**Event Announcements**

By: Dagoberto B. Ramos

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**University Deadlines:**
- 11/1: Deadline to apply for Residency Reclassification
- 11/5: Self Service Registration for Round 1 begins (13 unit cap)
- 11/5: Veteran’s Day (Campus Closed)
- 11/16: Deadline to drop without college dean’s signature

**SAACS:**
- 11/8: 3rd meeting and movie social
- 11/17 @ 9:45-10:45am: Beach Clean-Up at Belmont Shore
- 11/29: Last meeting of the semester For more information, email csulbchemclub@csulb.edu

**CNSM:**
- 11/8: Fellows Colloquium with Katarzyna Slowinska on Collagen Peptides as a Cancer Drug Delivery Method @ 6:30 p.m. in the Chartroom. RSVP by November 5 at www.Beach-Chemistry.com

**SAS Center:**
- 11/7 @ 11am: Science Education credential information session (SAS Center)
- 11/7 @ 2pm: Pre-Dental Workshop (PH1-108)
- 11/9 @ 2pm: Pre-Medical Workshop (HSCI-103)
- 11/14 @ 2pm: Pre-Physician Assistant Workshop (PH1-108)
- 11/16 @ 2pm: Pre-Pharmacy Workshop (HSCI-103)

**Career Development Center:**
- 11/1 @ 2:00pm: Job Search: Using LinkedIn
- 11/5 @ 12:00pm: Job Search Success
- 11/6 @ 2:00pm: Resume Writing Techniques
- 11/7 @ 1:00pm: I’m Graduating – Now What?
- 11/8 @ 12:00pm: Social Media and Your Job Search: Facebook, Twitter, etc.
- 11/13 @ 2:00pm: Assessing and Building Your Transferrable Skills
- 11/14 @ 12:00pm: Correcting Your Job Mistakes
- 11/15 @ 2:00pm: Job Search for International Students
- 11/26 @ 1:00pm: Job Search Success
- 11/27 @ 12:00pm: Search and Secure an Internship
- 11/28 @ 12:00pm: Resume Writing Techniques
- 11/29 @ 2:00pm: Interviewing Skills
* [All events are held in BH-250 unless otherwise noted]

**Seminar Series:**
- 11/7: Karl Christe, USC “Polynitrogen Chemistry” Host: Dr. Bu
- 11/8: Fellows Colloquium with Katarzyna Slowinska on Collagen Peptides as a Cancer Drug Delivery Method @ 6:30 p.m. in the Chartroom. RSVP by November 5 at www.beach-chemistry.com
- 11/14: Dan Gibson, J. Craig Venter Institute “Building a Synthetic Cell” Host: Dr. Weers
- 11/28: Dariush Ajami, Scripps Institute “Multicomponent Molecular Assemblies” Host: Dr. Schramm
*[All events are held in HSCI-100 unless otherwise noted]*
Dr. Slowinska first knew she wanted to be a chemist since the sixth grade and the only decision was as to what type of chemist she would become. Since then Dr. Slowinska has worked in several fields and has traveled around the world to discover her passion.

Originally born and raised in Warsaw, Poland before coming to Cal Berkley as a visiting scholar after completing her Bachelors at Warsaw University. Her one-year visiting scholar program turned into two and she was eventually convinced by the Cal professors to stay and do her PhD at Berkley. At Berkley she opted for an emphasis in physical chemistry and developed a technique to measure electrochemical time of flight with potentiometric detection. From here she decided that the corporate world was a better fit for her and left academia behind.

She immediately began interviewing with companies and landed a job with GE global research in New York working on organic light emitting diodes, similar to work with solar cells where she utilized her extensive knowledge of physical chemistry. After GE she relocated back here to Long Beach with her husband and decided to give teaching a try. Although she enjoys teaching Dr. Slowinska feels at times it can be monotonous however she says the best parts are the interactions with young minds, the flexibility, and the freedom to choose her own research. Dr. Slowinska has always been passionate about research. Here at CSULB she has been given the freedom to choose her own research goals and decided to focus her research in an area that has always fascinated her; she currently studies collagen and collagen peptide for use in a variety of different applications. Some of her current areas of investigation deal with the role of collagen in delivery of low solubility drugs, synthesis of well-organized polymers for use in of tissue engineering and separation science, and controlling tissue remodeling as a body reaction to medical implants.

Her research has produced some very interesting results within the past year where they discovered a new structure made of collagen peptides. When her group originally made the discovery they thought they had synthesized a different type of collagen fiber however they actually created hollow microtubules, a first for this molecule. This remarkable discovery has led to more questions such as; what is the mechanism and why does it not follow pre-established mechanisms for the formation of microtubules? Dr. Slowinska is always looking for students who are self-starters and self-motivated to join her interdisciplinary group of chemists, biochemists, biologists, physicists, and chemical engineers. She encourages anyone interested to visit the group’s webpage at http://slowinskalab.weebly.com for more information.

When asked whether it is more difficult being a woman in science she says that the difficulty comes for most in choosing between a family and a career. She admits that though she has never encountered any discrimination for being a woman in science people tend to look at her blonde hair and make assumptions that are proven wrong once she begins speaking and demonstrating that she knows what she is talking about. Dr. Slowinska is not just a professor, and a researcher she is also a mother of two boys Ian and Kai, six and three years old respectively.
Dr. Slowinska says that her biggest obstacle thus far has just been time and the necessity of finding a happy medium in her life, to balance everything.

Dr. Slowinska teaches Chemistry 251, 451 and 581 a new graduate level course over the 2012-2013 academic year that covers material related to implantation studies from chemistry, biology, and engineering all of which she has the experience to back up. She encourages her students to teach themselves to finish tasks, do undergraduate research, and to always look forward and find the next progression when it comes to research. She warns that research can be a lot of rejection and it is hard to see the rejection of your ideas but that these rejections should not stop you.

Fun Facts:
- Proud Mother of two boys Ian and Kai.
- Hikes, Swims, Runs, and enjoys all sports where a bunch gear is not required
- Likes many different artists from Miles Davis, to Portishead, to Adele.
- Enjoys the paintings of Diebenkorn and Beksinski.
- Watches at least 5 movies a week from directors like Lynch and Greenway
- Favorite Book: *100 Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Marquez
- Favorite Molecule is Collagen.

Selected Publications:
A Word From Her Students
By: Brandon Graham
Melody Loera
Time in Slowinska’s lab: Two years

Projects worked on:
Hydrogel Project and Peptide-Based Porous Materials Project

Special skills/techniques learned:
I worked on FRAP for about a year, I got really good at taking microscopic pictures of hydrogels. I learned how to roto-vap, something I had never done before.

Best "learning" experience so far:
I've learned to continue working on something even though the first few times completely fail. It takes time for you to get the correct conditions in order for your experiment to work well.

Favorite part of research:
Working on the organic synthesis of the Peptide-Based Porous Materials Project. I was never strong in O-Chem, but working with Schramm over the summer to get the reaction right, made my O-Chem knowledge stronger.

Favorite memory of working in Slowinska’s Lab:
Last summer's flood!! Our lab had the most water damage. It was a great chance to clean the entire lab, which was something I wanted to do since the first day I joined Kasha's lab.

What advice would you give to students considering working in Slowinska’s Lab?
I would suggest having ability to fully commitment before talking to Kasha about joining. It's a little intimidating at first and a lot of hard work, but it's definitely worth it. Just commit and have fun in lab!

Scholarship Opportunities

By: Brandon Graham

Name: Delta Gamma Foundation scholarships
Prize: Varies
Description: Delta Gamma Foundation scholarships are grants awarded on a competitive basis to qualified, initiated members pursuing undergraduate degrees. Candidates must have a 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA (on a 4.0 scale) or the equivalent and have completed either three semesters or four quarters of course work (typically current sophomores or juniors). Selection is based on scholastic excellence, participation and leadership roles in chapter, campus and community activities, and required recommendations. One Application also qualifies you for all of the non-need based scholarships offered by Delta Gamma for undergraduates.

Dates: January 15—Scholarship Application due February 15—Supporting Materials due
Website: http://www.deltagamma.org/content.aspx?audience=foundation&item=Foundation/3HelpingMembers/scholarships.xml

Name: Ciencia National Scholarships
Prize: $2,000 Scholarship
Description: Hispanic college students from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories and Puerto Rico pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in a STEM field major are invited to apply for a $2,000 one-time scholarship of which 25 will be awarded in the Spring of 2012. College application is open to current college students who will be attending college in the 2012-2013 school year and are currently majoring in a STEM field. A total of 25 Ciencia National Scholarships in the amount of $2,000 each will be awarded each year of the program. Application is open to Hispanic college students nation-wide with a declared STEM major. Scholarship recipients will have access to the Alliance Ciencia web-based support network to pursue additional scholarship and internship opportunities.

Dates: November 15 — Application period opens. February 15 — Application deadline.
Website: http://www.alliancescholars.org/applications/
The Fume Hood
By: Jacqueline Dominguez
“A place where your noxious thoughts can be carefully filtered and fed back to the public!”

Answer to last months question:
'Star Wars' or 'Star Trek'?

Star Wars took the big win!

This month’s question:
We would like to know what your plans are after graduating?

- Graduate school
- Med. or Pharm. School
- Work
- Or other ____

Let us know on our Facebook page.

Recommendation Letters

Hi Everyone!

As you all know graduate school applications are due soon. In order to project our individual strengths and moral character, we often seek recommendation letters from those who know us best. In this issue we included a parody letter of recommendation written by Dr. McAbee (page 6). This letter stresses that you should seek a letter of recommendation from people who you completely trust and really know you, so you can ensure a positive letter. Also, if you have not yet built contacts and relationships with professors, get going! Graduation time is around the corner; don’t sit and wait.

Chemistry for Today’s World
By: Cindy Pham
“Your chemical connection to today’s world”

A small nanoprobe was developed for the detection of a variety of antibodies. The protocol was used to detect CEA, a cancer antibody in order to prove that the probe can be used to diagnose illnesses such as cancer. For more information on the probe click on the link below:

http://www.nature.com/protocolexchange/protocols/2463/#/introduction

Synthetic estrogen used in birth control pills that are released into the ocean and rivers, has caused an increase in the amounts of feminized fish. Some male fish have developed oocytes and are considered intersex fish. For further information on this development please read below:


Like us on Facebook at:
http://www.facebook.com/thebeakercsulb
13 August 2012

Re: Applicant: Ms. xxxxxxx, AAMC ID: 129xxxxxxx

To Whom It May Concern:
Ms. xxxxxxx is applying for admission into your medical school and has threatened harm to my family if I decline to submit a letter of reference on her behalf. I have known her since August 2010 when she enrolled in my biochemistry lab course (CHEM 443) here at CSU Long Beach, and my life has been a nightmare ever since. CHEM 443 is an in-depth lab experience taken by our BS biochemistry majors after they have completed two semesters of biochemistry lecture (CHEM 441A/B). The course combines lecture (1 hr) and lab (9 hr) each week. Ms. xxxxxxx seldom attended class, yet somehow managed to scrape together a passing grade. I believe, though I have no evidence of this, is that she strong-armed her lab mates to share their lab reports and other writing assignments with her. Four of these students have since gone missing.

Ms. xxxxxxx talks a lot but doesn’t listen, and any enthusiasm she has for her work is only sustained by heavy cocaine use. She earned a BS degree in biochemistry—a testimony to the increasingly declining standards here at CSU Long Beach. For the past couple of years, she has been terrorizing Dr. xxxxxxx research group, stealing results and sabotaging other students in her headlong effort to get ahead. Nonetheless, she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and our faculty voted her the outstanding biochemistry student in her graduating class, though I doubt the validity of this election because her research advisor was on the ballot committee. She was accepted into the MS biochemistry program here at CSU Long Beach and has already shown me a copy of her thesis she purchased off the internet.

Ms. xxxxxxx interest in forensic medicine is strong and—to be honest—a little creepy. Her efforts to gain experience as a volunteer in clinics and hospitals by shadowing coroner vans in Los Angeles and Orange County has led to numerous confrontations with police.

On a personal level, Ms. xxxxxxx is one of the most crafty and dishonest people I know. As I indicated above, her communication skills are, at best, mediocre but she’s an excellent actor. She is hated and feared by faculty and her peers, and she inspires dread in those with whom she works. She is self-confident in her abilities to succeed at the expense of others. She could, if inclined, become a first-rate con artist or member of Congress, but her professional interests are clearly focused on making money in medicine.

In summary, xxxxxxx possesses all the qualities of those you would shun from your program: dull-witted, reclusive, negative, lethargic, ignorant, immature, lazy, insolent, and having the morals of a junk-yard dog or California state legislator. I rank her in the top 10% of undergraduates and MS students I have known here and elsewhere over the last 20 years who have gone on to federal or state prison or been committed to mental institutions. If you have any sense of self-preservation, you will shred and burn her application as soon as possible.

While you’re at it, please shred and burn this letter.

Regards,
Douglas McAbee
Professor of Biochemistry