

BUFFALO STATE CHEMISTRY NEWS

New Masters of Science in Forensic Science approved

The department is pleased to announce the introduction of a new masters degree program for Fall 2009. The Masters of Science in Forensic Science combines a core curriculum of advanced topics in forensic science with a required research project that culminates in the submission and defense of a master's thesis. The required courses in the program include: FOR 612-Principles of Forensic Science, FOR 614-Forensic Applications of Instrumental Analysis, FOR 616- Microscopy in Forensic Science, FOR 618-Drug Chemistry and Toxicology, and BIO 672- Forensic Molecular Biology.

Students in the program are also required to complete a minimum of two additional classes chosen from a list of approved electives and to present and defend their thesis. It is noted that the program was designed to meet FEPAC accreditation standards and the department expects to submit the program for FEPAC review as soon as possible. **Mr. Kenneth Jonmaire** has been named as the program's coordinator. Further details can be found at the Department's web site or by contacting **Dr. Jamie Kim**. Application forms are available at the Graduate School's web site.

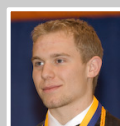
SPRING 2009

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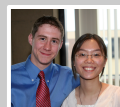
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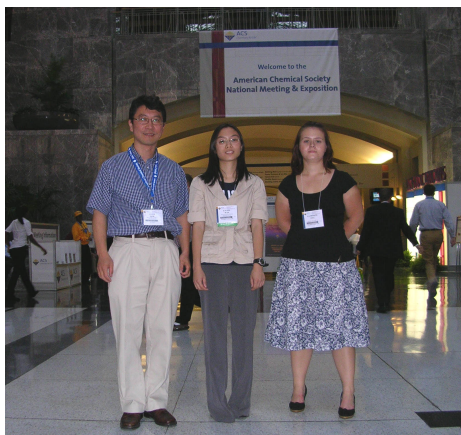
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Working Towards a New Science and Mathematics Complex

The Department has been very busy planning for its new labs and offices in the Science and Mathematics Complex currently under design. The first phase of this three-phase project, which will include the construction of a new laboratory wing adjacent to Science I, is expected to break ground in fall of 2009. Chemistry department spaces in Phase I include an advanced chemistry cluster with a central instrumentation lab surrounded by labs for physical chemistry, analytical chemistry, biochemistry, and forensic chemistry; a basement imaging suite; new general and organic chemistry labs; six (out of the eventual 12) new faculty labs; and a ground floor stockroom. A central atrium (right) connecting the new laboratory wing to a fully renovated Science I building will act as a conduit for students traveling from the dorms to the center of campus and gives the departments an opportunity to put science on display for visitors. **Dr. Kim Bagley**, Professor of Chemistry, is acting as the Faculty Liaison for the project.



Buffalo State Faculty and Students Present Research Results at National and International Conferences



Dr. Jamie Kim, Lai Sze Wan, and Catherine Fill in Philly

Several of our faculty and students attended conferences in the last year. **Dr. Jamie Kim** and students **Paul Seidler**, **Lai Sze Wan**, and **Catherine Fill** presented the results of their IR studies at 236th ACS National Meeting in Philadelphia last August. **Dr. Alexander Nazarenko** also presented at the Philadelphia ACS

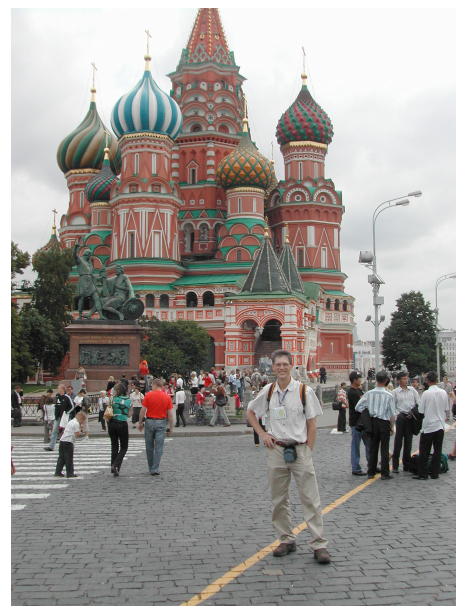
meeting.

Paul Seidler, **Matthew Tarasek**, **Muhamet Çetin**, and **Dr. Kim Bagley** presented a poster at the 235th ACS National Meeting in New Orleans in April of 2008.

Dr. Bill Durfee delivered an invited talk entitled "The Coordination Chemistry of a m-Benzophthalocyanine Macrocycle" at the 5th International Conference on Porphyrins and Phthalocyanines in Moscow in July 2008.

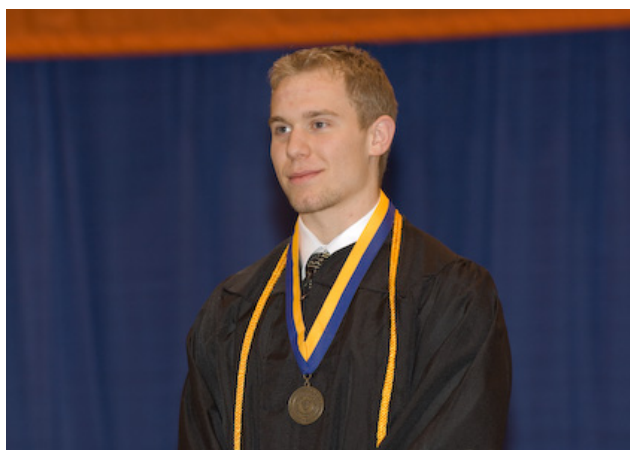
Dr. Scott Goodman presented an invited poster entitled "Development of a Problem-Based Forensic Chemistry Laboratory" at the 2008 NSF-CCLI Conference in Washington, DC in August of 2008.

Graduate student **Christi Rattle** presented her thesis research at the 61st AAFS Scientific Meeting in Denver in March of 2009. Also attending this conference was **Kenneth Jonmaire**.



Dr. Bill Durfee enjoys the sights during a recent trip to Moscow to present his research.

Chemistry Graduates Win Top Honors Two Years in a Row



Matthew Tarasek modeling his President's Medal during 2008 Commencement

Matthew Tarasek (B.A. in Chemistry, 2008) was awarded the 2008 Buffalo State College President's Medal for Outstanding Undergraduate Student at the May 2008 Commencement. During the commencement ceremony, Matt was also awarded a SUNY Chancellor's Award and delivered the student address. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in physical chemistry at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

In 2007, **Ruoqiu Wu** (M.A. in Chemistry, 2007), was awarded the 2007 Buffalo State President's Medal for Outstanding Graduate Student, as well as a SUNY Chancellor's Award. Ruoqiu gave the student address at the May 2007 Graduate Commencement ceremonies. He is now employed as an associate research scientist by Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation in New Jersey and is pursuing a Ph.D. in chemistry on a part-time basis.

Wilson Greatbatch Speaks at the 2008 Chemistry and Forensic Chemistry Awards Banquet



Lisa Altherr, Rachel Coffield, and Jamie Abbott enjoy the 2008 Awards Banquet

Wilson Greatbatch, inventor of the implantable cardiac pacemaker and founder of Greatbatch Enterprises Corp., was the invited speaker at the 2008 Awards Banquet held on May 2, 2008 at the Student Union. In addition to hearing about Mr. Greatbatch's most recent scientific endeavors, the audience was interested to learn that prior to WW II he was a student in the industrial arts program at BSC. While the war intervened and Mr. Greatbatch did not complete his degree at Buffalo State, BSC none-the-less played a big role in his life. He told the audience that he met his wife while they were both students at Buffalo State College. Mrs. Eleanor Greatbatch is an alumna of Buffalo State's home economics program.

Mr. Greatbatch has been supporter of the Chemistry Department at Buffalo State for many years, funding several awards that are given annually to our majors. Recipients of the 2008 Wilson Greatbatch Awards were **Trudi Antwi**, **Gina Ballard**, and **Lai Sze Wan**.

2008 Award Winners

Jamie Abbott (Margaret Dupre Memorial Award)

Lisa Altherr (Noel Simmons Memorial Award)

Trudi Antwi (ACS Polymer education Award, Wilson Greatbatch Physical Chemistry Award, Minority Student Award)

Gina Ballard (Wilson Greatbatch Graduate Assistant Award)

Muhamet Çetin (BSC Chemistry Alumni Award)

Rachel Coffield (Forensic Chemistry Award)

Ashley Dauphin (Dr. Chrzanowski Award, Linus Pauling Award, Starks Associates Award)

Kyle Doty (Linus Pauling Award, Starks Associates Award)

Colleen Duewiger (Chemical Rubber Company Award)

Patti Johnson (ACS Undergraduate Analytical Award)

Jennifer Shemansky (American Institute Award)

Matthew Tarasek (ACS Distinguished Student, Saul Barron Memorial Award, Edward M. Schulman Award)

Lai Sze Wan (Wilson Greatbatch Organic Chemistry Award, Outstanding Performance in Analytical Chemistry Award)

Emeriti News:

- ❖ **Dr. Tom Donovan** remains a big supporter of Bengals' Basketball and can often be found in the crowd at their home games.
- ❖ We are looking forward to seeing **Mr. Al Himmel** at our 2009 Award's Banquet where he will give the after dinner speech.

We want to hear from you!

Send your news to:

chemistry@buffalostate.edu

or

Department of Chemistry

Buffalo State

1300 Elmwood Ave.

Buffalo, NY 14222

Alumni News:

- ❖ **Jingyi Chen** (2002) received her PhD from the University at Washington, Seattle, and is currently a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Washington Univ. in St. Louis.
- ❖ **Tom Furlani** (1980), Director of Computational Research at the University at Buffalo, was profiled in *1300 Elmwood* (Spring 2008).
- ❖ **Richard Goodman** (1978) was awarded the 2008 James Bryant Conant Award in High School Chemistry Teaching by the ACS.
- ❖ **Jeff Marciano** (2002) and **Jonathon Walters** (2003) are forensic scientists at the Western Regional Crime Laboratory in Olean, NY.
- ❖ **K. Paul Meyers** (2000) is a Senior Criminalist at Niagara County Sherriff Forensic Laboratory.
- ❖ **Derrick Swartz** (2000) is the Chemistry Laboratory Coordinator at Daemon College.
- ❖ **Jay Stork** (2001) received his Ph.D. in Chemistry from UC Davis and is now a visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry at Lawrence University.

In Memoriam

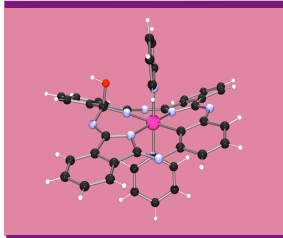
Saul Barron, Ph.D. (5/20/2007)

Nicholas Jonmaire (3/25/2007)

Connie Millener (11/28/2008)

Daniel Murtha, Ph.D. (9/10/2008)

Marvin Tunnis, Ph.D. (4/8/2008)



Recent Publications

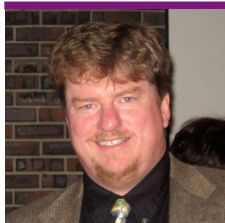
A. Alghamdi and **Z. Y. Al-Saigh**, "Inverse Gas Chromatography as an Alternative Method for the Characterization of Polymers", *Polymer Preprints*, 2008, 49(2), 732-733.

W. S. Durfee and C. J. J. Ziegler; "The Metal Chemistry of Carbahemiporphyrazines" *Porphyryns Phthalocyanines*, 2009, in press.

J. Kim, P. S. Seidler, L. -S. Wan, and C. Fill, "Formation, structure, and reactivity of amino-terminated organic films on silicon substrates", *J. Colloid Interf. Sci.*, 2009, 329, 114-119.

J. Kim, P. Seidler, C. Fill, and L.-S. Wan, "Investigations of the Effect of Curing Conditions on the Structure and Stability of Amino-Functionalized Organic Films on Silicon Substrates by Fourier-Transform Infrared Spectroscopy, Ellipsometry, and Fluorescence Microscopy", *Surf. Sci.*, 2008, 602, 3323-3330.

S. Sripathongnak; A. Pischera; M. P. Espe, **W. S. Durfee**, and C. J. Ziegler; "Synthesis and Characterization of Lithium Hemiporphyrazines", *Inorg. Chem.* 2009, 48(4), 1293-1300.



A Message from Dr. Scott Goodman, Department Chair

Happy Spring everyone! I hope you have enjoyed this inaugural edition of the BSC Chemistry News. As the Chair of the Chemistry Department, I had intended this newsletter to kick off the academic year each fall, but the next thing I knew it was spring, another academic year is winding down, and summer is just around the corner! As a result of my procrastination, our newsletter is now officially a spring tradition, not a fall one.

As you can see, there's plenty going on in the Chemistry Department these days, and there's even more to come. We are about to graduate one of our biggest classes in recent memory; we are getting ready for the Spring Scholarship Gala fundraiser at the Connecticut Street Armory (this year's theme: *Science. in motion*); we are reviewing the final plans for phase I of the new \$100 million Science and Mathematics Complex, and we are busy interviewing candidates, one of which we hope will become the newest member of our department.

I would like to appeal to all of our alumni to please keep in touch with us. We are always interested in hearing about what you are doing – it starts us all reminiscing – and we would like to help you any way we can. With your permission, we will be sure to include your news in next year's issue of BSC Chemistry News. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank all of you who have continued to support the Chemistry Department with your monetary gifts. Our student awards, seminar series, student travel to conferences, and our ability to maintain our laboratory equipment depends on your generosity.

Thanks to **Dr. Kim Bagley** for all of her help in preparing this newsletter. We wish you happiness and success in all of your future endeavors.