



**Whittier College
Chemistry Department
Newsletter
Summer, Fall 2007**
by Devin Iimoto



Chemistry Department Welcomes New Faculty Members!

In the fall of 2007, the Whittier College chemistry department will be back to full strength with five full time faculty members. Amongst the five faculty are two who have been here one year or less. Dr. Ralph Isovitsch will start his second year this September. Dr. Isovitsch came to Whittier in the fall of 2006 from Xavier University in New Orleans. He taught at Xavier for four years; but after the turmoil associated with Hurricane Katrina, he decided that he needed to be in a more stable environment, earthquakes notwithstanding! Last year, he taught Organic Chemistry, Instrumental Analysis, and the Integrated Laboratory. Dr. Isovitsch likes Whittier College and he is favorably impressed with the quality of our students!

The chemistry department is also delighted to welcome Dr. Amy Moskun who will be starting here in the fall of 2007. Dr. Moskun earned her Ph.D. at USC and she is currently a postdoctoral fellow at UC Irvine. She will be teaching Quantitative Analysis, Environmental Chemistry, Introduction to Environmental Science, and Preparation for General Chemistry this coming year. Dr. Bell is excited to take a break from teaching Quantitative Analysis, a class she has taught for 21 of the 25 years she has been at Whittier.



Chemistry Honor Society – Nu Mu Rho

Sara Toyota, class of 2005, decided that the chemistry department was long overdue for an honor society, and so she created one in the spring of 2005. The title, Nu Mu Rho, was given in honor of the new NMR purchased a few years prior to this time. The colors selected for the honor cord were white, black, and red after the colors of hydrogen, carbon, and oxygen in molecular modeling kits. Nu Mu Rho inducted its first class in spring 2005: Sara Toyota, Ashley Plant, Yasir Khan, Mandar Khanal, Andy Aikins, Kristy Ku, and Jillian Hood. Members inducted in spring of 2006 were Samantha Tosch, Megan Johnson, Logan Fellhauer, Connor Tryon, Marina Asiedu, and Seth Kutik. 2007 inductees were Santosh Shah, Kathryn Colby, Christa Rainville, and Diana Mateos.

9 Chemistry and Biochemistry students graduate in May 2007

On a bright, sparkling spring day in May, nine chemistry and biochemistry students crossed the stage to receive their Whittier College diplomas. Majoring in chemistry with ACS certification were Megan Johnson and Kathryn Colby. Majoring in biochemistry were Marina Asiedu, Logan Fellhauer, Connor Tryon, and Santosh Shah. And, majoring in chemistry were Caitlin Renn, Lisa Pham, and Tommy Terhune. Both Marina and Connor were awarded the Roy W. Newsome award for the outstanding graduates in chemistry and Santosh Shah was awarded the Chemistry Undergraduate Research award.

Four of the graduating seniors are attending graduate school this year. Megan will be at UC Irvine and Kathryn will be at UC Riverside, both in chemistry programs. Marina will be at U. of Arizona in their medical pharmacology program and Caitlin will attend medical school at Creighton University. Other graduates plan to attend graduate school within the next few years.



L to R: Dr. Priscilla Bell, Santosh Shah, Marina Asiedu, Kathryn Colby, Dr. Devin Iimoto

Science Building to be Renovated

Whittier College is in the initial stages of renovating the Science building. Last spring several science faculty attended the PKAL conference on buildings and facilities to get ideas on modern science buildings. This summer, an architect and a laboratory planner have met with the science division faculty to get input on the needs for each department and to come back with an estimate for the square footage to accommodate those needs. Needless to say the square footage to meet those needs is larger than the existing building size and so intense negotiations ensued. The architect plans to have a proposal and cost estimate for the college by the end of the summer. We are very excited about the prospect of a renovated building and hope that you will consider supporting this effort by designating donations for the new building!

Alumni News

Tracy Knight, class of 1995, writes "After Peace Corps and working in medical research labs, I decided to head in a different direction - I attended law school (graduating in 2004) and currently am a patent attorney (a fantastic way to combine a strong liberal art education with cutting-edge technology!) I live in Indianapolis with my husband of six years (Nick) and a 20-month old son (Jake)".

Please let us know where you are and what you are doing. We would love to hear from you. You may fill out the information form on the department website or you may send an e-mail to

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