

Aquinas College Chemistry Department Alumni Newsletter 2007

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!

Summer Research 2007

Environmental Science major Shannon Henderson ('10) will be working with Assistant Professor Elizabeth Jensen this summer. They plan to study lead concentrations in the soils of apple orchards in the Grand Rapids area. This and four other Aquinas student-faculty summer research projects, are being funded with part of the \$4 million bequest of Dennison and Marguerite Mohler.

Congratulations to our 2006-2007 Seniors!

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| Rob Anteck | - applying to graduate schools (medical research) |
| Kyler Carroll | - Virginia Commonwealth U. (inorganic chemistry) |
| Crystal Kuelper | - seeking employment in chemistry |
| Rob Sturm | - U. Wisconsin, Madison (bioanalytical chemistry) |
| Adam Van Gessel | - Palmer College of Chiropractic, Davenport, Iowa |

Alumni Profile

Dr. Robert Ampulski presented the basics of his work at Proctor & Gamble to the Natural Sciences Departments at Aquinas College on November 17, 2006, in a talk entitled "From the Forest to the Bear in the Woods". The majority of Dr. Ampulski's work deals with personal care products, especially paper that is used in toilet tissues and paper towels. He explained the way in which the paper is formed from wood pulp and the factors that must be engineered into that product such as strength, softness, texture and color. The process from tree to the handy package on the store shelves was explained. Dr. Ampulski also discussed marketing techniques from Mr. Whimble's "please don't squeeze the Charmin" television commercials to the newer ads using the bears in the woods.

Dr. Ampulski graduated from Aquinas College in 1964. He earned a Ph.D. from Florida State University and worked many years at Proctor & Gamble. His Aquinas presentation was part of our Contemporary Science Seminar Series.

Annual Events

Benzene Banquet—25 October 2006; St. Albert's Day—15 November 2006;
Poje Banquet—15 April 2007; General Chemistry Poster Session—25 April 2007

Instrument Purchases

Thanks to generous donations made to the Science Initiative project (see below), the department was able to purchase a new Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectrometer this year. The Jasco 4100 instrument with Pike Miracle ATR assembly was installed in August 2006. Students in various courses made frequent use of the instrument to obtain structural information about compounds. In addition, a ^{13}C probe for the department's Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectrometer was installed in May 2007 by Anasazi, Inc. This upgrade will allow students and faculty to investigate the structures of organic molecules in greater detail than ever before.

2006-2007 Faculty Activities

Li-Heng Chen-advises the Chemistry Society (our ACS Student Affiliates chapter). He attended the Michigan College Chemistry Teachers Association (MCCTA) meeting in November. He is a consultant in connection with an ongoing patent application.

Sr. Katrina Hartman-was a reviewer for the Michigan Campus Compact Venture grants. At the MCCTA meeting, she presented a general chemistry laboratory exercise for teaching integrity in observations and collaboration of results. She continues to work on the history of the chemistry department.

Elizabeth Jensen-presented papers at several professional meetings this year: BCCE 19, MCCTA, and the Central Regional ACS meeting with students Rob Sturm ('07) and Lianne Griffiths ('08). She also attended the 233rd National ACS meeting in Chicago with a group of seven Aquinas students.

The Aquinas College Science Initiative

This two-part project was begun in 2003 to increase financial support for the science departments and to improve the science curriculum at Aquinas. We 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>