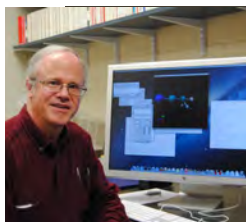


# Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry Newsletter



## From the Chair



**Gary Hoffman**

Greetings from E-town! It's been a while since I sat at the Chair's desk. No doubt there are some changes in the Department to relate. I can fill you in on that as well as relate the usual news from the College. Pour yourself a cup of coffee (or other relaxing beverage), sit back, and read on.

Changes! An obvious change is that I am now the chair of the Department (again!). But that's one of the minor changes. The College had an administrative makeover; the position of Provost has been eliminated and is replaced by that of Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs & Dean of Faculty. There are two new Dean's positions: the Dean for Academic Affairs & Faculty Development and the Dean for Curriculum and Assessment. These three positions were filled by current faculty members, and Kristi Kneas is now our Dean for Academic Affairs & Faculty Development.

So, we are short an analytical chemist (well, actually, Kristi will teach one course each year, but still ...!). We will be conducting a search this fall and I expect to have a new faculty member to introduce next year. Wish us luck!

But that's not all! Mrs. Kris Tussing, our Administrative Assistant, decided to retire last spring. She will be missed, but she has good reasons for retiring. She and her husband plan to do lots of traveling, seeing their children, friends, and other sights. At a get-together a few weeks ago, I heard about their trip to Minnesota and Montana and plans for a trip to England. Understandably, Kris wanted to do these things while she was still young. Good luck to you, Kris!

Well, that is another person we were short. We are still searching for someone to fill this position. In between searches, we still have our classes to teach and our research to conduct.

The Department has grown more vibrant and active in the last six years under Dr. Kneas's leadership. It will be a tough act for me to follow. Our summer research program is as active as ever – even more so. We had eight students working over the summer within the SCARP program and another working at a research institution under the REU program. A total of sixteen students traveled to the ACS national meeting held in San Diego, CA in March. Two students presented at the *Intercollegiate Student Chemists Convention* in April and both received awards. Four students successfully defended their honors theses. Our majors are incredibly active.

I was reading over past articles I had written for the newsletter as chair; the last one was in 2009. In it, I announced a new event: a Career Expo, where representatives of different areas of industry were invited to talk with students about possible career options in chemistry. We have held this type of event several times since then and last spring, we joined with the local ACS section to put on a Career Expo event for the colleges and businesses in the area. It was a great success.

But you can read more about these things in the rest of the newsletter. As far as my activities are concerned, I taught the usual set of courses. The experimental "atoms-first" general chemistry course last spring did not seem to make much of a difference. That can either mean there is no harm in going to an atoms-first structure or there is no need to. It could also mean that with all the changes involved – including a completely new set of labs – there are still a number of bugs to work out. I will not get a chance to continue the experiment this year, but hope to in a future academic year. I had a research student, Chad Crounce, work with me on developing techniques that apply the coupled cluster computational method to diatomic molecules. Chad worked through the year and prepared a poster to present at the 251<sup>st</sup> National Meeting of the ACS in San Diego in the spring. Chad was chosen as one of only 30 undergraduate to attend the COMP division Workshop for Undergraduate Students and his poster won a first place award in that group. This past summer, a new student, Ryan Thomas, started working with me. He did some analysis on the data obtained from calculations (by April Hang, Liz Prettnner, and Pam Ostroski) on the conformations of alanine. He also started some work on the orientation of the hydroxyl group in several estrogens. Ryan is in his second year, so I expect he'll have more to say on these research projects. With some college support, I was able to increase the cluster computer to 128 processors. It is now set up so students and faculty can access it and run calculations on it. I am currently running 9 jobs, each using 4 processors and I expect them to run until Christmas. There is plenty of firepower to handle any other requests.

I seem to be playing the trumpet more frequently and I'm still having fun with it. Alyson expects two more years at Duke and then she'll look for a job. Cynthia seems to enjoy working on her new house and we've spent time bonding while we worked on various parts of her car (new calipers, rotors, and brake pads recently). Susie continues to make life wonderful. We are looking forward to the future.

Enjoy the newsletter. Let us know what you are up to. Please follow us on Facebook; we've got several Musser Moles who will keep you up to date on our doings.

Fall 2016  
Volume 13, Issue 1

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**Commencement 2016**

**2016 Stambaugh Award Winner**

**Dr. Gary Hoffman, Chemistry department chair (r), presents the 2016 O. F. Stambaugh Outstanding Alumni Award to John Stephens, Ph.D., CSP (l). Stephens received the award during Homecoming ceremonies on Saturday, October 15, 2016, in the Masters Center.**

The Department was honored to present this year's recipient of the *O. F. Stambaugh Chemistry Alumni Award* to Dr. John Stephens. John received his BS in Chemistry from Elizabethtown College in 1969 and went on to graduate school at the University of Delaware. John's career after graduate school evolved through the years, going from a "traditional chemist" to a safety professional. He started as a research chemist at DuPont in 1974. Within five years, he rose to a supervisory position within the company. John changed hats in 1985 when he moved to France in order to set up a production facility for DuPont over there. John evolved once more in 1989 when

he became a Safety, Health, and Environment (SH&E) manager for DuPont. It seems that he found something in this area for which he truly had a passion, for he remained in this area for the remainder of his career. As a safety professional, he served at DuPont, Conoco, and the Texas Mutual Insurance Company. Not only was he able to see improvements in safety culture in these environments, he was able to demonstrate cost savings as a result of his efforts. John continues to offer his services as a safety consultant and volunteers his time with various safety groups. John's career is a good example of "Educate for Service" and we are proud to present the Stambaugh Award to him.

**ΓΣΕ**

On Wednesday, April 20, 2016, four 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 are the new members (*left to right*):  
**Tyler Butkus, Eleni Kotretsos,  
Alex Plowman, and Holly Sofka.**

The faculty advisor is Dr. Jeff Rood. We congratulate these outstanding students.

**ΓΣΕ 2016 Inductees**





## FACULTY NEWS



**Tom Hagan**

Well. Where to begin? There are certainly many changes which have taken place in the department! We were sad to see Kris depart after so many years of dedicated harassment, but we are happy to have Tina on board. Kristi has left the department for higher ground (Alpha Hall), and we wish her all the best in her new dean role! In her stead, Gary is now reprising his role as department chair, and we thank him immensely.

The past academic year was certainly a busy, but rewarding one. Many of the class of 2016 had been my advisees, and they have now spread their Blue Jay wings and flown the coop. I wish them all the best. Most of them and others (I believe 16!!) joined Kristi and me as we took a massive contingent to the national ACS meeting in San Diego last March. The students seemed to really enjoy themselves in sunny San Diego, and of course much of that centered on attending a wide diversity of talks and posters in the chemistry and biochemistry fields. I also had the opportunity to give an oral presentation with one of my former FYS students, and current advisee, **Colby Schweibenz**, on the approach of teaching general chemistry principles and making connections to other disciplines through our First-Year seminar, Exploring the Science of Addiction. Colby also continued working in my research lab, devoting herself to finding the right mix of reagents and condi-



**Kristi Kneas**

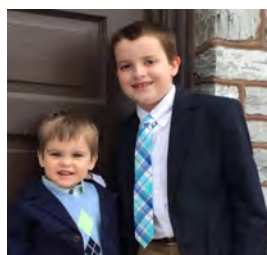
Greetings alumni and friends of the department! As you can tell by the relocation of my update in the newsletter, it has been a year of transition for me. If you wish to pay me a visit, you'll find me in Alpha Hall; I'm now serving the institution as Dean for Academic Affairs and Faculty Development. It is an exciting opportunity, and I'm glad that I'll still be able to teach chemistry courses every other year and that the department will be hiring a new analytical chemist. The past academic year was also the last of my second three-year term as chair. I am grateful for the opportunity to have led such an amazing department, and I was deeply touched when the entire department donned "TeAm KNeAs" T-shirts at the annual awards banquet to celebrate my tenure as chair. During the academic year, I enjoyed teaching analytical chemistry courses-including laboratory methods, chemical instrumentation and advanced instrumental analysis as well as integrated chemistry laboratory. Highlights included a community-based learning project in which advanced instrumental analysis students designed activities to demonstrate the principles of chemical instrumentation as part of a "Make it Yourself" series for the Lancaster Science Factory. We presented a combination of three of the student-developed activities in March 2016 to a crowd of 24 third through eighth graders. I also enjoyed working with research students Stephanie Kramer ('16), Libby Hemler ('16), Kayla Hess ('18), and Ricky Castro ('17) as we continued to advanced our luminescence-based sensor projects, including collaborative projects with Dr. Rood to

prepare consistently-sized Giant Unilamellar Vesicles. Carly Henry finished up two years of exploring cell growth patterns with two murine cell lines. She made fantastic strides in acquiring rather consistent, and statistically-relevant, cell count data, including studies exploring exposure to different polypeptides. For those alums who worked on related cell projects with me, you know how frustrating the cell work could be at times. Needless to say, we were thrilled! Kathryn Laraia will be working with me this year to try to accumulate similar results as we move the project further along. Though there is no vacation quite like attending a national ACS meeting in San Diego with students, I did supplement that awesome experience with camping in Quebec province in August. Alas, it's now back to the trenches as classes have resumed. Alums, please keep us apprised of all that is going on in your world. We love hearing from you!



*Kayaking on the St. Lawrence*

prepare luminescent metal-organic-frameworks and with Dr. MacKay to develop polymerizable luminescent reporter molecules. In the spring I traveled with a record number of 16 of our majors to the National ACS meeting in San Diego, where nearly all of them presented results of their research and where, one evening, they somehow managed to convince our food server that I was "Mom" to all of them! This summer, Dr. Rood and I were pleased to have work accepted for publication in the *Journal of Fluorescence*; congratulations to Amy Wagner ('15) who prepared the original draft based on her work and to co-authors Sarah Strohecker ('12), and Liz Costello ('12) whose work was included as well! On the home front, I'm enjoying the hustle and bustle of family life with Garrison (9) and Benjamin (3)



pushing every boundary and Daniel staying busy in medical publishing. Please stay in touch! It is always a delight to reconnect with departmental alumni!



**James MacKay**

Chemistry Jays~ Changes are in the air. As I am sure you are now aware, there have been some major changes in academic affairs including Dr. Kneas transitioning to a Dean's role, we are searching for her replacement, and Dr. Hoffman is now chairing the department. This makes for exciting times in the department of chemistry and biochemistry.

In my life off campus, my kids are now 6, 4, and 20 months. Leah is taking violin and gymnastics, JJ takes piano, and Kendon is taking to everything. He is not quite walking or talking (there are delays due to Down syndrome) but he is trying and boy is he cute! Oh, and we are busy homeschooling the older two so that has been a major shakeup around the house. It is so fun to watch each child learn to devise complex syntheses of natural products. Just kidding...but I did show them how baking soda and vinegar react. We had lots of fun popping stoppers off of flasks.

Last year, both graduates from my research group went on to graduate school. Sam Brooks is starting at U. Penn and Matt Jensen at U. Delaware. We are excited for both of them. It was also a proud moment for me when two of my research alumni earned PhD's. Rob Panish graduated from U. Delaware and is now working in process at Teva Pharmaceuticals and John Tellis graduated from U. Penn and is working at Genentech (see the parallels?...it's a bit spooky...no pressure Sam and Matt).

Maybe the highlight for me last year (at least from a research perspective) was to begin a new collaborative project with professor Eriks Rozners from the University of Binghamton on the development of nucleobases capable of incorporation into pep-

**Dick Papez**

Hi, my name is Dick Papez and serve as an instructor here at E-town College. I teach the forensic science courses (lecture and lab), general chemistry labs, organic chemistry labs and help with the chemical instrumentation lab.

With two years of retirement in between, I have enjoyed the change from thirty-five years of industrial/research chemistry to the college scene. It has been a nice change.

I am married to Dottie. We have two sons, four granddaughters (ages 10-16) and a 15 month old grandson. One of my favorite activities is teasing the granddaughters.

The forensics courses are most exciting for me due to the ever changing breakthroughs in CSI related science. Also the case studies do not seem to stop coming, just as recently the news media has brought to light new information on numerous cold cases, O. J. Simpson and Jon Benet Ramsey, two well-known examples. Upon my transition from industry to academia I have found many similarities between analytical chemistry in my past life and forensic chemistry that I now teach. The big difference is the devious plot that goes with crime solving.

The on-line forensic summer course has now run for four years with increasing attendance each summer. I try to keep it fresh and different from the classroom course if for no other reason than it takes place in the summer when I can manage much of it from my backyard with a cool lemonade nearby. Dr. Linda Macaulay has been great helping me through the many computer aspects of the conversion.

The high point for me is the Forensics Lab in the spring.

tide nucleic acids for use in sequence selective recognition of double stranded RNA. This mouthful of a project was applied to our Integrated Lab course and the results were amazing. I was so proud of each of our seniors who really dove into the work and made tremendous strides. In fact, they were able to present their work at the national ACS meeting and their work layed groundwork for SCARP students Holly Sofka ('17) and Amanda Williams ('18). Preliminary results will be incorporated into a forthcoming grant proposal that Rozners and I are working on. I also had the chance to travel up to Binghamton to give a talk last spring, and I took my summer students up again in July to have a joint group meeting with Rozners. It has been so much fun and the project continues this year into the I-lab course AND in my research lab.

My teaching continues to be fun and challenging. I'm doing Organic II this semester along with I-lab, Advanced Organic, and Chemistry Seminar. Finally, and as always, it is such fun to see you all when you return to campus. Hopefully this can be at homecoming, but if you are ever in E-town, drop on in! Musser misses you.

*The MacKay Family*

Working the students through the cases and the science, watching them run the analyses and wrestle with the myriad of conflicting results is very inspiring.

In the last year and a half, I have had the opportunity to return to active research following up on ideas many of which were started in my previous career. Some of these were completed then but many were not due to more pressing duties. This effort led to an active role with two students this past summer in the SCARP program. If there is any interest in polymer research, feel free to contact me.

In previous newsletters I have noted that playing/coaching soccer is my favorite out-of-school activity. Although I grew up with baseball, football and basketball, once my sons needed a soccer coach when they first started playing (many years ago), I have never looked back. Soccer is constantly moving and for me exciting. I liken it to molecules in a container, always in motion. I have been in an over-30 league for many years and as the oldest member have gone three years without a goal – until this past summer in the league when I put 3 in the net. Both of my sons are now on the same team with me. The one is the goalkeeper, the other plays up front and scores the goals and I just run around in the middle and have fun.

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



**Jeff Rood**

*The Rood Family at Epcot Center*  
 , I am involved with our general chemistry course. In addition to teaching two lectures and two lab sections, I am also helping to coordinate the lab portion of the course. Also, for the first time, I am teaching a section of general chemistry for the engineering students. I hope to help the students develop more

of an appreciation for how chemistry and engineering are closely connected.

Our research in the broad area of coordination chemistry continues and I continue to be fortunate to work with a number of great students on a variety of projects. I recently submitted a manuscript to *Acta Crystallographica C* dealing with our magnesium project. That work resulted from the combined efforts of former research students who are on the paper as co-authors (Ashley Landis, DJ Forster, and Tim Goldkamp). Dr. Schaeffer and I worked together with Jessica Pigga on new germanium complexes. Jessica took first place in the inorganic chemistry division of the Intercollegiate Student Chemists Convention held at Ursinus College. I am also continuing with an exciting project with Professor Kneas' group that aims to synthesize new solid-state luminescent sensor materials.

We had a number of students work on this project over the summer and academic year and they presented some results at the ACS national meeting in San Diego in March.

Our daughter Kella is now 4 years old. We took her on a trip to Disney World this year and she's been all about Disney stories since then. More exciting, though, is that she will soon be a big sister. My wife and I are expecting our second daughter in December! It will be quite the end to the fall semester to say the least. To wrap up, if you are ever around campus, please stop by and say hello!

*The Rood Family at Epcot Center***Charles Schaeffer**

My role as A.C. Baugher Professor of Chemistry Emeritus continues. Our research involves the preparation and characterization of main group organometallic compounds of silicon, germanium, and tin compounds. Dr. Jeff Rood and I supervised Jessica Pigga '16 during both semesters of the 2015-2016 academic year. Jessica's oral presentation on the synthesis and

characterization of novel organogermanium compounds earned first prize in the inorganic division at the 80<sup>th</sup> annual convention of the Intercollegiate Chemists (ISC) on April 16, 2016. The ISC is the oldest continuous meeting of its kind in the United States; E'town will host the event in 2018.

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 <sup>73</sup>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). Two most recent collaborative presentations with Dr. Rood and Elizabethtown students (underscored) are: (1) J. Pigga, J.A. Rood, C.D. Schaeffer, Jr., "Germanium Coordination Complexes: Synthetic Development and Structural Characterization," 251st National Meeting of the American Chemical Society, San Diego, CA, March 13-17, 2016; paper CHED-1024; and (2) J. Pigga, J.A. Rood, C.D. Schaeffer, Jr.,

"Germanium Coordination Complexes: Synthetic Development and Structural Characterization," oral presentation, 80th Annual Convention of the Intercollegiate Student Chemists, Ursinus College, Saturday, April 16, 2016; First Prize, Inorganic Division. Our long-time and ongoing research collaboration with Professor Claude H. Yoder, Charles A. Dana Professor of Chemistry Emeritus at Franklin and Marshall College, began in Fall of 1966 and enters its 50<sup>th</sup> year (see: <http://www.fandm.edu/claude-yoder>).

I continue to explore aspects of medium-format digital photography. The chemistry student affiliate chapter distributes a calendar composed of some of these campus images, with proceeds supporting various student affiliate activities.





## STUDENT NEWS



### 2016 Graduates

**Sam Brooks**

University of Pennsylvania

**Chad Cronce**

Possible graduate school

**Katharine Glass**

Eurofins Lancaster Laboratories

**Libby Hemler**

Villanova University  
Charles Widger School of Law

**Carolynne Henry**

Sommer Consulting

**Matthew Jensen**

University of Delaware

**Stephanie Kramer**

Carnegie Mellon University

**Chelsea Melcher**

Plans to attend the Police Academy

**Jessica Pigga**

University of Delaware

**Gabrielle Yankelovich**

Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

### Students Recognized for their Educational Accomplishments

**Sam Brooks '16**

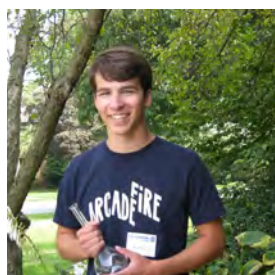
Biochemistry Award,  
SEPSACS Outstanding Senior Award,  
ΓΣΕ De-Lap-Holcomb Scholarship,  
A.C. Baugher Chemistry Award

**Tyler M. Butkus '17**

Analytical Chemistry Award,  
Inorganic Chemistry Award

**Kayla Hess '18**

ACS Student Affiliate Award,  
Emergent Scholar

**Matthew Jensen '16**

Undergraduate Award in  
Organic Chemistry

**Colby Schweibenz '18**

Emergent Scholar

**Amanda Williams '18**

POLYED Organic Chemistry Award,  
Musser Pre-Medical Scholarship,  
Emergent Scholar

**Haley L. Young '19**

CRC Freshman Chemistry  
Award

### ΓΣΕ GAMMA SIGMA EPSILON CHEMISTRY HONOR SOCIETY ΓΣΕ NEW INDUCTEES IN 2015-2016

From the Class of 2015—Sam Brooks, Libby Hemler, Carly Henry, Matt Jensen, Stephanie Kramer,  
Chelsea Melcher, Jessica Pigga

From the Class of 2016—Tyler Butkus, Elieni Kotretsos, Alex Plowman, Holly Soffka

*Congratulations to all of our honorees!*





## 2016 Summer Research & Internships

### RESEARCH:

**Haley Young**, a sophomore chemistry major, and **Miranda Campbell**, a junior forensic chemistry major, worked with Dick Papez on a project entitled “Synthesis with Successive Analyses of Oligomers and Polymers with Emphasis on Molecular Weight and Structure”.

**Kelsi Newman**, a sophomore chemistry education major, worked with Dr. Tom Hagan on the “Analysis of Porphyrin Synthesis and Purification Procedures for Optimized Production of Glycosylated Porphyrins”.

**Kayla Hess**, a junior chemistry major, and **Sitara Ramjit**, a junior chemistry-management major, worked on a project called “Development of Luminescent Metal Organic Frameworks as Sensors: Framework Preparation and Photophysical Characterization” with Drs. Kristi Kneas and Jeff Rood.

**Holly Sofka**, a senior biochemistry major, and **Amanda Williams**, a junior biochemistry major worked with Dr. James MacKay. The project was entitled “Design and Synthesis of novel nucleobases capable of triplex formation with Watson-Crick base pairs in double stranded RNA”.

**Thomas Ryan**, a junior chemistry major, worked with Dr. Gary Hoffman on “Conformational Analysis of Molecular Systems”.

### INTERNSHIPS:

**Eleni Kotretsos**— Interned with the Berks County Forensics Services Unit and worked alongside their detectives performing various tasks. The majority of time was spent working in the evidence processing and Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) labs. In evidence processing, she photographed all evidence prior to processing for latent prints and DNA where applicable. She also worked in AFIS and performed side-by-side manual comparisons of fingerprints along with searches in the AFIS database. In both of these labs, she got experience reporting results through a Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), which is a paperless system for documenting evidence intake and generating reports. Outside of the labs, she got the opportunity to help process a crime scene where she dusted for fingerprints and collected evidence.



2016 Summer SCARP research students

## Student Presentations at Local, Regional and National Meetings

**2016**—Eighteen 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 Intercollegiate Student Chemists' Convention at Ursinus College; the National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in San Diego, CA; a local section meeting of SEPSACS; the Landmark Conference Summer Research Meeting, Moravian College, and the Disappearing Boundaries Science Summer Research Conference. Student researchers were: Jake Lenkiewicz '17, Lacey Mac-Rhyann '18, Kayla Hess '17, Holly Sofka '17, Chad Cronic '16, Jessica Pigga '16, Gabi Yankelevich '16, Kate Glass '16, Carly Henry '16, Sam Brooks '16, Matt Jensen '16, Libby Hemler '16, Stephanie Kramer '16, Amanda Williams '18, Haley Young '19, Colby Schweibenz '18, Brian Lupold '17, and Kathryn Laraia '17.







## Career Exploration Event

On Saturday February 20, 2016, the Chemistry & Biochemistry department, Etown's office of Career Counseling, and the local section of the ACS teamed up to offer a spectacular opportunity for local college students. Around 25 chemistry and biochemistry alums of local colleges and universities along with local chemistry professionals willingly shared of their time and talent to meet with college students to discuss careers in the chemical field. The event was held at the Pennsylvania State Museum and there was an incredible turnout; over 100 students attended the event. The day's events began with students and chemistry professional panelists touring the expansive State Museum (an absolute gem if you have not had the chance to visit), followed by two hours of round table discussions. A rather diverse array of chemistry-related professions were represented including pharmaceutical development, adhesives, forensics, food industry (including chocolate and wine), and medicine. The evening ended with light hors d'oeuvres and conversation. The entire event provided students an excellent opportunity to develop their networking skills, and it also provided the chemistry professional participants a chance to expose students to the wealth of opportunity available through a chemistry-related degree. Without bragging too much, almost half of the chemistry professional participants were Etown Chemistry & Biochemistry alums who graciously participated in the event. Event better, it gave us a great chance to reconnect with them! Kristi and Tom, who spear-headed the event, would also like to thank Jane Nini (Director of Career Services) for her tremendous assistance with the event.







# STUDENT AFFILIATES

Many exciting things have occurred in the past year for the Chemistry Club! In the past year, the club has been able to fund the trip of 16 undergraduate Chemistry and Biochemistry students to go to the American Chemical Society National Meeting in San Diego, California. Students embarked on the trip to present research that had been performed at Elizabethtown College under the advising of the professors. While on the trip, students were actively engaged with presenting and listening to research from across the nation. The types of researchers who presented at the meeting ranged from Ph.D.'s to industry chemists to students. And what is a trip to San Diego without enjoying the beautiful weather there too? Students and professors were able to explore the city when not attending the convention. The sights were beautiful and very well received. Overall, the trip was a great success for the professional development of students not only in the field of chemistry, but for any professional field.

The ACS National Meeting should not overshadow the other events in which the Club was involved. In the beginning of the year, students attended the Lancaster Barnstormers baseball game hosted by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Section of the American Chemical Society (SEPSACS). The baseball game featured fireworks at the end to bring together not only a community feel but also a relevance to chemistry in everyday life. The chemistry club also attended other SEPSACS meetings such as the Networking Fair, Chemistry in Painting night, and Research Presentations at York College of Pennsylvania. The networking fair provided students insight as to the many careers paths available for those with degrees in chemistry. Professionals from a plethora of fields in chemistry such as research and industry all came out to give their perspective and advice to students. Students left with business cards and open opportunities to the world outside of college. Those who attended the Chemistry in Painting light learned of the use of chemical instrumentation in restoring historic paintings, blending the artistic world with that of chemistry. As a means of continuing

presentation practice, students who went to the ACS National Meeting also presented at York College of Pennsylvania. Students and professors were treated to dinner to celebrate the accomplishments of not only the research students but also local high school students and teachers with achievements in chemistry.

In tandem with professional developments, the Club also participated in outreach programs. One of the more popular programs was Into the Streets, in which Club members worked at the Elizabethtown Fair Grounds to introduce children to fun and easy chemistry activities. Another popular event was going to the Lancaster Science Factory to work with children and their families. In this event, students and their families were introduced to chemistry that can be performed easily and safely at home. Lastly, Club members also attended the Relay for Life rally near the end of the year to raise money for breast cancer research.

Throughout this year, fundraising will be starting to save for next year's ACS National Meeting. The Club is also hoping to have more meetings to create a more community feeling for the members. Professional development meetings will continue with visits by Career Services and various events via SEPSACS.

*By Ricky Castro, president*



Elizabethtown College  
Chemistry Club







## From the E-Mailbag



I went to Arcadia University and I received my Master of Science in Forensic Science (MSFS) in May 2015.

I started working at NMS Labs in June 2015 and have been working there ever since (1 year and 4 months). My current title is Forensic Chemist I.

**Mollie Mares ('13)**

I am still employed with Colorcon in the quality control lab. I am also getting ready to travel to Houston for training to become an internal auditor in conjunction with a project I am working on with our EHS department. We are still very involved with our local fire department which is one of the reasons I am missing homecoming. We are housing our new truck and our antique firetruck that is 75 years old this year. The highlight of my year was this past March when my boyfriend, now fiancé, popped the question! We plan to tie the knot September 9th, 2017.

All my best,

**Liz Costello ('12)**

I recently accepted a job offer from Teva Pharmaceuticals in Malvern. I have a start date of Jan 4th and am very very excited to get in there. It is a process group working on mostly the branded, specialty side of their business (formerly Cephalon) rather than generics. It is a small (2 groups of ~7-10 process chemists plus a handful of engineers) seemingly tight-knit group and potentially expanding but obviously with the big pharma tag.

**Rob Panish ('10)**

The title of my synopsis defense was "Attaching CdSe Quantum Dots to TiO<sub>2</sub> Using Ligands with Phosphonic and Hydroxamic Acid Anchoring Groups: A Study of Persistence and Electron Transfer". I am hoping to finish my program in the next year or so (minimizing the number of Buffalo winters in my future haha). All in all things are going well. In fact just today my PI asked me to start a second project involving using dyes to

induce hydrogen production. Should be interesting to see how far I can take the project before I graduate.

Cheers,

**Zak Schmidt**

I am in my fifth year as a chemistry PhD candidate in the lab of Dr. Elsa Garcin at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. I am defending September 15, 2016. I have recently accepted a post-doctoral position at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in the laboratory of Dr. Richard Kriwacki, and will begin this position mid-October 2016.

My current work is centered around the glycolytic enzyme, glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase. Specifically, I focus on the oligomeric, non-canonical RNA binding, and regulatory/therapeutic properties of the enzyme.

If you are interested in learning more about our lab or specific projects that we work on, feel free to contact me at [whitem2@umbc.edu](mailto:whitem2@umbc.edu). As well, I encourage you to check out our website @ --> [sites.google.com/a/umbc.edu/garcinlab/home](http://sites.google.com/a/umbc.edu/garcinlab/home)

**Dr. Mike White ('11)**  
**University of MD**

I received and accepted an offer for a QC chemist at Teligent in Vineland, NJ!! My last day at ACP is tomorrow, and my start at Teligent is the 29th (so a small break for me to look for housing). I am very excited and think it will be a great opportunity for me! Please help me spread the word of the position to the rest of the department!

I hope all is well with the family as you all start ramping up for another exciting year at E-Town!

**Ken Wiest ('14)**





Elizabethtown College

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### **A Special Thank You**

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

### **Chemistry and Biochemistry**

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