

# Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry Newsletter



Elizabethtown College

## From the Chair



**Kristi Kneas**

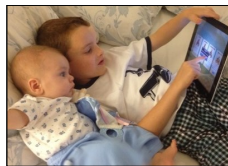
Welcome to the 10<sup>th</sup> annual newsletter of the Elizabethtown College Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry! Musser continues to be a busy place, and all indications are that our alumni remain active long after they are gone, making their mark in their graduate programs, professional programs, work places, and communities. Please read on for updates from students, faculty, and alumni as well as some of the departmental highlights from 2012-2013:

- Nineteen departmental majors were engaged in independent research for credit during the 2012-2013 academic year, and three majors studied and or served abroad in Bolivia, Denmark, and England.
- Seven students conducted independent research on campus with 4 different faculty members during Summer 2013, and 5 students took advantage of off campus research experiences, internships, and externships at Johns Hopkins University, Thomas Jefferson University, Georgia Tech, St. Joseph's Hospital, and Asbury Graphite.
- Students reported results of their research at several events: UMBC Undergraduate Research Poster Session (4 total - 1 divisional second prize), Intercollegiate Student Chemists' Convention (7 total - 3 first place awards and 1 second place award), and E-Town's Scholarship and Creative Arts Day (12).
- Three departmental majors were co-authors with Dr. MacKay on a paper in the *Journal of Organic Chemistry*, and Dr. Rood published in the *Journal of Chemical Education*.
- Five juniors were inducted into the Chemistry Honor Society, Gamma Sigma Epsilon, and 10 students were honored at our annual Awards banquet for their exceptional scholarship.
- The Student Affiliates Chapter of the American Chemical Society (Chem. Club) was recognized by the ACS as a Commendable Chapter for its 2012-2013 activities—the 4<sup>th</sup> straight year of this commendation, and the 6<sup>th</sup> straight year that the club has received formal recognition by the ACS.



During 2012-13, I enjoyed teaching introductory and analytical chemistry courses and working with research students Liz Costello '12, Mollie Mares '13, Morgan McKenney '13, Elaina Truax '13, and Amy Wagner '15 to make progress on our luminescence-based sensing and HPLC-ink authentication of questioned documents projects. I especially enjoyed taking

Instrumental Methods students on a field trip to Lancaster Labs, where Laura Krieger '10 helped to show us around. Colleagues, students, and Mrs. Tussing were very patient with me this past year as the absent-mindedness associated with pregnancy kicked in. (That's my story, and I'm sticking to it!) I was deeply touched when my research group hosted a surprise baby shower in April and departmental faculty



and staff hosted a party in May. We welcomed Benjamin Ambrose Behan into the family on May 28, and he charms us with his smiles, giggles, and gentle spirit. Proud big brother, Garrison, entered first grade this year and continues to challenge us (and his teachers) with his creativity, ingenuity, orneriness, and quick wit. He still enjoys reading and playing the piano, tennis, and soccer. Garrison asks frequently about the "big kids" from the department who have graduated on to new and exciting things. I too think of you often and hope to see you on campus soon!

Fall 2013  
Volume 10, Issue 1

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**Commencement 2013**

## 2013 Stambaugh Award Winner



**The 2013 O. F. Stambaugh Outstanding Alumni Award winner is Mr. Craig Coble '68 (r). Craig was presented the award during Homecoming ceremonies on Saturday, October 19, 2013, in the Masters Center. Also pictured is Dr. James MacKay, Associate Professor of Chemistry (l).**

Craig Coble's interest in science was fostered when he received a Gilbert Chemistry set as a child. This marked the beginning of his career as a chemist. After graduation from the Elizabethtown Area Schools, Craig attended Elizabethtown College, majoring in chemistry. He graduated in 1968 with a B.S. degree and an earned letter in swimming.

July 1968, Craig went to work at Armstrong World Industries in the Floor plant as an analytical chemist. He remained at Armstrong until his 2003 retirement. During those years he served as a supervisor of raw materials testing, finished product

testing, chief chemist in raw materials/finished product testing, chief chemist/quality manufacturer of Corlon production, senior manufacturing scientist, and ISO quality manager. Through these various positions he developed skills that included testing methods; problem solving; consulting, conferring and auditing major material manufacturers; hiring, training and supervising chemists and technicians; working with R & D scientists; analyzing complaints; reformulating products; registering the Corlon Focused Business Unit to ISO 9000; and helping register the entire Floor Division to ISO 9000 status.

In 2006, Craig took a job at Analytical Labs in Middletown, PA, testing water and soil samples for numerous EPA listed contaminants. He also serves on the facility's Safety Committee. He and his wife have four adult children. Craig collects toy trains, assists with church projects, swims, body surfs, bikes, plays volleyball, cares for grandchildren, studies history, and tries to stay current with scientific advances especially in analytical techniques and instruments. He has served in various leadership capacities in non-profit organizations and is a former president of the Elizabethtown College Alumni Council, currently serving on the Leadership Council. He enjoys interacting with the College's leadership, faculty, staff, and students – those in the Chemistry department in particular. As Craig states: "The College has made a big difference in my life and continues to do so. I'm pleased to assist Elizabethtown College as possible."

## ΓΣΕ

On Tuesday, February 26, 2013, five new members were inducted into the Rho Eta chapter of Gamma Sigma Epsilon, the national chemistry honor society. Only students with a grade point average of 3.3 or higher in chemistry are invited to join. Pictured at right in the front row (l-r) are new members Shantel Angstadt '14, Emily Gockley '14, Laruen Eltringham '14 (picture), Libby Crow '14, and Katie Olsen '14. In the back row (l-r) are Lydia Whipple '13, secretary and sergeant at arms; Dean Hummert '13, treasurer; Nicole DeMaris '13, president; and Elaina Truax '13, vice president. We congratulate these outstanding chemistry majors.

## ΓΣΕ 2013 Inductees





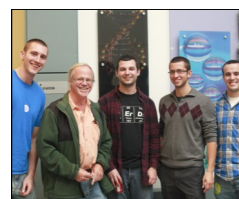
## FACULTY NEWS



**Tom Hagan**

Hello everyone. 2013 was a very good year. After 7 years at the helm of the First-Year program, I have stepped down as the assistant dean of the program. I now find myself back to “full time” in the department. I’m not sure if the department views that as a good or bad thing! This past spring was an especially exciting time as we hosted our third biennial Career Exploration event. We had about 10 former alumni who graciously gave of their time and came out to speak with the students. Equally important, it was awesome to reconnect with so many great people. It’s amazing to see all the great things our chem department alums are doing since they graduated. Jeff Rood and I also combined forces and took 7 students to an advisory committee meeting of the FDA. The students seemed to appreciate the experience and several members of the panel were kind enough to speak with them at length. Research-wise, I had two students working on a forensic hair analysis project. Jess Arner and Nicole

DeMaris did a wonderful job breaking ground with this project which explores the amino acid composition of keratin as well as the lipid profiles of hair. A rising senior, Carolyn Angi will be taking on this project. Nicole Rummel continued work on giant unilamellar vesicles as models for investigating the role of phospholipid composition in affecting membrane permeability to putative chemotherapeutics. Another rising senior, Shantel Angstadt will be continuing previous work on elucidating the mechanism of action of one of these chemotherapeutics, epigallocatechin-3-gallate, this coming academic year. Finally, I had the opportunity to present a paper at the College Chemistry Canada Conference in Newfoundland this past June. It was an exhilarating conference with lots of conversation and exchange of ideas. Having never been to Newfoundland, I took the opportunity to do some exploring around the province which is absolutely breathtaking. I even saw my first iceberg up close and personal! Best wishes to all our alumni, and please keep in touch!



**Thank You** — *We welcome back two alumni, Drs. Alaina DeToma and James Foresman, who are teaching Chemistry 343: Atomic and Molecular Structure this Fall 2013 semester while Dr. Gary Hoffman is on leave. We want to thank and acknowledge them for their outstanding contributions.*



**Alaina DeToma**

Alaina Detoma graduated from Elizabethtown College in 2009, majoring in Chemistry. She received her Ph.D. in Inorganic Chemistry from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She is teaching the lab portion of the P-Chem course.

Jim Foresman, Associate Professor of Physical and Computational Chemistry at York College of Pennsylvania, is a 1986 graduate of Etown College and earned a Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon University. He is internationally known in the field of electronic structure theory and the 2008 recipient of the O.F. Stambaugh Outstanding Alumni Award. He is teaching the lecture portion of this course.



**Jim Foresman**

**James MacKay**

Hey alumni! Probably the most exciting news from me this year is that I was promoted to Associate Professor this past spring! It is such an honor to be able to continue to educate students and do research at E-town. I really love what I do here and look forward to many great years to come. Thanks to all of you who were supportive in my pre-tenure years.

Research continues at the usual pace. My students are all doing great work and winning awards. This past year, Lydia Whipple and Katie Olsen took first and second place respectively at the ISCC. Lydia also took second place at the UMBC undergraduate poster session in October. Right now, the two big projects going on are the development of dapoxyl dyes for use in sensing applications and a green approach toward the electrophilic halogenation of heterocycles. Lydia Whipple and Dean Hummert completed their senior theses with me this past semester. Both of them will be sorely missed but we

wish them success in their future endeavors. Dean is currently starting graduate school at the University of Michigan (as a UM grad, I am so proud of him) and Lydia intends to find work in industry. I continue to teach the organic classes and this past semester had the chance to offer Advanced Organic Chemistry for the first time in a couple years. It is always fun to dive deeper into synthesis. I've also recently had the opportunity to teach Integrated Lab (a research capstone course) and Chemistry Seminar which has been a nice change of pace.

At home, my kids continue to grow and amaze me. JJ is a year and a half and Leah just turned 3. They each boss the other around...you think they got that from me?? This fall, my brother-in-law got married and Leah got to be a flower girl again. This is the second time in two years. I hope she doesn't get an ego. I did get to go whitewater rafting in western Maryland this year. That was a blast, but no big vacations this year. Anyway, I hope to touch base with many of you at Homecoming. Please visit if you are in the area.

**Dick Papez**

This is my fourth year at E-town College teaching the forensic science courses, general chemistry lab and organic chemistry lab.

After thirty-five years of industrial and research chemistry experience, the shift to college life has been a delightful change. I continue as an adjunct for Penn State, Harrisburg, teaching in the chemistry department during summer semester.

The forensics courses are those that I have the least background, but have found many similarities between analytical chemistry in my past life and forensic chemistry that I now teach. The difference is the "bad guys". Much of the exploration prior to retirement was to solve technical problems related to processing, formulation, quality, plant efficiency and analysis of research materials. With forensics, a perpetrator is added, but the science is still the same.

Now that I have taught the courses several times, I have adjusted them based on my experiences. A major challenge in forensics is to make the course interesting both to the non-science majors, the majority of the attendees, as well as the science

majors. I continue to adjust the balance between the science aspect and the excitement of crime solving. It is satisfying to watch the students get involved.

A new experience this past summer was teaching forensic science online. The challenges of converting the classroom course to an online course was mind boggling. Many thanks to Dr. Linda Macaulay for guiding me through all the computer aspects of the project.

In recent years I have done chemical analysis for my former employer similar to my previous work. This has expanded to other companies for similar projects, which brings recognition for the College and hands-on opportunities for students.

My schedule at the College changed this year to the extent that I am no longer coaching a local boys' high school soccer team. However soccer is still my sport. So now I devote more time playing with guys my own age. We have a lot of laughs. When we fall down in slow motion it is a real hoot.

I want to continue to acknowledge the faculty and staff here at E-town for the tremendous help and encouragement that I have received. They are always very supportive.



**Jeffrey Rood**

Hello everyone! I hope this year's newsletter finds you well. I'm beginning my fifth year at Elizabethtown and I'm teaching general chemistry once again this fall. I have two lecture sections this semester so I will have plenty of students to keep me busy! I always enjoy the course in that I'm able to not only interact with our majors, but also with a number of other students from across campus.

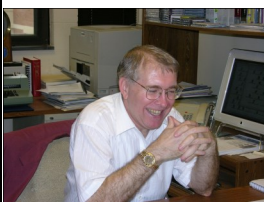
Our research in the broad area of coordination chemistry continues and I've been lucky to work with a number of great students here at Etown. The students have gotten the opportunity to present their work at various meetings and I'm proud to report that one of my students, Kyle Farkas ('14), won first place in the inorganic division at the Intercollegiate Student Chemists Convention in April. Additionally,

last spring I had a paper published in the *Journal of Chemical Education* regarding a solid-state chemistry teaching lab that I've developed from my research and I recently submitted an article to *Polyhedron* involving solid-state materials composed of the alkaline earth metals. The latter article includes three Etown undergraduate co-authors and we are hoping to receive favorable reviews leading to publication.



On the home front, our daughter Kella is now well over a year old and is always on the go and learning new things. It's so enjoyable to watch. She has found a true pal in our dog, Wrigley (see picture). We all took an enjoyable vacation to Colorado this past summer.

To wrap up, if you are ever around campus, please stop by and say hello!



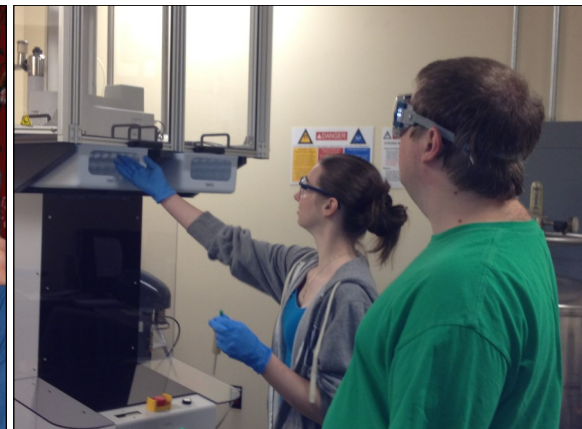
**Charles Schaeffer**

Our research in main group organometallic chemistry of silicon and germanium compounds continues. Elaina M. Nellis, 2014, worked during the summer of 2012 and in both semesters of the 2011-2012 academic year. The most recent research manuscript containing Elizabethtown student coauthors (underscored) is: C.H. Yoder, T.M. Agee, A.K. Griffith, C.D. Schaeffer, Jr., M.J. Carroll, A.S. DeToma, A.J. Fleisher, C.J. Gettel, A.L. Rheingold. Use of  $^{73}\text{Ge}$  NMR Spectroscopy and X-ray Crystallography for the Study of Electronic Interactions in Substituted Tetrakis(phenyl)-, - (phenoxy)-, and -(thiophenoxy)germanes.

*Organometallics* **2010**, 29, 582-590 (DOI: 10.1021/om900905c).

Our long-time and ongoing collaboration with Professor Claude Yoder, Charles A. Dana Professor of Chemistry at Franklin and Marshall College, began in Fall of 1966 (for a history, see: <http://www.fandm.edu/chemistry/yoder-schaeffer-collaboration>).

I continue supervising research students in my role as A.C. Baugher Professor of Chemistry Emeritus and exploring of medium-format digital photography. The Chemistry Student Affiliates distributed a 2012 calendar composed of some of these images of the campus, with proceeds going towards student attendance of the spring national ACS meeting in San Diego, CA.



## Study/Service Abroad

Lauren Eltringham '14 relates her experiences studying abroad: Before I left countless people told me that studying abroad would change my life. After spending five months in Cheltenham, England, I cannot even begin to explain how right everyone was. Prior to leaving, I was really nervous and I had absolutely no idea what was in



store for me. Looking back, I can honestly say that my time abroad was the best five months of my life. I learned so many things about myself and the world around me. Being in England, I

was able to travel so easily. Throughout my time abroad I traveled around much of England, went to Ireland on St. Patrick's Day, took a cruise around Greece, and also visited Rome, Venice, and Florence. While I loved all of these places, my favorite country (besides England of course) was Switzerland. Each of these places had something new to offer whether it be the culture, food, or scenery.



In addition to seeing beautiful places, I learned so much about myself. It was so interesting to see other people's perspectives on things such as classes, politics, or just life in general. I made relationships with people that will last a life time even though there is an ocean between us, and I even met some great people from Elizabethtown that I may never have met otherwise. I truly feel that after my time abroad I became a different person in the best of ways. Studying abroad was honestly the best decision I ever made. I don't know when I will be back to England, but I do know that one day I will go back to my favorite place in the world.

Over winter break Lydia Whipple '13 participated in the Lend a Hand program through the Center for Civic Engagement office. Her story: Thirty Etown students, two staff members, including our very own Dr. Hagan, and a handful of experienced adults from the community, known as aunts and uncles, traveled to New Orleans, LA. The aunts and uncles taught us and we all had fun getting to know each other. We spent a week helping rebuild houses that

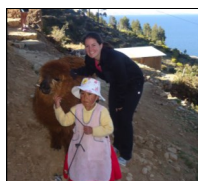
were hit by Hurricane Katrina seven years ago. Most of the week was spent hanging drywall and making the house look more like a home. It was a very touching experience to meet Elizabeth, the homeowner, and hear her tales of family gatherings they used to hold in her house and hope to have them again. Her faith and brightness of spirit was an inspiration. I spent most of my free time in the Hurricane Katrina Museum. It helped me realize just how terrifying and devastating the hurricane was, and how miraculous the recovery process has been. It was truly an inspirational trip.

This past summer Emily Gockley '14, a biochemistry major in the pre-med program, spent five weeks in the South American country of Bolivia with the Hospitals of Hope organization. She describes her experience as:



My mornings were spent shadowing doctors in the hospital, afternoons were in orphanages or a children's burn unit, and my free time was spent with other volunteers from around the world. One of the most influential experiences was learning about Chagas disease, nicknamed the "HIV of South America" because of its prevalence and incurability. Treatment exists only for the symptoms such as an enlarged heart and intestines, with no cure in sight. I loved being immersed in the Bolivian culture, especially with other medically-minded people. The program and hospital's purpose is to provide aid to this third world country, but in a sustainable fashion. I really appreciated this outlook on poverty, where we go not to offer one time help, but to support the Bolivians as they improve their own quality of life.

Other highlights of the trip were travelling to Isla del Sol, the birthplace of the Incas on Lake Titicaca and to mountain villages for day clinics. The sights were truly awe-inspiring. I will forever look back on my time living in Bolivia and remember how the dream of one American doctor built a hospital that helps and heals so many people.





## STUDENT NEWS



### 2013 Graduates

*Jessica M. Arner*  
*Nicole E. DeMaris*

*Minqi Hang*

*Dean G. Hummert*  
Graduate School  
University of Michigan

*Mollie M. Mares*  
Graduate School  
Arcadia University

*Morgan Q. McKenney*

*Nicole G. Rummel*

*Khin Aye San*

*Zachery A. Schmidt*  
Graduate School  
SUNY Buffalo

*Elaina B. Truax*  
Medical School  
PCOM

*Lydia E. Whipple*

### Students recognized by the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry for their educational accomplishments:



*Matthew R. Jensen '16*  
First Year Chemistry Award



*Shantel M. Angstadt '14*  
Inorganic Chemistry Award



*J. Alexander Holbert '15*  
POLYED Organic Chemistry



*Elizabeth J. Crow '14*  
Analytical Chemistry Award



*Lydia E. Whipple '13*  
Biochemistry Award



*Lydia E. Whipple '13*  
ACS Outstanding Senior Award



*Stephanie Tretter '15*  
ACS Student Affiliate Award



*Dean G. Hummert '13*  
A.C. Baugher Award



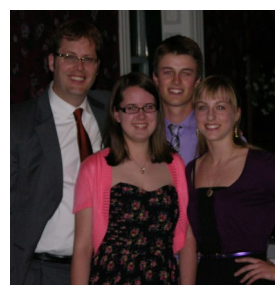
*Lydia E. Whipple '13*  
Organic Chemistry Award



*Emily M. Gockley '14*  
*Shantel M. Angstadt '14*  
Musser Pre-Med Scholarship



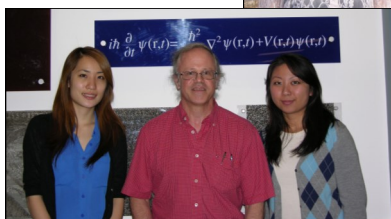
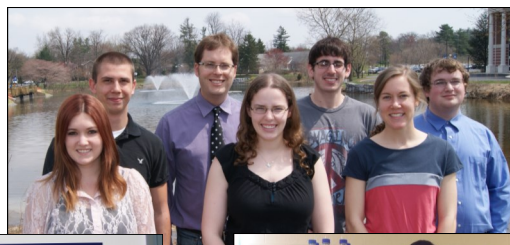
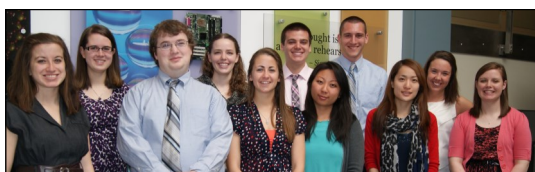
*Elaina B. Truax '13*  
ΓΣΕ De-Lap-Holcomb  
Scholarship



*Amy M. Wagner '15*  
*Alex Holbert '15*  
*Ashley M. Landis '15*  
Emergent Scholars

## Student Presentations at Local, Regional and National Meetings

Nineteen chemistry and biochemistry majors participated in research within the department. They presented the results of their work at several venues including Scholarship and Creative Arts Day, Elizabethtown College; the University of Maryland Baltimore County Undergraduate Research Poster Session; the Intercollegiate Student Chemists' Convention; and the American Chemical Society meeting. Student participants were: Jessica Arner '13, Elizabeth Crow '14, Nicole DeMaris '13, Kyle Farkas '14, Daniel Forster '14, Minqi Hang '13, Dean Hummert '13, Mollie Mares '13, Morgan McKenney '13, Elaina Nellis '14, Kathryn Olsen '14, Nicole Rummel '13, Christopher Ryan '15, Khin Aye San '13, Zachery Schmidt '13, Elaina Truax '13, Amy Wagner '15, Lydia Whipple '13, and Kenneth Wiest '14.



## Career Exploration Event

On Wednesday, March 13, 2013, the Chemistry and Biochemistry department in conjunction with the College's Career Services department hosted the Career Exploration Event. This gathering gave students an opportunity to talk with invited guests representing a wide variety of chemistry-related career paths. Those participating were: Wendy Crane '93, Dr. Phillip Figdore '73, Cameron Gettel '11, Ginger Heck '78, Zachary Landis '11, Dr. Mel Leiby '00, Dr. Damon Parrish '95, Brenda Mizdail '82, Matthew Myers '11, Karl Scott '97, and Dr. Heather Vallino '99.







## Summer Research & Internships

**Shantel Angstadt**, a senior biochemistry major, participated in a Research Experience for Undergraduates program coordinated by the Institute for NanoBioTechnology at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. She worked in Dr. Douglas Robinson's lab in the School of Medicine and was involved in three different projects with the common goal of determining the molecular mechanisms of the cell's mechanosensory system.

**Elizabeth Crow**, a senior biochemistry major, participated in a Summer Undergraduate Research Program at Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, in a cancer biology lab. The focus of this lab was on liver progenitor cells in regeneration and a specific gene transcription factor, FoxL-1, used to mark these cells.

**Kyle Farkas and Daniel Forster**, senior chemistry and biochemistry majors, spent their summer working with Dr. Jeff Rood on solid-state and solution investigations of magnesium coordination compounds. They studied certain magnesium complexes that ultimately can be used as catalysts for the making of plastics.

**Emily Gockley**, a senior biochemistry major, spent five weeks in Bolivia with the Hospitals of Hope organization, shadowing doctors, visiting orphanages and children's burn units and learning about Chagas disease.

**Ashley Landis**, a junior biochemistry major, did a shadowing externship at St. Joseph's Hospital where she watched surgeries and shadowed a gastrointestinal doctor, a neurosurgeon, an anesthesiologist and a general surgeon.

**Omar Mustardo**, a junior computer science major, worked with Dr. Gary Hoffman and Dr. Thomas Leap on a cluster computer for scientific computations - proof of principle.

**Elaina Nellis**, a senior biochemistry major, spent the summer researching the chemistry of germanium-phosphorus and related complexes with Dr. Charles Schaeffer.

**Katie Olsen**, a senior biochemistry major, worked with Dr. James MacKay on a "green" approach to pyrazole halogenation.

**Katie Owens**, a senior chemistry major, was one of four Field School students who travelled to Denmark with Dr. Elizabeth Newell, associate professor of anthropology, to work for two weeks at the Museum of Copenhagen. They researched the skeletal remains of 21 individuals from the 12th century.

**Christopher Ryan**, a junior biochemistry major, was involved in synthetic organic research with Dr. James MacKay. The goal was to synthesize from inexpensive precursors a dapoxyl sulphonic acid (DSA) analogue or the synthesis of fluorescent dapoxyl dye analogues for covalent binding to an acrylamide hydrogel.

**Amy Wagner**, a junior biochemistry major, spent her summer at Georgia Tech University doing research in the Materials Science and Engineering department working with lithium-sulfur batteries to increase their cycling capacity by modifying the type of carbon confining sulfur.





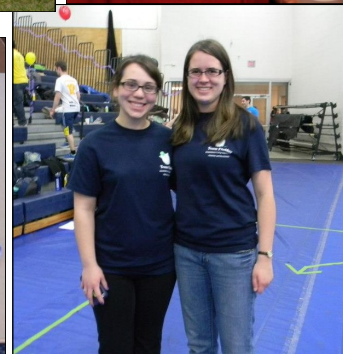
# STUDENT AFFILIATES

Last year Elizabethtown College's Student Affiliates Chapter of the American Chemical Society hosted and participated in a variety of events. The Club continued to take part in Into the Streets by working at the Elizabethtown Fall Fest. At this event, members worked with young children and showed them a variety of interesting science experiments in hopes of fostering a love for science. This event had great Chem Club and community involvement. The club also sold their usual chemistry themed t-shirts at the Homecoming Fair as well as calendars exhibiting some of Dr. Schaeffer's beautiful photography of Elizabethtown College. Chem Club also organized the now annual Pre-Thanksgiving Feast at Shady Maple the weekend before Thanksgiving. It was a great time for everyone...especially Dr. Hagan.

In the spring, the Club focused on planning the Career Exploration event with the Career Services office that is scheduled every other year on campus. A variety of professionals and alumni in all areas of chemistry attended and gave their valuable insight to students considering a career in chemistry. In

addition to this event, Chem Club, once again, put together a team for Relay for Life and sold their now famous periodic table cupcakes.

This year the new Chem Club cabinet consisting of president Lauren Eltringham ('14), vice president Stephanie Tretter ('15), secretary Amy Wagner ('15), treasurer Kyle Farkas ('14), and marketing chair Emily Gockley ('14), is extremely excited to continue many of the Club's traditions. The Club is busy planning their involvement in Into the Streets and the Homecoming fair as well as constantly reminding everyone about the Thanksgiving Shady Maple trip (as per request of Dr. Hagan). This spring many research students will be attending the National American Chemical Society conference in Dallas, TX, so the Club hopes to do as much fundraising as possible in order to encourage students to attend. Chem Club is really looking forward to this year and showing Elizabethtown College and the Elizabethtown community why chemistry is such a great area of study and important to all aspects of life! *By Lauren Eltringham, President*





## From the E-Mailbag



Classes are going really well. I am loving every minute of it and am really going to miss the students that I have now.

I am working on my Master of Science Education at LVC. Last spring I also choreographed the school musical, Pajama Game! It was definitely an eventful spring!

**Ashley Huttenstine '12**

I am returning to the U.S. following a talk at a Cavity Enhanced Spectroscopy meeting in Naples, Italy. Upon my return, I will begin moving to Gaithersburg, MD, where I'll start a new job as a full research chemist with NIST. This is a fantastic opportunity to conduct independent research within the Chemical Sciences Division. We'll begin with some collaboration to conduct highly sensitive spectroscopy on green house gases, and over time, I'll try my best to build my own research group.

**AJ Fleisher '07**

2013 has been a huge year for me. I earned my doctorate degree in May, passed my boards in June and am officially a registered pharmacist practicing right down the street from my parents house in Cherry Hill. I also got engaged this past summer and will be getting married next August, bought a house in South Jersey and have the cutest golden retriever puppy, Vance. Say hello to everyone for me.

**Alex Pagano '09**

I just wanted to update you on a few noteworthy events that have recently happened to me. I found out that I will be receiving the First Year TA award from the Chemistry department. I'm not sure of the decision process, but I do know that it is not given every year, so it's a great honor to be receiving it. On a similar note, I was asked this week to be the head TA for the general chemistry course next semester. Unfortunately this means I will no longer instruct labs, but it will be a new experience. I hope everything is going well at Etown.

**Steve Boyer '12**

I wanted to inform you that I have made the President's list maintaining a 4.0 GPA in my grad classes. I'm taking classes in environmental toxicology. This class is great because I'm able to use my chemistry and industry background and be a valuable asset to the class.

Work's going well. Tell everyone I said hello!

**Laura Krieger '10**

I moved from Georgia to Vermont this past summer to join Norwich University as Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics. I am now a little closer and hope to be a more frequent visitor to Etown.

**Michael McGinnis '92**

Everything is going really well! I'm almost through the initial training and I start my first of two mock cases/trials next week. Once the trials are complete I can start casework. My official title is Forensic Scientist One when I complete the supervised casework period.

**Sarah Strohecker '12**

I found a job as a Quality Control Analyst for a company called Colorcon. They produce coloring and coatings for various pharmaceuticals as well as some food products such as the ink Mars uses to put the "m" on M&M's. I have been working there for two months.

**Liz Costello '12**

I just got a new job/promotion at work! My title is now Process Development Chemist at my current workplace, Croda, Inc., but I get to do so much more with actual chemistry now. I'll be making my own lab batches of new products that R & D sends us. Then, once I get everything figured out we put these products in the pilot, which is simply a small scale reaction vessel. Once a few batches show no problems, we scale them up into production. I "babysit" them through production. I get to put my chemistry knowledge to use by performing the reactions on paper and in the lab.

**Justin Warner '11**



# Elizabethtown College

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY & BIOCHEMISTRY  
ONE ALPHA DRIVE  
ELIZABETHTOWN, PA 17022-2298

## ISCC Participants



Pictured above are the students and faculty that represented Elizabethtown College at the Intercollegiate Student Chemists Convention. Congratulations to Lydia Whipple, Katie Olsen, Kyle Farkas and April Hang on having won awards at the ISCC. Pictured, front row, *l-r*: Dr. Jeff Rood, DJ Forster, April Hang, Mollie Mares, Khin San Aye, Katie Olsen and Libby Crow. Back row, *l-r*: Zac Schmidt, Ken Wiest, Kyle Farkas, Dr. James MacKay, Lydia Whipple and Dr. Gary Hoffman.

### A Special Thank You

*To the faculty, students and alumni who contributed to this newsletter.*

### Chemistry and Biochemistry

#### Faculty and Staff:

*Dr. Kristi A. Kneas, Chair*

*Mr. W. Michael Bierbower*

*Dr. Thomas Hagan*

*Dr. Gary Hoffman*

*Dr. James MacKay*

*Mr. Richard Papez*

*Dr. Ray Reeder*

*Dr. Jeffrey Rood*

*Dr. Charles Schaeffer*

*Dr. David Yeagley*

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