

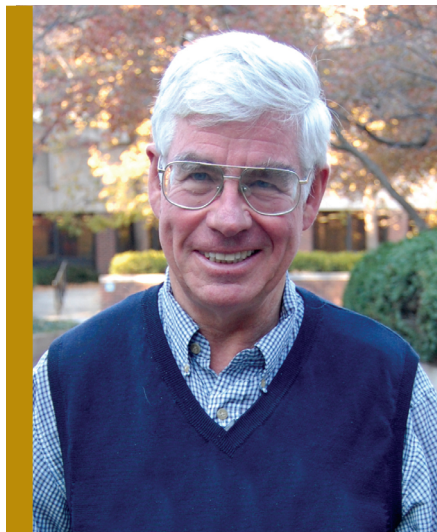


Chemistry News

Spring 2013

PURDUE UNIVERSITY ♦ DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

Faculty News

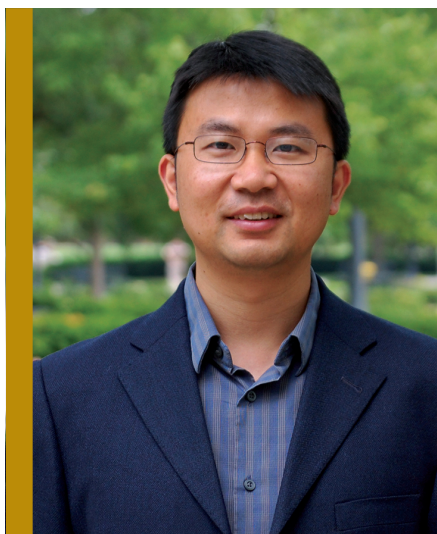


Professor Grutzner Retires

After more than forty years at Purdue, Professor John Grutzner retired in December 2012. During that time he relished the balance between chemical innovation and education. "My working philosophy has been that teaching without research and research without teaching are sterile activities," he said.

Whether witnessing the productive careers of his Ph.D. students or guiding undergraduates through career decisions, Dr. Grutzner considers interaction with students as his greatest accomplishment. "The stream of top quality undergraduates remains one of our greatest assets and resource for the future, because an educated citizenry is essential for our democracy," he added.

To find out what Dr. Grutzner will be doing during his retirement and to get his perspective on how Purdue Chemistry has changed during the past four decades, see the full story on our web site.



New Faculty Member

Mingji Dai has joined the department as an assistant professor in the organic division. He comes to Purdue after a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard and the Broad Institute and a Ph.D. at Columbia. Dr. Dai is working on methods in synthetic organic chemistry, particularly aimed at biologically active natural products and novel small-molecule libraries for the development of biological probes and new therapeutics. He and his research group will move to Purdue's new Drug Discovery Building in Life and Health Sciences Park when it is completed in 2014. His spouse, Bingbing Wang, has joined Professor Philip Low's research group as an assistant research scientist. She completed her Ph.D. at Peking University, and comes to us after postdoctoral positions at Drexel and Northeastern University, focusing on nanomaterial synthesis and applications.

Headed to ACS New Orleans?

Please join us for the Purdue Chemistry Lunch at the ACS meeting in New Orleans on Monday, April 8th. Register online through ACS social events. ♦

PURDUE
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MESSAGE FROM THE

Department Head

Greetings!

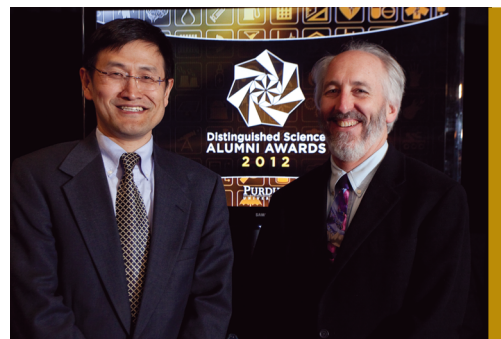
The past year was a busy one for the Department of Chemistry, and 2013 is shaping up to be just as eventful. I am very proud to announce that the American Chemical Society recently named the R. B. Wetherill Laboratory of Chemistry a National Historic Chemical Landmark. On Friday, April 26, 2013, ACS and Purdue University will dedicate the building, recognizing the historic and impactful contributions of generations of chemists who studied there during the past eighty years. I hope our alumni and friends will join us for the celebration that day and see the progress we are making in transforming the Wetherill main entrance into a collaborative and vital commons.

I want to extend my congratulations to Mahdi Abu-Omar and Gabriela Weaver who were recently elected Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and to Dor Ben-Amotz, who was honored with the 2012 Murphy Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching. The success of our students begins with exceptional teachers and mentors like Mahdi, Gabriela, and Dor. Thanks to them for helping to make our department a great one!

Finally, June 2013 will mark a new chapter for me as I complete my term as department head. I want to thank all of the alumni I have met and worked with during the past five years. Your support, leadership, and commitment to Purdue are a big part of what makes the Department of Chemistry great and the job of Department Head easy and rewarding.

Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year,
Paul Shepson

Department Head Paul Shepson (right) with 2012 College of Science Distinguished Alumni Tony Zhang. Dr. Zhang received a Ph.D. in Chemistry at Purdue in 1989 and is currently Senior Research Fellow, Product Design and Developability at Eli Lilly. ♦



Paul Shepson
Department Head

Robert Wild
Assistant Department Head

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Project Updates



Project managers and consultants are pleased with ongoing construction of the new Drug Discovery Building located in the Purdue Life and Health Sciences Park near Harrison and University streets. Several members of the Chemistry faculty will move their research groups to the facility when it is completed in 2014.

Installation of a new multimedia display in the main Wetherill Lab Building entrance is complete. The display tells the story of how our research and innovations are making a global impact, and it features a virtual periodic table.



We would like to thank the donors who contributed to this project, with a special thanks to our corporate "elemental contributors": Abbott Laboratories, BASF, Evonik Degussa Corporation - Tippecanoe Laboratories, Pfizer, and Dow Corning Foundation.

More info and photos at: www.chem.purdue.edu/projects

Alumni News

2012 Outstanding Alumni

Four chemistry alumni were presented with Department of Chemistry Outstanding Alumni Awards last fall. Pictured left to right are: Joseph Mickiewicz (Ph.D., 1994), Douglas Buttrey (Ph.D., 1984, M.S. 1978), Juan Fontanes (B.S., 1986), and Robert "Chip" Cody (Ph.D., 1982). Read more about our honorees at: www.chem.purdue.edu/alumni



Sarah Klosek Named New Leader of the Bar

Registered patent attorney Sarah Klosek of Fox Rothschild's Princeton office was recently named a "New Leader of the Bar" by the New Jersey Law Journal. The award recognizes New Jersey lawyers under the age of 40 who are distinguished among their peers for their achievements in the workplace and public service involvement. Klosek earned a M.S. in Chemistry in 2000 as a member of Dan Raftery's group.



Sixties Reunion

More than thirty Chemistry graduate students from the early 1960s and their spouses returned to campus for a Sixties Reunion this past fall.



Old Masters

Ramona Quintanilla returned to West Lafayette in November as a member of the Old Masters program, which invites outstanding individuals to campus to share ideas and experiences with Purdue students. Dr. Quintanilla is currently a R&D Senior Scientist at Procter & Gamble, Inc. in Cincinnati, Ohio. Originally from East Chicago, Indiana, she earned a B.S. in Chemistry in 1986 and has served on several Purdue boards and committees.





LET'S CELEBRATE!

WETHERILL BUILDING
NATIONAL HISTORIC
CHEMICAL LANDMARK
DEDICATION ♦ **APRIL 26, 2013 - 4PM**

LET'S CELEBRATE!

Alumni, friends, and family are invited to join the Department of Chemistry on Friday, April 26, 2013 at 4pm when Purdue University and the American Chemical Society dedicate the R. B. Wetherill Laboratory of Chemistry as a National Historic Chemical Landmark. Reception will immediately follow the dedication ceremony. Please RSVP at: www.chem.purdue.edu/wetherill

The 30th H.C. Brown Lectures will be held the following day, Saturday, April 27th. We hope that Brown Lecture attendees will adjust their travel and attend the dedication, too! ♦