

Aquinas College Chemistry Department Alumni Newsletter 2005

Greetings! We publish this annual newsletter to stay in touch with all our alumni, especially those of you who have not been back to campus recently. The chemistry department currently occupies the second floor of Albertus Hall. Whenever you are in the neighborhood, please stop in to see us!

This Year's Big News: Research Grant Awarded!

Majors Meghann Broderick and Melissa Conklin, both rising seniors, and Assistant Professor Elizabeth Jensen were awarded a summer research grant by Pierce Cedar Creek Institute (located near Hastings, Michigan). They will be studying the water chemistry of Brewster Lake and associated wetlands on the PCCI property throughout the summer. Read the official press release at <http://www.aquinas.edu/collegerelations>

Congratulations to our 2004-2005 Seniors!

Kimberley Edsall

- Born Preventive Health Care Clinic

Jakob Jackson

- seeking position in pharmaceutical sales

Sarah Pennington

- student teaching, Rockford High School

Christopher Waid

- JB Labs, Holland, Michigan

Staff Changes

Rima Puodziunas resigned as lab manager at the end of 2004, in order to pursue a career as an Ultrasonographer. She plans to attend the Diagnostic Medical Imaging program at Grand Valley State University. All of the faculty and students who have worked with Rima since she came to Aquinas in 2001 thank her and wish her good luck.

Kari Zeller was hired as lab manager in January, 2005. Kari holds a B.S. in biology with a minor in chemistry from Grand Valley State University. She has worked for many years in environmental laboratories. Kari has two children. Please join us in welcoming Kari to the department!

Annual Events

Benzene Banquet—27 October 2004; St. Albert's Day—18 November 2004;
West Michigan ACS Education Night—2 March 2005; Poje Banquet—24 April 2005;
General Chemistry Poster Session—29 April 2005

Science Recruiting Event

The first-ever Science & Math AQ Day was held on campus for prospective students and their parents in April, 2005. Organized in cooperation with the Admissions Office, the visitors toured campus, met current students and faculty, and listened to alumni talk about the advantages of an Aquinas education. Each department presented one or more activities during afternoon breakout sessions. A total of 71 area high school students attended the event, and about twenty of them participated in the chemistry breakout session, which involved a hands-on chromatographic separation and a demonstration of HPLC.

2004-2005 Faculty Activities

Sr. Katrina Hartman organized a chemistry outreach program with the Grand Rapids Fire Department. Fire-fighters came to campus to become more familiar with chemicals and chemical reactions. She was also selected this year's faculty recipient of the Jane Hibbard Idema Women's Studies Center Outstanding Aquinas Woman Award.

Li-Heng Chen continues to advise the Aquinas College Chemistry Society (our student chemistry club). He attended the Michigan College Chemistry Teachers Association (MCCTA) meeting with Prof. Jensen in November.

Elizabeth Jensen published a review of the textbook *Caveman Chemistry* by Kevin Dunn in the Fall 2004 MCCTA proceedings. She also attended the 18th Biennial Conference on Chemical Education in July and a Chautauqua workshop on creative problem solving in June.

The Aquinas College Science Initiative

Aquinas College started a two-part Initiative in 2003. One part is concerned with increasing financial support for the science departments. The other part focuses on improvements to the science curriculum. We would appreciate input from our alumni, based on your experiences after graduation. How did your Aquinas education help you pursue your career goals? What were the strengths and weaknesses of your education?

Has your address changed? Did you change jobs, get married, have children, or retire?

Do you know someone who should be added to our mailing list? Send your news and comments to Sr. Katrina Hartman, hartmkat@aquinas.edu or

1607 Robinson Road SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506!

Visit us on the Web!

<http://www.aquinas.edu/chemistry>