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 2015**

Craig Jensen (‘17) and Dr. Tim Henshaw are continuing work started last year by Nick Pierce and Cam Gardner. They are studying a protein from *B. pertussis*, the causative agent of whooping cough. This protein has no identified function, but seems to be closely related to another family of proteins which initiate the biodegradative pathway of the widely used herbicide, 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D). They are manipulating the amino acid sequence of this *B. pertussis* protein in hopes of mimicking this biodegradative activity.

The project is funded through a Mohler-Thompson summer research grant for science and math students at Aquinas.

**Seeking Student Internship Opportunities!**

Aquinas students are looking for authentic workplace experiences involving science. These can be summer or academic-year placements, paid or unpaid. If you work for a company that already offers internships or you would like to help start a program at your company, you can connect with eager Aquinas science undergraduates. In addition, your company’s name will be listed on the college webpage as an internship provider. Refer to http://www.aquinas.edu/ccs/career/employers.html or contact Dr. Elizabeth Jensen to get started.

**Join the Aquinas College Chemistry Alumni group on LinkedIn!**

(http://www.linkedin.com)

Search groups for “Aquinas College Chemistry Alumni” or request an invitation from jenseeli@aquinas.edu
2014-2015 Faculty Activities

Li-Heng Chen – The past year was another exciting one for me due to teaching Physical Chemistry. I also have enjoyed receiving contacts with a few alumni who graduated 15-20 years ago.

Jonathan Fritz – Last summer, I worked with Lindsay Armstrong continuing studies on direct arylation, this time with a focus on finding reaction conditions that work under air. Though her studies, Lindsay discovered that, using S-Phos as a ligand, the reaction yield under air is comparable to that obtained under an argon atmosphere. Lindsay also mentored a student from Central Catholic High School (Thomas Murray) during this experience. This summer, I plan to focus mostly on curriculum development for organic chemistry and will be attending a mini-workshop on the topic of active learning in organic chemistry.

Timothy Henshaw – I’ve settled down in my position and have a better understanding of the role of a full-time faculty member at Aquinas. This year my teaching responsibilities included the majors’ biochemistry course and the nursing chemistry course. We recently purchased a research-caliber centrifuge and I am looking forward to implementing more a modern/rigorous laboratory experience into the biochemistry curriculum.

Elizabeth Jensen – I continue to advise the Aquinas Chemistry Society and traveled with them to the ACS National meeting in Denver this spring. This summer I will be working at the University of Notre Dame on a research project and updating my crystallography skills.

Congratulations to our 2014-2015 graduates!

Emily Cook (Env. Sci.) seeking position
Casey Wagner (Env. Sci.) Air Quality Control Inspector, Grand Rapids

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 Dr. Elizabeth Jensen at jenseeli@aquinas.edu or 1607 Robinson Road SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506!
Visit us on the Web!
http://www.aquinas.edu/chemistry