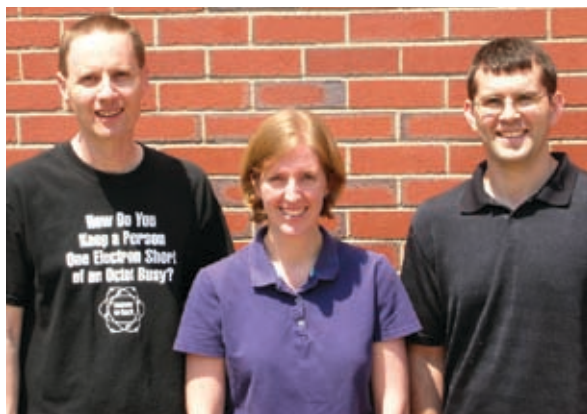


## B. Scott Day, Laura R. McCunn, and Kenneth J. O'Connor join the Department of Chemistry

Scott is a West Virginia native and Marshall Chemistry Bachelor's graduate who received his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from Virginia Tech. He has also done post-doctoral research with Professor Norton of our Department. Scott is the first alumnus since John Hoback to return to Marshall as a tenure track faculty member. His research interests include the development and characterization of surfaces with molecularly defined spacing for highly sensitive bioanalytical sensors such as protein biochips. Particularly, he is interested in developing protein immobilization strategies that overcome the challenges associated with site-specific orientation, protein conformation retention and activity.

A native of northeast Ohio, Laura received her Bachelor's degree from nearby Ohio Wesleyan University, followed by a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the University of Chicago and a post-doctoral fellowship at Yale University. Her research interests include the structure, reactivity and spectral properties of radicals. She is building a matrix-isolation FTIR instrument to measure the vibrational spectra of radicals that occur as reaction intermediates during combustion. The apparatus will also be used to learn about the photochemistry of halogenated hydrocarbons.

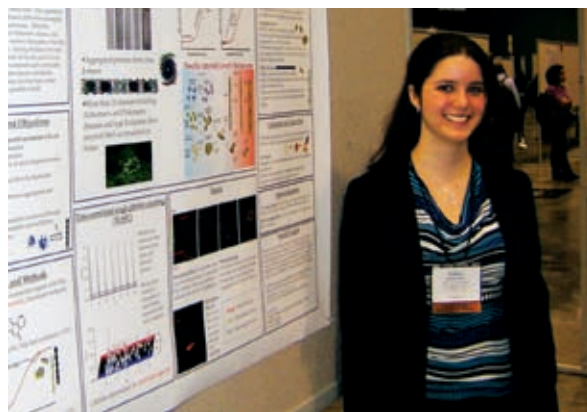
Ken O'Connor received his Bachelor's degree from Hunter College in New York City, followed by a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of Rochester, and a post-doctoral fellowship at SUNY-Stony Brook. Ken originally moved to West Virginia to work at Rhone-Poulenc in Institute. Ken has also received a bachelor's degree in education from WV State University and has been an adjunct and full-time temporary faculty member of our Department for several years. Ken's research will



Kenneth J. O'Connor, Laura R. McCunn, B. Scott Day,

focus on chemical education. For example, he will study ways of maximizing student learning in organic chemistry lectures by concentrating on the effects of student participation in demonstrations as a way to promote deeper understanding. Ken also participates in project REACT (Resolving to Educate Aspiring Chemistry Teachers) which aims to train more West Virginia teachers the skills needed to teach high school chemistry.

## Undergraduates Contribute to Six Research Articles



Nine publications were co-authored by Departmental faculty and staff, including six undergraduate students. Huan Cao, an ACS Chemistry major, coauthored papers with Dr. Norton on DNA binding to gold structures and microcontact printing. Huan began his Ph.D. in Chemistry studies at Penn State this fall. Sarah Sullivan published a paper on the inhibition of acetaminophen toxicity with Dr. Monica Valentovic of the School of Medicine's Department of Pharmacology. Sarah is currently studying medicine at the University of Pittsburgh. David Sovic reported his work with Dr. Cohenford of the IST Department on measuring glucose and galactose levels in glycoconjugates. David is an MS student in the Ohio State University Biology Department. Marisa Rubio and William Terrell studied the interaction of carbon monoxide with horse heart myoglobin under the direction of former faculty member Dr. Miksovskva. Bill is a student at Marshall's Medical School while Marisa is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry at Yale University. Finally, Brian Davis and David Harris published a paper reporting the synthesis of a very unusual thallium complex with Dr. Castellani. Brian is a chemist at Sunoco, while David is a Ph.D. in chemistry student at the University of California at Berkeley.

## Drs. Douglass, Hanrahan, Kong, and Roberts return for a visit

Current faculty and the students attending the April retirement reception for Professors Larson and Anderson enjoyed seeing and catching up with news from emeritus professors Jim Douglass, Joe Roberts, Chang Kong and Steve Hanrahan.

The pull of the sun and grandchildren has resulted in several moving from the Huntington area: Dr. Douglass now lives in Sarasota, Florida; Dr. Roberts has residences in both Huntington and Georgia but spends most of his time in Augusta, Georgia; while Dr. Kong has moved to La Jolla, California.

The Chemistry Department tries to keep up on information on and from former faculty members. If you're looking for information on one of your former professors, you're welcome to contact: [castella@marshall.edu](mailto:castella@marshall.edu) for information.



Dr. Douglass



Dr. Roberts



Dr. Hanrahan



Dr. Kong

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



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## New Environmental Chemistry Major introduced

A few weeks ago, the Department rolled out its new B.S., Major in Environmental Chemistry degree. This is the only degree of its kind in West Virginia and so will meet a critical need for the state. It's also only one of two such majors in the region and so should attract students from several states and increase our enrollment. This is by far the most interdisciplinary major the Department offers with course requirements from every department in the College plus courses taught by the Geography Department and the College of Information Technology and Engineering. A full description appears in the "Degrees in Chemistry" section of our webpage.

## John W. Larson Research Endowment created

To honor a beloved former professor, alumna Monica Wilson Hatfield established the John W. Larson Endowment on the occasion of his retirement. It will provide discretionary funds to students in the Department in support of their undergraduate and Masters student research projects. These funds may be used for the purchase of supplies, production of presentation materials (such as posters), and travel funds to present at national and regional professional meetings. This gift will enhance our ability to educate and train our students.

## Laura McCunn wins a national award

Dr. Laura McCunn was a recipient of a 2008 *Camille and Henry Dreyfus Faculty Start-up Award*. Each year the Dreyfus foundation makes eight of these awards to faculty who have not yet began their appointments. She is one of only five chemists in the past five years from a public college or university to receive this prestigious award. It comes with \$30,000 in unrestricted funds to support Laura's research over her first five years. Laura plans to use the money to hire undergraduates to study in her research lab, beginning in the summer of 2009. This will generate the preliminary results needed to continue funding her research. As important as the funds are, the distinction associated with a Dreyfus award makes obtaining funding from other sources easier.