

UNM Department of Chemistry & Chemical Biology

Faculty News

Donald Bellew, after 10 consecutive semesters of teaching classes of General, Organic, and Quantitative Analysis to over 3,600 students (over 17,500 exams) will not teach this summer. He is going to the Loker Hydrocarbon Research Institute in Los Angeles, CA to do some Fluorine Chemistry with Professors George Olah and Surya Prakash.

Dr. H. Guo received a New Direction Award from the American Chemical Society/Petroleum Research Fund for computational research of steam reforming reactions catalyzed by transition metals.

Dr. H. Guo served on an NSF panel on Theoretical and Computational Chemistry.

Dr. H. Guo delivered talks at Marquette University, University of California Riverside, and Utah State University.

Dr. H. Guo was an invited speaker at an NSF sponsored workshop entitled "Chemical Dynamics: Challenges and approaches" at the Institute of Mathematics and its applications, University of Minnesota, and at the Conference on Computational Molecular Structure and Dynamics held in Austin, Texas.

Dr. Debra Dunaway-Mariano presented an invited lecture at the 21st Enzyme Mechanism Meeting in Tuscon, Arizona January 2009.

Dr. Debra Dunaway-Mariano has as Co-PI received funding from the NIH to study Hyaluronidase structure and function.

Dr. Debra Dunaway-Mariano has been awarded a 2-year subcontract from DoE to carry out collaborative research with Los Alamos National Laboratory to develop chemical strategies for plant lignin degradation for biofuel production.

Recently, Dr. Rick Kemp received a two-year grant from the American Chemical Society-Petroleum Research Fund for \$100,000 to study "pi-Bonded Cationic Ligands as Catalysts and Precursors". This grant will go into 2011. As well, Dr. Kemp's Group DoE-Basic Energy Sciences grant of \$750,000 on studying late transition metal complexes as selective oxidation catalysts has also been renewed for another three years, extending through 2012. This DoE-BES grant is in conjunction with our collaborator, Prof. Karen Goldberg of the University of Washington. The entire Kemp group went to the recent American Chemical Society National Meeting in Salt Lake City in March, 2009. The group presented three oral presentations and five posters. As well, Dr. Kemp co-organized and participated in a two-day symposium honoring Dr. Kemp's PhD advisor, Prof. Alan Cowley of the University of Texas at Austin, the recipient of the American Chemical Society Award for Distinguished Service for Inorganic Chemistry.

Dr. K Joseph Ho has delivered two presentations in the 20th Biennial Chemical Education Conference in Bloomington, Indiana, titled "**Study Myoglobin Conformational Stability Using Various Spectroscopic Methods**", and "**Helping Students Process Experimental Data Using On-line data Submissions**", co-authored Gary Bush. He also presented "**Eyes-on and Hands-on Student Experience in Chemistry Laboratory**" in the New Mexico Higher Education Assessment and Retention Conference in February, 2009, co-authored Noel Fernando, a student assistant majored in Media Arts. The third presentation was based on the new implementation of using lab videos to replace text-based procedure in our freshman chemistry laboratory in fall 2008.

Student and Postdoc News

Will Myers of the Tierney group defended his thesis in November and is now a post-doc at SUNY-Albany.

Yongqian Gao of the Grey group won the best poster presentation award in the physical chemistry division at the recent American Chemical Society National Meeting.

Greg Smith of the Guo group was selected by the National Science Foundation to be a EAPSI (East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes) Fellow and will spend three months in Nanjing University in China.

One of Dr. Kemp's group members—Marie Parkes—welcomed an addition to the Kemp Group family. Although Marie is largely doing calculations right now, little Adelaida Parkes may be her best synthetic effort to date!!! We welcomed her into the world on December 20, 2008. Congrats to Marie and Dale!

Liansuo Zu and Hexin Xie of the Wang group defended their theses in October and November 2008 and are now post-docs at UCLA and Stanford, respectively.

Dr. John Grey received a Doctoral New Investigator grant from the American Chemical Society-Petroleum Research Fund.

Dr. Martin Kirk and graduate student colleagues Regina Mtei and Joseph Sempombe recently presented papers at the Spring National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Salt Lake City.