



Welcome to a new volume of The Beaker! The Beaker, a student publication, seeks to improve communication between the Chemistry Department and its students. Our goal is to keep students up to date on current events and well-informed about the department. Furthermore, we would like to provide professors heading research labs with an outlet through which they can provide insight about their current lab projects, career advice, and life stories. In addition, we have added a section called company spotlight which features local chemical companies, the types of employees they are searching for, and what they can offer to our generation of scientist. We hope you enjoy the articles!

Event Announcements

September Seminar Series

“Biological Applications of Microfluidics”

Presented by Frank Gomez of CSULA

- When: Wednesday, September 7th at 4-5pm in HSCI-103
(Hosted by: Dr. McAbee - please contact dmcabee@csulb.edu for more info or if you would like to join the speakers for a free lunch)

“Protein Misfolding, Amyloid and Neurodegenerative Diseases”

Presented by Charles Glabe of UC Irvine

- When: Wednesday, September 14th from 4-5pm in HSCI-103
(Hosted by: Dr. Cohlberg - please contact cohlberg@csulb.edu for more info or if you would like to join the speakers for a free lunch)

“Nuclear Receptors as Metabolic Mediators: From Macromolecular Structure to Mouse to Man”

Presented by Kevin Philips of The Methodist Hospital Research Institute

- When: Wednesday, September 21st at 4-5pm in HSCI-103
(Hosted by: Dr. Berryhill - please contact sberryhi@csulb.edu for more info or if you would like to join the speakers for a free lunch)

Student Association of American Chemical Society (SAACS)

-Lab Garb Sale Located at HSCI-338

*Used & new lab gear available for purchase as well as ACS study guides.

Wednesday, Aug 31st	9 - 10 AM
Thursday, Sept 1st	9 - 10 AM
Tuesday, Sept 6th	9 - 10 AM
Wednesday, Sept 7th	9 - 10 AM
Thursday, Sept 8th	9 - 10 AM

- First Meeting** will be held on September 13th @ 5pm at the MLSC patio
- Donut and Coffee Hour** will begin on September 9th at the MLSC patio

For more information please find SAACS on Beachboard!

Association of Pre-Pharmacy (APP)

- September 9th: Week of Welcome: Smorgasport 8:00pm-midnight
- September 16th: APP 1st general meeting 1:00pm-2:00pm @ USU 303 guest speaker: Richard d'Assalenaux, Pharm.D.
- September 27th: APP 2nd general meeting 4:00pm-5:00pm @ HSCI-102 guest speaker: Joel Gonzales, Admission Director from UCSF School of Pharmacy

For more information please contact President, Mariko Yokokura at marikoc yokokura@gmail.com

Professors Currently Accepting Research Students

- Dr. Brazier: 2-3 students that have completed general chemistry. cbrazier@csulb.edu
- Dr. Young: accepting 2 students. yshon@csulb.edu
- Dr. Sorin is always looking for highly motivated research students, particularly those with experience or interest in computing and programming. esorin@csulb.edu

CSULB and CNSM News

Adding Classes:

- Sept 19,2011: Last day to add courses with NO \$10 deadline fee
- Sept 26, 2011: Last day to add courses WITH \$10 deadline fee
- Sept 26, 2011: Last day to enroll in Open University

Dropping Classes:

- Sept 12,2011: Last day to withdraw or drop classes using MyCSULB (by 10pm)
- Sept 12,2011: Last day to withdraw or drop classes without “W” grade
- Sept 12,2011: Last day for partial withdrawal with refund of fees

CR/NC or Auditing classes:

- Sept 19, 2011: Last day to file for CR/NC or audit grade options with NO \$10 missed deadline fee
- Sept 19, 2011: Last day to file for Credit by Examination
- Sept 26, 2011: Last day to file for CR/NC or Audit grade options WITH \$10 missed deadline fee

CNSM Student Research Symposium will be held on Sept. 16th, 11-1pm at USU ballroom. Come support your fellow researchers!

Career Development Center

(All events are held at BH-250)

- Sept 6th: **Job Search** for International Students from 11am-12pm
- Sept 8th: **Job Search** Success from 3-4pm
- Sept 12th: **Resume Writing** Techniques from 1-2pm
- Sept 13th: Employer Presentation from 12:30-1:30pm
: Search & Secure an **Internship** from 3-4pm
- Sept 14th: Job Search: Using **LinkedIn** from 12-1pm
: How to find **Scholarships** from 2-3pm
- Sept. 15th: Applying to **Graduate School** from 1-2pm
- Sept. 19th **Mentoring:** What, Why, Who & How from 1-2pm
- Sept. 20th: Assessing & Building your Transferrable Skills from 12:30-1:30pm
: **Resume Writing** for Technical Jobs from 3-4pm
- Sept. 21st: **Volunteer** to your Career from 2-3pm
- Sept 22nd: Prepare for the **Job Fair** from 12:30-1:30pm

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Jefferey Cohlberg

Written By: Lauren Olson; Editors: Monica Royer & Kimmy Phan

Dr. Jeffrey Cohlberg, a favorite amongst CSULB students, has had a long and interesting career in both teaching and research. It all began when a high school biology teacher sparked his interest in biochemistry. It had been the first year scientists had really started to understand the genetic code, and he was fascinated with the information his teacher had been sharing with his class. After graduating high school, the Philadelphia native entered a baccalaureate program in chemistry at Cornell University. He received his B.A. in chemistry in just three years. At the time there were very few undergraduate programs in biochemistry, thus he pursued chemistry instead.

Upon graduating from Cornell he entered a Ph.D. program at University of California Berkeley for biochemistry. His research studies were executed on the structure and mechanism of the enzyme aspartate transcarbamoylase. This was the first allosteric enzyme to be studied in such a fashion. He then went on to complete his postdoctoral studies at the University of Wisconsin. In 1975 he came to CSULB, and has been here ever since. Dr. Cohlberg claims it was the good balance of both research and teaching that he liked about the university.

Dr. Cohlberg conducted research at CSULB up until 2008 when he became the department chair, and Dr. Vas inherited his lab. He has researched many topics including the structures of ribosomes, neurofilament structure and assembly, and aggregation of superoxide dismutase and its relation to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). His work has been published in *Biochemistry*, *Journal of Neurochemistry*, *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, and other scientific publications. The toughest part of research for him was finding out if the experiments were asking right questions, and establishing a work culture among students in the lab.

Although Dr. Cohlberg will be entering our Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP) in the fall, he will be teaching part time each semester over the next five years. He usually teaches Chem 441A, 441B, 443, and 544, and advises students to really understand organic chemistry prior to entering 441A. Another tip he offers is to be consistent with your studying, and not wait until shortly before an exam to cram. For students trying to enter graduate and professional programs he suggests keeping



Dr. Cohlberg at the palace of Peter the Great in Russia

good grades and recommends doing undergraduate research. Dr. Cohlberg also recommends graduate students to keep an open mind when they enter their programs. He says to not make any decisions about what field you want to go into early on, and to remember the more topics you're knowledgeable of the more well rounded a scientist you will become.

His favorite day as a teacher is when he lectures on a topic that he is very passionate about, and he can tell his class is truly captivated. Alternatively, the worst day on the job for him is confronting cheaters. One of the most unique and effective teaching tactics that Dr. Cohlberg employs in the classroom is using songs about biochemistry. This method of integrating music and biochemistry helps the students understand and remember the course material. Another fact to add to his list of contributions to our school is his development of our current curriculum on molecular modeling, used in Chemistry 441A. Actually, this has been picked up by W.H. Freeman Publishing as an online resource for Berg, Tymoczko, & Stryer and Nelson & Cox biochemistry textbooks. If you ever have an opportunity to take a course with Dr. Cohlberg be prepared for creative teaching methods, and a brilliant professor.

Cohlberg Fun Facts!

- Has played the piano since he was eight years old, and loves classical music. He is even involved in chamber music.
- Favorite musical artist is Martha Argerich.
- Owns two pet cats.
- Loves backpacking and hiking for fun. This summer he visited Piute Pass-Humphreys Basin. Last year he visited the Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite.
- Favorite movie is *Children of Paradise*.
- Favorite book is *Tristram Shandy*.
- If he could be any element he would be tantalum, because he likes the way it sounds.
- Was on both Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune, but unfortunately lost both times.

**It has been a pleasure having Dr.Cohlberg as chair of the department! We would like to wish him all the best in his future endeavors!*

Company Spotlight: Allergan

Written By: Karen Yu

Founded by Los Angeles pharmacist Gavin Herbert in 1950, Allergan Inc. has evolved into “a health care company focused on discovering, developing and commercializing prescription pharmaceuticals, biologics, medical devices and over the counter consumer products.” Their mission is to create innovative products that allow people to live life to its greatest potential, focusing on areas where unmet medical needs are significant. What makes Allergan unique is their close collaboration with medical specialists to advance patient care. “Today, Allergan is a \$4.8 billion, global, multi-specialty health care company with development projects in eye care, neurosciences, dermatology, medical aesthetics, obesity intervention and urologics.” For prospective employees, they offer chemists and biochemists a variety of full-time positions as well as internships. They typically sponsor 4-5 interns and communicate with candidates in the spring. With the Allergan Education Assistance Program, employees in high school, undergraduate, graduate, and vocational programs are reimbursed up to \$10,000 per year for registration, tuition, laboratory, and graduation fees. Most scientific positions at Allergan require a bachelor’s degree and individuals with research experience are usually preferred. Listings are available at Allergan.com.



** We would like to give a special thanks to Dr. Stephen Ruckmick of Allergan.*

The Fume Hood by Lauren Olson

Welcome to *The Fume Hood*, a place where your noxious thoughts can be carefully filtered and fed back to the public!

What have you used your molecular model kits for the most?

- A. Toys for my pets.
- B. Studying stereochemistry.
- C. They were stolen by small crafty children.
- D. Other (Please Explain)



Lets us know what you think! Your response will be on the next issue! Contact us at thebeakercsulb@gmail.com or on Facebook @ The Beaker CSULB!

Chemistry for Today's World by Karen Yu

Your chemical connection to today's world.

Hey all you chemistry and biochemistry nerds check this out! Modified rhodium changes colors in presence of different gases! These findings can potentially warn consumers of packaged food exposed to air, carbon monoxide leaks in a house, or influence production of air quality sensors.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/07/110721131159.htm>

Chemertainment by Monica Royer

Scientific & sci-fi recommendations from a chemistry nerd.

This Month's Book Suggestion:

"The Pleasure of Finding Things out"

By Richard Feynman

- An interesting and sometimes humorous collection of the renowned physicist's works that is a must read for every scientist.

This Month's Movie Suggestion:

"2001: A Space Odyssey"

-One of my personal favorites that ...

- 1) Explores the depths of human interaction in the form of "H.A.L.". Who or what is H.A.L.? You'll have to watch to find out!
- 2) Takes you on a journey to a distant moon, leading to the discovery of one of the mysteries of the universe.

Next Month's Issue Features...

- Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Brusslan of the Biology Department and her love for insects!
- Company Spotlight: Baxter Co. and their amazing biomedical implications!

About the Beaker/Contact Information

We're on the Web!

View this issue and previous issues at:

<http://chemistry.csulb.edu/thebeaker.html>

Questions or Comments? Contact us!

E-Mail: thebeakercsulb@gmail.com



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