.A.	Groysman
Lauren Hopper	M.S.	Allen
Brianna Jackman	M.S.	Feig
Matthew Jackson	M.S.	Stockdill
Amit Kumar	M.S.	Feig
Khalin Nisbett	M.S.	Kodanko

DOCTORATES

Name	Degree	Advisor
Thilani Anthony Dissertation Title: Studying the ATP Cosubstrate Promiscuity of Nucleotide and Lipid Kinases	Ph.D.	Pflum
Pavithra Dedigama Arachchige Dissertation Title: Development of Tools for Phosphite-Specific Kinase Identification and Discovery of Phosphate Substrates	Ph.D.	Pflum
Jeffrey Beattie Dissertation Title: Synthesis of Dinucleating Ligands and Their Dinuclear Metal Complexes: Applications in Sensing and Small Molecule Activation	Ph.D.	Groysman
James Bellow Dissertation Title: Design of First-Row Transition Metal Bis(Alkoxide) Complexes and Their Reactivity Toward Nitrene and Carbene Transfer	Ph.D.	Groysman
Jessica Davis Dissertation Title: Chalcogenide Nanocrystal Assembly: Controlling Heterogeneity and Modulating Heterointerfaces	Ph.D.	Guo/Andreana
Levi Ekanger Dissertation Title: Europium(II)-Containing Complexes for Responsive Magnetic Resonance Imaging	Ph.D.	Allen

DOCTORATES (continued)

Name	Degree	Advisor
Dissanayaka Mudiyansele Embogama Dissertation Title: The Development of Chemical Methods to Discover Kinase Substrates and Map Cell Signaling with Gamma-Modified ATP Analog-Dependent Kinase-Catalyzed Phosphorylation	Ph.D.	Pflum
Ravin Fernando Dissertation Title: State Resolved Sliced Imaging of Infrared Multiphoton Dissociation	Ph.D.	Suits
Ahmed Foua Dissertation Title: Development of Modified ATP Analogs to Study Kinase-Catalyzed Phosphorylations	Ph.D.	Pflum
Yunfei Lin Dissertation Title: A New Three-Dimensional (3D) Particle Coincidence Imaging System and its Applications in Strong Field Studies of Reaction Dynamics in Atoms and Molecules	Ph.D.	Li
Don Liyanage Dissertation Title: Synthesis and Characterization of Transition Metal Phosphide Nanoparticles for Catalytic Applications: Model Catalysts for Hydrodesulfurization and Electrocatalysts for the Oxygen Evolution Reaction	Ph.D.	Brock
Appi Reddy Mandhapati Dissertation Title: Synthesis of Apramycin and Paromomycin Derivatives as Potential Next Generation Aminoglycoside Antibiotics and Chemistry of Isothiocyanato Sialyl Donors	Ph.D.	Crich
Sunalee Gonawala Jayasundara Mudiyansele Dissertation Title: Electron Transfer Studies in Langmuir-Blodgett Films of Metallosurfactants for Current Rectification, Corrosion Mitigation, and Water Oxidation	Ph.D.	Verani
Dhanusha Nalawansa Dissertation Title: Studies Towards Broadening the Substrate Profile and Regulation of Histone Deacetylase 1	Ph.D.	Pflum
Yuan-Wei Nei Dissertation Title: Gas-Phase Ion Spectroscopy of Nucleobases and Mononucleotides: Models for Higher Order Nucleic Acids	Ph.D.	Rodgers
Surangi Hasitha Pimmacharige Dissertation Title: Elucidation of the Cation and the Anion Doping Mechanism of Nanoparticulate Manganese Arsenide: Effect of Doping on the Magnetostructural Properties	Ph.D.	Brock
Blake Reed Dissertation Title: Synthesis and Heteroallene Reactivity of Bis(Aldimino)Pyridine Nickel Complexes in Four Different Oxidation States	Ph.D.	Groysman
Tian Shi Dissertation Title: Elucidation of the Cation and the Anion Doping Mechanism of Nanoparticulate Manganese Arsenide: Effect of Doping on the Magnetostructural Properties	Ph.D.	Chernyak
Yuanyuan Shi Dissertation Title: Crossed Beam Imaging of the Reaction Dynamics of Halogen Atoms with Selected Hydrocarbons	Ph.D.	Suits
Shanqiao Wei Dissertation Title: Development of a Novel Class of Chemicals for Labeling Abasic Sites in Cellular DNA and Killing Cancer Cells	Ph.D.	Bhagwat



Dr. Levi Ekanger



Dr. Sunalee Gonawala Jayasundara Mudiyansele (left) and Professor Claudio Verani (right)



Professor Mary Kay Pflum, Dr. Dhanusha Nalawansa, Dr. Pavithra Dedigama Arachchige, Dr. Surangi Hasitha Pimmacharige and Khalin Nisbett

ALUMNI Updates

Arthur Bull, Ph.D. '86, retired from Oakland University in April after being a faculty member for 29 years, six of which he served as chair of the Department of Chemistry.

Sibrina Collins, B.A. '94, celebrated her one-year anniversary as executive director of the Marburger STEM Center at Lawrence Tech.

Margaret Mikula, B.S. '94, became the chief quality officer at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center and Penn State Medical Group practices.

Brian Johns, Ph.D. '97, received the 2016 Heroes of Chemistry Award from the American Chemical Society for his work in developing TIVICAY (dolutegravir) for the treatment of HIV-1. Johns serves as vice president and head of the HIV Discovery Performance Unit at GlaxoSmithKline.

Indika Arachchige, Ph.D. '07, was promoted to associate professor of chemistry with continuing tenure at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Sujit Suwal, Ph.D. '09, recently started a faculty position as an assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, SUNY, at Buffalo State in New York.

Ben Swarts, Ph.D. '10, is an assistant professor at Central Michigan University and received a CAREER Award from the National Science Foundation.

Darrell Marshall, B.S. '11, earned his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Nebraska.

Prabani Dissanayake, Ph.D. '12, is now in charge of the analytical division at Gardner-Gibson.

Irina Pala, Ph.D. '12, completed her AAAS Policy Fellow position in the U.S. State Department and started a new position as a senior policy analyst in the Office of Discovery and Innovation Research of the Office of Naval Research.

Gayathri Silva, Ph.D. '14, was promoted to senior lecturer at the University of Colombo in Sri Lanka.

Buddhima Sirwardena Mahanama, Ph.D. '14, took a position at the Environmental Services Department in the city of San Jose.

Sashiprabha Vithanarachchi, Ph.D. '14, was promoted to senior lecturer at the University of Colombo in Sri Lanka.

Maheeka Embogama, Ph.D. '16, started a new position as a scientist at Arbor Assays.

Yuanyuan Yang, Ph.D. '16, started a position as a clinical research scientist at Vibrant America.

In remembrance of alumni who have passed away over the past year:

John Smith, B.S. '51
Ken Bruza, Ph.D. '79
Stanley Smith, Ph.D. '06

Awards, Scholarships and Fellowships

GRADUATE AWARDS for 2016-17

Departmental Citations for Excellence in Teaching Service

Jordan Burton
Ayanna Hogan
Ryan Hollingsworth
Navoda Jayakodiachchi
Udumbara Rathnayake
Tepora Su'A

Graduate School Citations for Excellence in Teaching

Dinesh Amarasinghe
Brooke Corbin
Kavinda Herath
Joseph Knoff
Thilini Kondasinghe
Nuwan Kondasinghe
Don Liyanage
Timothy McMillan
Philemon Ngoje
Khalin Nisbett
Michael Overbeek
Thilini Poramba Liyanage
Kusal Samarasinghe

Esther & Stanley Kirschner General Chemistry Teaching Award

Nour El Harakeh

Herbert K. Livingston Award for Excellence in Teaching

Whitney Wood

David F. Boltz Award in Analytical Chemistry

Nicole Lenca
Yanlong Zhu

Esther and Stanley Kirschner Graduate Award in Inorganic Chemistry

Da Li

Dan Trivich Memorial Award for Research in Physical Chemistry

Lucas Hamlow
Alex Winney

Biological Chemistry Graduate Student Award

Kusal Samarasinghe

Norman A. LeBel Endowed Graduate Award in Organic Chemistry

Aparni Kithulgoda Gamage
Philemon Ngoje

James C. French Graduate Award

Peng Wen

GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS and FELLOWSHIPS for 2016-17

ARC and Surendra Gupta Family Endowed Scholarship

Girish Sati

Dr. Cal Stevens Memorial Scholarship (created by the Surendra and Karen Gupta ARC Foundation)

Karan Arora
Mike Pirrone
Hansamali Sirinimal
Guanyu Yang

Knoller Fellowship

Bishnu Thapa
Maryam Yousif

Schaap-Rumble Graduate Research Fellowship

Karan Arora
Matthew Bailey
Christine Hart
Chenchen He
Malsha Hettiarachchi
Kenneth Kpogo
Dhanushka Nalin Perera
Munkanatta Godage

Ahmed Negmeldin
Sachini Siriwardena
Amr Sonousi

Willard R. Lenz, Jr. Endowed Memorial Scholarship

Ahmed Negmeldin
Amr Sonousi

Mary G. Wood Endowed Scholarship

Habib Baydoun
Kenneth Kpogo

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS for 2016-17

J. Russell Bright Award for Distinction in General Chemistry

Anthony Lewis

Harold B. Cutter Memorial Award in Organic Chemistry

Ashi Arora

Wiley Award in Advanced Organic Chemistry

Erik Soley

Esther & Stanley Kirschner Undergraduate Inorganic Chemistry Award

Erik Soley

American Chemical Society, Division of Inorganic Chemistry Award

Krista Kulesa

Merck & Company Award in Biochemistry

Mohammed Alzamami

David and Beverly Rorabacher Award in Quantitative Analytical Chemistry

Kejsi Bendo

American Chemical Society, Division of Analytical Chemistry Award

Sahil Rafai

Wilfried Heller Award in Physical Chemistry

Ali Abikhodr

Clifford G. Drouillard Annual Chemistry Award

Yasmine Elghoul

Hugh and Mary Ann Kelly Chemistry Undergraduate Endowed Research Scholarship

Shane Jackowski
Brigid Jacob

American Chemical Society, Detroit Section Award for Outstanding Chemistry Graduate

Andrew Roberts

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS for 2017-18

Ralph E. and Helen G. Carter Endowed Scholarship

Ali Abikhodr
Jacob Frazier
Shane Jackowski

Chemistry Undergraduate Scholarship

Amira Alnabolsi

James C. French Undergraduate Chemistry Scholarship

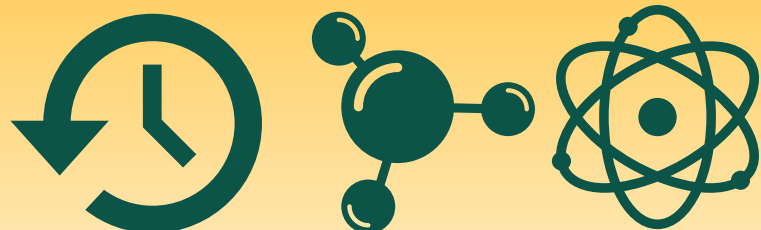
Eugersa Agolli
Japnam Jassal
Lauren Oppenheiser

Jane and Frank Warchol Foundation Scholarship

Brigid Jacob

George H. Wheatley Memorial Scholarship

Ahmed Ayantayo
Raynya Aziz
Nicole Beller
Nirmeen Chouaib
Jayla Jackson



Let's work together

If you are employed by a company that does not currently interview at Wayne State University, please mention to the appropriate people that WSU has outstanding graduates. The chemistry department would be happy to arrange an interview day for your company. To arrange such an event, please contact Matthew Allen at mallen@chem.wayne.edu.

Welcome new faculty member **AARON RURY**

Written by Aaron Rury

Aaron S. Rury, Ph.D., was born at the Detroit Medical Center, located just around the corner from Wayne State's Schaap Chemistry Building. After earning a degree in physics with a minor in chemistry from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, he was admitted to the University of Michigan to pursue a Ph.D. in applied physics, researching the intersection of molecular, optical and chemical physics. Upon completing his doctorate, Rury excelled in two postdoctoral positions. First, he joined the Quantum Sciences and Technology Group at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory as a Caltech Postdoctoral Scholar, where he used crystalline micro-resonator platforms to design laser and photonic systems for interplanetary

molecular spectroscopic instruments. In the second position, Rury used his expertise in photonics characterization to formulate new approaches to assess the relationships between properties and dynamics of solid-state proton-coupled electron transfer, an important process in biomaterials.

In the Department of Chemistry, Rury will serve as the principal investigator for the Materials Structure and Dynamics Laboratory (MSDL). The MSDL's research will center on the intricate interplay between emergent material properties for specific applications — such as cellphones, lasers and data storage systems — and the structural dynamics of these materials. To disentangle the network of connections between structural

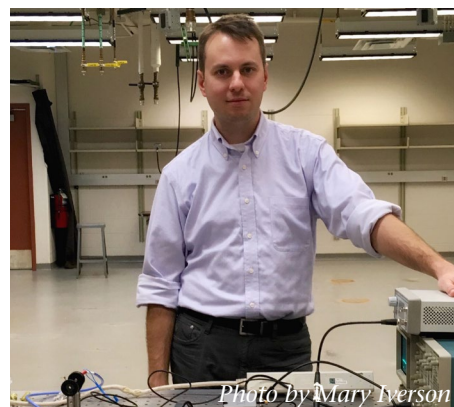


Photo by Mary Iverson

dynamics and material properties, researchers in the MSDL will develop and apply nonlinear and ultrafast vibrational spectroscopic methods. Students and postdoctoral scholars will use laser pulses a millionth of a nanosecond in duration to “watch” the evolution of materials following a wide range of different excitations. These studies will provide fundamental physical chemical insights into the intelligent design of materials for a wide range of important technological applications.

New faculty member **LONG LUO**

Written by Long Luo

The Department of Chemistry welcomed Long Luo, Ph.D., as a new assistant professor in 2017. Luo is originally from Jiangxi Province, China. He obtained a B.S. in applied chemistry from Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, where he performed electrochemical sensor-related research. He then moved to the United States and was a graduate student at the University of Utah from 2011-14. While there, he conducted fundamental studies of electrochemical phenomena at the nanoscale under the guidance of Henry White. After receiving his Ph.D., Luo moved to the University of Texas at Austin to continue his training as an electrochemist. He joined the lab of Richard Crooks as a postdoctoral researcher, where he developed new paper-based analytical devices for point-of-care diagnostics and new bimetallic nanomaterials for electrocatalytic reactions. After training as a graduate student and postdoc, Luo is thrilled to start his independent career at Wayne State University.

Luo's research is centered on developing and understanding electrocatalysts for energy conversion applications. His lab is testing a new catalyst design strategy for selective electroreduction of carbon dioxide to liquid fuels. Future directions in this area will include the mechanistic understanding of the origins of reaction selectivity and application of such understanding to other selective catalytic reactions. Additional research will focus on the development of new low-cost, paper-based microfluidic biosensors for diagnostics that utilize electrokinetic enrichment and separation techniques to achieve high sensitivity. The successful development of this technology will result in a less expensive and more accurate means for daily health monitoring. Luo is excited about the ongoing research projects in his lab and eager to work with the graduate students at Wayne State to accomplish these projects and test new ideas.



Photo by Dr. Qianjin Chen



Uzoma Azuh in the Chow Laboratory

Chow establishes scholarship in memory of former student

Written by Lisa Anga

Uzoma Azuh was passionate about helping people and wanted to become a doctor to do just that.

Azuh was an undergraduate student in Christy Chow's lab from 2001-04. “Uzo could always make you smile,” said Chow. “His energy was infectious.”

Azuh received a bachelor of science in chemistry with honors from Wayne State in 2004. The next year, he enrolled in the Wayne State University School of Medicine. It was during his second year as a medical student that he was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia. Even after his diagnosis, Azuh worked tirelessly to promote the National Marrow Donor Program and support others with leukemia.

Azuh succumbed to the disease in 2007, leaving a lasting impression on all who knew him, including Chow, who recently created The Uzoma Azuh Endowed Memorial Research Scholarship in Chemistry to encourage students to pursue

undergraduate research with as much enthusiasm and dedication as Azuh showed. “Undergraduate research encourages critical thinking, creativity and problem-solving. It sets students apart when applying for graduate school. I hope this scholarship encourages undergraduates to seek out a research position,” said Chow.

The Uzoma Azuh Endowed Memorial Research Scholarship in Chemistry is available to undergraduate students majoring in chemistry, biochemistry or chemical biology starting in the 2018-19 academic year.

To support The Uzoma Azuh Endowed Memorial Research Scholarship in Chemistry, make checks payable to Wayne State University and write “Azuh Scholarship” in the memo line. Checks should be mailed to: Wayne State University Gift Processing Academic/Administrative Building 5700 Cass Avenue, Suite 1200 Detroit, MI 48202.

WSU chemistry department history book

Dear colleagues, alumni, and friends,

Many of you are aware that John Oliver was working on a comprehensive history of the chemistry department at the time of his death. I have taken on the assignment of bringing that project to completion. It appears that it is now 15 to 20 percent complete.

I have expanded the concept to be a large, data-driven volume, extending from the beginnings of the department through the Matt Allen era. I have also been in contact with Wayne State Press in hopes of eventually publishing this work for wide distribution among our colleagues and graduates. It is my belief that this is at least a three-year project, but it is a task that I am dedicated to finishing.

If you have photos, historical documents, reflections or ideas, please scan and email them to me at your leisure. I will do my best to include all relevant materials.

My sincere thanks to Sharon Kelley (a font of knowledge and wisdom), Maryfran Barber (who helped facilitate the process with John's family), Betty and son Gordon Oliver (for their generosity and efforts to help gather extant materials), and Matt Allen (for recognizing and encouraging the significance of this). John and I will be co-authors, a fitting legacy to his passion and work.

Very sincerely,

Prof. David M. Coleman, retired
Previously: Director, Lumigen Instrument Center
Director, WSU Nano Fabrication Core Facility (nFab)
dmc@chem.wayne.edu



WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY

THE PERIODIC TABLOID

Department of Chemistry
5101 Cass Avenue
Detroit, MI 48202



To keep up to date with what
our students are doing, visit
NOBCCHE's and the chem
club's Facebook pages at
facebook.com/wsunobcche and
facebook.com/WSUACSSA.

Twitter:
twitter.com/waynestatechem
Instagram:
instagram.com/waynestatechem
Facebook:
facebook.com/wsunchemistry
YouTube:
go.wayne.edu/chem-youtube



See what our
department is up to!

Welcome to the incoming graduate student class of 2017!



Photo by Bismah Janshed