

Aquinas College Chemistry Department

Alumni Newsletter 2011

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 2011

Jacob Streng ('13) is the student researcher working with Dr. Li-heng Chen to try to characterize the additives of biodiesel qualitatively and quantitatively by spectroscopy. The project is funded through a Mohler-Thompson summer research grant for science and math students at Aquinas.

Alumni News:

Darrell T. (Ted) Thompson ('52) received an Honorary Doctor of Science degree at the 2011 Commencement ceremony. He is the retired president/CEO of X-Rite Corporation and a member of the Science Initiative Advisory Committee. Ted's commitment to undergraduate science research led to his contribution to the Mohler-Thompson Endowment that supports student summer research.

Robert Boguslaski ('62) received the Distinguished Service Award during Homecoming festivities in 2010. After earning his Ph.D. at the University of Notre Dame, Bob founded two technology-based companies and is currently president of the second, Serim Corporation. Bob is co-chair of the Science Initiative Advisory Committee

Tom Zwier ('76) received the Distinguished Service Award during Homecoming festivities in 2010. Tom earned his Ph.D. from the University of Arizona. He worked for The Upjohn Company in Kalamazoo, which eventually became part of Pfizer. Now retired, Tom is the co-chair of the Science Initiative Advisory Committee.

Kyler Carroll ('07) completed the Ph.D. in inorganic/materials chemistry at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2010. He is now a postdoctoral researcher in nanoengineering at the University of California at San Diego.

Join the AQ Chemistry Alumni group on LinkedIn!
(<http://www.linkedin.com>)

Instrument Purchases

Thanks to generous donations made to the Science Initiative, the department was able to purchase class sets of digital pH meters and stirring hot plates, four Spec-20 spectrophotometers, and other small electronic equipment. The Aquinas College Science Initiative was begun in 2003 to increase financial support for the science departments and to improve the science curriculum.

2010-2011 Faculty Activities

Li-Heng Chen – continues teaching General Chemistry II and Organic Chemistry I. He was awarded "most quotable award" by the student senate at the faculty and staff appreciation party because he showed that "Diamond is not forever" by thermodynamics.

Sr. Katrina Hartman – working to update the biochemistry laboratory experiments and presented a demonstration on critical thinking at the Michigan Science Teachers Association meeting. The demonstration consisted of 6 different clear household liquids and how they could be identified using their properties and critical deductive thinking.

Elizabeth Jensen – was appointed to the ACS Task Force on Undergraduate Programming. She also continues to advise the Aquinas Chemistry Society.

Congratulations to our 2010-2011 seniors on completion of their independent research projects!

Erica Eddy

"The Synthesis and Analysis of Artificial Bone"

Alyssa Fleser

"Pine Needle Tea vs. Over the Counter Medications"

John Habel

"Extraction and Analysis of the Antioxidant Activity of Rutoside Derived from *Taraxacum Officinale*"

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>