



Chemistry News

Spring 2012

PURDUE UNIVERSITY ♦ DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY



Four chemistry alums were presented with Outstanding Alumni Awards. Pictured left to right are: Angela Ragin-Wilson (Ph.D., 2003), Timothy Harris (Ph.D., 1978), Susan Lunte (Ph.D., 1984), and Craig Lunte (Ph.D., 1984). Read more about our honorees at: www.chem.purdue.edu/alumni ♦

CONGRATULATIONS!

Advanced Degrees

Dr. Laura Alberch (Professor Wei)
Dr. Lucas Amundson (Professor Kenttämaa)
Dr. David Boudreaux (Professor Das)
Dr. Derya Cebeci (Professor Ben-Amotz)
Dr. Allyson Costa (Professor Shepson)
Dr. Dawn Ernenwein (Professor Chmielewski)
Mr. Andrew Evans (Professor Abu-Omar)
Mr. Ryan Favors (Professor Ben-Amotz)
Dr. Victoria Hall (Professor Simpson)
Dr. Wan Pyo Hong (Professor Fuchs)
Ms. Jenna Ivers (Professor Hrycyna)
Mr. Ulhas Kadam (Professor Hrycyna)
Dr. Jeremy Madden (Professor Simpson)
Dr. Colleen McShane (Professor Choi)
Dr. Marija Mentinova (Professor McLuckey)
Ms. Emmanuela Ohaeri (Professor Chmielewski)

Dr. Kwadwo Owusu-Sarfo (Professor Raftery)
Dr. Nawaporn Sanguatrakun (Professor Lipton)
Dr. Jason Seabold (Professor Choi)
Dr. Amanda Shirar (Professor Dian)
Dr. Santosh Soparawalla (Professor Cooks)
Mr. Rougang Tang (Professor Wasserman)
Mr. Nick Veselka (Professor Shepson)
Dr. Bingchuan Wei (Professor Wirth)
Dr. Hao Yuan (Professor Ghosh)
Dr. Jingyao Zhang (Professor Cooks)

Undergraduate Degrees

Morgan Hasset
Amanda Lines
Ryan Nasserizafar

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MESSAGE FROM THE

Department Head

Greetings! As always, it is a busy time for our department, and I think we are making great progress. First, I am very pleased to announce that we have successfully completed a search for an organic chemist - in July we will welcome Dr. Mingji Dai to our department! Mingji comes to us after a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard and a Ph.D. at Columbia. He is working on methods in synthetic organic chemistry, particularly aimed at biologically active natural products and small-molecule collections for the development of biological probes and new therapeutics. Mingji's spouse, Bingbing Wang is also joining our department as an Assistant Research Scientist. Bingbing completed her Ph.D. at Peking University, and comes to us after postdoctoral positions at Drexel and Northeastern University, focusing on organic nanomaterials synthesis and applications.

In other important developments among the faculty, we are happy to announce that at the May commencement, Professor Ei-ichi Negishi will be presented with an honorary doctorate from Purdue. We are excited and happy about this distinction, and the opportunity to celebrate Professor Negishi's successes, and honor him in this way. We also have active searches ongoing in Inorganic Chemistry, and in Drug Discovery. Soon, we should have ground-breaking on our Drug Discovery building, and this should go a long ways in helping to firmly establish Purdue as a leader in drug discovery. We also believe this will better connect us to industrial partners in that area. I do regret to inform you that Professors Raftery and Choi have resigned their positions at Purdue and will continue their academic pursuits at the University of Washington and University of Wisconsin respectively. We are proud of their contributions while at Purdue and wish them the very best in their new endeavors.

In June we will be celebrating a special H.C. Brown Lecture series celebrating the 100th anniversary of Herbert C. Brown's birth. This will coincide with the Boron Americas conference to be held at Purdue in early June.

Lastly, we are continuing to work hard on our development for the Wetherill Commons, which will provide more vital and "feels like home" space for our students, staff, and faculty. Please continue to help us realize that dream, and thank you for your support!

Regards,
Paul Shepson

Paul Shepson
Department Head



Robert Wild
Assistant Department Head



Claire Chandler
Director of Development



Steve Scherer
Communications Coordinator



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Department Head Paul Shepson (right) and postdoctoral researcher Kerri Pratt prepare to takeoff from a research base near Barrow, Alaska. An atmospheric and analytical chemist, Shepson spent the month of March piloting a twin-engine aircraft outfitted with instruments to measure ozone, particles, and halogens in the polar atmosphere. You can read more about his research at: www.chem.purdue.edu ♦

Events

TV program about Negishi to be seen nationwide

A video profile of 2010 Nobel Laureate Ei-ichi Negishi will soon be seen nationwide on cable/satellite television. Produced by Purdue, the program is a biography of Dr. Negishi covering his childhood in Asia, connection to Professor H.C. Brown, Nobel-winning science, and current research in the Department of Chemistry.

Several chemistry professors and alums appear in the program set to air on the Big Ten Network sometime in the spring. We will post airtimes on our web site when they are announced.

H.C. Brown Centennial Celebration in June

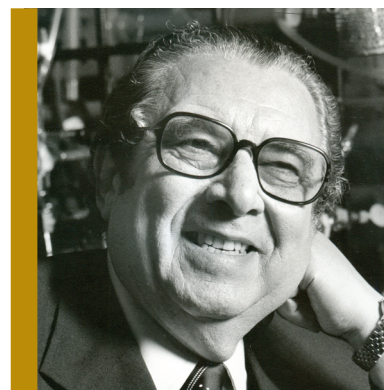
The Department of Chemistry invites you to join us on June 7-8, 2012 to celebrate the birth centennial of one of the legends in chemistry, Professor Herbert C. Brown. Former students, friends and colleagues will convene to celebrate his life and contributions.

The birth centennial will be preceded by the thirteenth biennial Boron Americas Conference (June 3-6, 2012) and followed by 29th Herbert C. Brown Lectures (June 9, 2012.)

Please visit the Centennial Celebration web site for more information and to register: www.chem.purdue.edu/Brown100



◆ Dr. Ei-ichi Negishi



◆ Professor Herbert C. Brown

Faculty Retirements

Professor Morrison retires after 50 years at Purdue

After nearly fifty years at Purdue, Professor Harry Morrison will be retiring in May. He joined the department in 1963 and over the years has taught almost every organic course the department has offered, plus freshman courses. As an administrator, he served as department head from 1987-1992, and was Dean of the College of Science from 1992-2002.

Dr. Morrison supervised nearly fifty Ph.D. students, and estimates that he has taught somewhere between 12-15,000 undergraduates while at Purdue. "I take great pride in the accomplishments of my former students, both undergrad and grad, and have always enjoyed it when they have returned to tell me how I affected their lives," he said.

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



◆ Professor Harry Morrison

Professor Nakhleh retires in May

After more than twenty years at Purdue, Professor Mary B. Nakhleh will be retiring in May. She joined the department in 1990 after a thirty year career as a field research chemist and science educator. Dr. Nakhleh's research at Purdue has explored the process of how students understand the nature of matter. "I'm retiring, but I'm not quitting my research," she emphasized. Visit our website to see the full story of what is next for Dr. Nakhleh.



◆ Professor Mary B. Nakhleh



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scherer@purdue.edu ◆

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- ◆ *Dimerised drug leads two pronged attack on HIV.*
- ◆ *Prestigious NIH award given to Professor Ghosh.*
- ◆ *Chemistry undergrad's research featured in inaugural Purdue journal.*
- ◆ *Professor Cooks leads a bioanalytical instrumentation summer course at Tsinghua University in China.*
- ◆ *Professor Adelman elected AAAS Fellow.*
- ◆ *Scientists probe the role of sea ice in atmospheric chemistry as the Arctic warms.*
- ◆ *Chemistry undergrad is a Music Maker.*
- ◆ *Purdue launches new research commercialization center.*
- ◆ *Research team reveals protein mutation in Parkinson's disease.*
- ◆ *Fall 2011 Outstanding Alumni Awardees.*