

Gary Anderson and John Larson retirements

John Larson and Gary Anderson will be retiring from the Department at the end of the current academic year. If either was a favorite professor of yours and you've been meaning to drop him a line to let him know how things are going, there isn't a better time than the present. Dr. Larson has been with Marshall Chemistry for 40 years, having joined the Department in 1968 after completing his Ph.D. work at Carnegie-Mellon University. Dr. Anderson came to Marshall in 1981 after teaching at the University of Missouri at Kansas City. Dr. Larson was very active in the Department's research program throughout much of his career and has published almost 50 papers. Dr. Anderson founded the Department's Alpha Chi Sigma chapter and has been national president of the organization. Both have been excellent and innovative instructors.



from left to right: John Larson and Gary Anderson

Students publish the results of their research

Four publications originated from the Department this year, all having student co-authors. Deborah Preston, a biology major, coauthored a paper in the Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences with Dr. Eric Blough of the Biological Sciences. T. David Harris was lead author on a paper with Dr. Castellani in the journal Organometallics. Dave is currently a 4th year Ph.D. student in Chemistry at the Univ. of California at Berkeley. Dustin Lockney, Marisa Rubio, and William Terrell published their work with Dr. Miksovska in Journal of Physical Chemistry B and the Journal of Inorganic Biochemistry.

Dustin is currently a second-year Ph.D. student at the Univ. of North Carolina, while Billy Terrell is a 3rd year student at Marshall's Medical School. Marisa Rubio plans an M.D./Ph.D. in biophysics upon graduating.

Undergraduate research day at the capitol

Sara Chadwick, Danielle Clark, Jacob Kilgore, Marisa Rubio, David Sovic, and Ben Wilson presented their research at the 4th annual Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol. At this event students present the results of their undergraduate research to members of the state legislature. Each student has a poster set up in the state Capitol building and members of the legislature are invited to visit them. This event helps inform members of the state legislature about the kinds of activities students engage in as part of their education. Danielle and Marisa worked with Prof. Miksovska, Jacob worked with Prof. Price, and Ben worked with Prof. Castellani. Sara is a double major who did her research with Prof. Somerville in Biological Sciences and David is a double major who did his research with Prof. Cohenford of Integrated Science and Technology. In addition, two Biology students Heather Butts and Zach Gambros, presented their research from Prof.



from left to right: delagate James Morgan, Cabell County and Marshall University student Jacob Kilgore at the Capitol

Dr. Bin Wang joins the department

The Department's newest member, Dr. Bin Wang, joined us earlier this semester. Dr. Wang, a native of Beijing, China, received her Ph.D. at Queen's University, Canada and completed post-doctoral studies at the Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Her position is funded by West Virginia's EPSCoR grant and represents an expansion of the Department to 14 faculty.

Dr. Wang is an analytical chemist whose research interests involve the study of materials at the interface of RNA biochemistry and nanotechnology. Currently she is working on several projects including the development of microdevices fabricated of polymers and glass for RNA structural analysis and the application of this microchip-based technology to investigate specifics of RNA-therapeutic drug binding and RNA-protein interactions.

William C. Dudley Summer Research Fellowships

Mr. William Dudley made an unrestricted donation last year. The Department decided to use a portion of that donation to create two William C. Dudley Summer Undergraduate Research fellowships. The 2007 awardee is Danielle Clark.

Danielle is a Chemistry/Integrated Science & Technology major with a strong interest in biochemistry and biotechnology and plans to enter an M.D./Ph.D. program upon graduating, with her bachelors degree.



Danielle Clark,
William C. Dudley
scholarship recipient

Two showcase rooms created

This fall, the Department completed the refurbishment of one of its classrooms and its instrumentation lab. Earlier this year the Department received a generous donation from Verna Gibson and sold a major piece of equipment it no longer needed. The proceeds were used to create a high tech classroom and modern instrumentation facility..

The classroom contains modular seating for up to 24 students that will allow faculty to teach small groups of students in teams. The room also contains a computer projection system that will allow instructors to write on a tablet and project the writing on a screen. It also contains a bank of computers for students to use when the classroom isn't in use.

The instrumentation lab houses most of the Department's major equipment. New modular furniture makes use and upkeep of the equipment much easier. A set of computer workstations in the center of the room, connected via an intranet, allows data to be transferred from the instruments to other computers. This allows larger lab classes, such as general chemistry labs, to use sophisticated equipment.



Marshall University
Organic Chemistry 1 class

Chemistry Graduates Highly Successful

As part of its most recent 5 year program review the Department examined what our graduates did upon completing their undergraduate major. We believe that this is one of the most important measures of the quality of our Department. We found that of 85% of students who reported back to us, over 80% went on to graduate or professional school. In particular, over 40% went on to medical school and more than 10% are pursuing other advanced health care degrees. More than 10% are pursuing Ph.D.s and another 15% are obtaining Masters degrees in scientific fields. The remaining 20% currently hold a science-related job. If history is a guide, many of these graduates will obtain an advanced degree sometime in the future. We take great pride in the success of our graduates and these numbers are superlative.

For more details about any stories in this newsletter, please visit our News page at www.marshall.edu/chemistry/news.asp.