

Aquinas College Chemistry Department Alumni Newsletter 2006

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!

Research Grant Awarded!

Majors Rob Sturm ('07) and Lianne Griffiths ('08) and Assistant Professor Elizabeth Jensen were awarded a summer research grant by Pierce Cedar Creek Institute (located near Hastings, Michigan). They will be studying metals in different types of soil on the PCCI property throughout the summer. Read more at <http://www.cedarcreekinstitute.org/grant-recipients.htm>

Congratulations to our 2005-2006 Seniors!

Meghann Broderick	- study abroad in France
Melissa Conklin	- Access Business Group, Ada, Michigan
Jeanne Gilewski	- University of Virginia medical school
Adam Hoogewind	- applying for industrial position
Chris Kaatz	- applying to medical school

The Poje Award was instituted by the Chemistry Department in conjunction with the Biology, Physics, Geography and Math departments. The award is given to a graduating student from one of these departments who most exemplifies the traits for which former chemistry professor Dr. John Poje was known including a quick mind, insatiable curiosity, interest and knowledge in a broad range of topics, willingness to explore new ideas, as well as care and concern for others.

This year the award was given to Jeanne Gilewski. Jeanne majored in Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics maintaining a 3.98 GPA. She was a member of Tri-Beta (biology honor society), the Student Affiliates chapter of the American Chemical Society, the Math club and AED (pre-med honor society) as well as the Insignis program. Jeanne was a tutor for both math and chemistry. She was nominated for Outstanding Aquinas Woman student of the year by the Jane Hibbard Idema Women's Studies Center and for the campus-wide Outstanding Senior and Monsignor Bukowski awards. She was senior student of the year in biology, chemistry and math.

Annual Events

Benzene Banquet—26 October 2005; St. Albert's Day—16 November 2005;
Poje Banquet—9 April 2006; General Chemistry Poster Session—26 April 2005

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance

Thanks to generous donations made to the Science Initiative project (see below), the department was able to repair and upgrade its 60 MHz ^1H -NMR instrument this year. The Eft-60 probe and software were installed by Anasazi Instruments Inc. in September 2005. Students in Organic chemistry, Advanced Organic chemistry, and Instrumental Methods courses as well as several of the senior research projects made frequent use of the instrument to obtain proton spectra of various organic compounds.

2005-2006 Faculty Activities

Sr. Katrina Hartman writes the annual report for the local section of the ACS. She also attended the Central regional ACS meeting in Frankenmuth (MI) in May. She reviewed chapters in van Koppen and Watts *General Chemistry for the 21st Century* for W.H. Freeman. She was among those honored for twenty years of service to Aquinas this year.

Li-Heng Chen continues to advise the Aquinas College Chemistry Society (our ACS Student Affiliates chapter). The club received an Honorable Mention from the ACS for its 04-05 activities and was Aquinas Club of the Month in December 2005. He attended the Michigan College Chemistry Teachers Association (MCCTA) meeting with Prof. Jensen in November.

Elizabeth Jensen presented research results at the MCCTA meeting in November. She attended the Central regional ACS meeting with student researchers Melissa Conklin and Meghann Broderick, who presented a research poster on last summer's project. She was selected this year's faculty recipient of the Jane Hibbard Idema Women's Studies Center Outstanding Aquinas Woman Award.

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>