

The Department of  
**Chemistry**  
NEWSLETTER



## Mary Nguyen receives an Eli Lilly/WCC Travel Award

February 10, 2014

Mary Nguyen (BS chemistry major) was one of only a few recipients nationwide of the Eli Lilly/WCC Travel Award for her ongoing research with Prof. Catharine Larsen. This highly competitive award supported her travel to the ACS National Meeting in Indianapolis where she gave both a poster and an oral presentation. Mary was also recognized at the Women Chemists Committee (WCC) Luncheon and invited to breakfast with Madeleine Jacobs, Executive Director of the ACS.

## Three Chemistry Undergraduates Honored by NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program

April 23, 2014

Chemistry undergraduates Javier Fajardo, Mary Nguyen, and Nicole Godfrey have been honored by the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program. Javier was awarded a three-year fellowship (\$32,000/yr), while Mary and Nicole each received honorable mention. A GRFP fellowship was also awarded to Edwin Preciado, a graduate student working with Prof. Bartels to develop dichalcogenide semiconductor thin films for use in next generation microchips.

## Josh Hartman receives the 2013-14 Distinguished Teaching Award

May 08, 2014

Congratulations to graduate student Josh Hartman for receiving the 2013-14 Distinguished Teaching Award (DTA) for Graduate Students. Based upon nomination letters and teaching evaluations the Graduate Division DTA Selection Committee determined that Josh demonstrated consistently superior performance as a teaching assistant. The Awards Ceremony will be held May 28, 2014 at 5:00pm in HUB 302 North.

## 2014 Alumni Scholarship Award Recipients

May 09, 2014

The University of California, Riverside's Department of Chemistry has awarded two undergraduate students with the Alumni Scholarship Award. This award is made possible by the support of the Chemistry Department Alumni and is awarded to undergraduate students for their academic achievements, research involvement and extra-curricular activities. The following students have demonstrated such merit and were awarded the scholarship: Krystal Vasquez and Adam Yu. On behalf of the Chemistry Department, we congratulate them for their achievements.

## 2014 STARnet fellowships

May 13, 2014

In response to an initiative by Dr. Bartels, the Semiconductor Research Corporation (SRC.org) started this year an undergraduate research internship program at its STARnet centers. In a nationwide competition, four of the 20+ undergraduate researchers of the Bartels lab were awarded summer fellowships. Recipients Sahar Naghibi, Gretel von Son Palacio, Daniel Lu and Thomas Empante (left to right) work on the growth and characterization of MoS<sub>2</sub>, MoSe<sub>2</sub> and MoTe<sub>2</sub> films on flat and nanoscale-patterned substrates.

## 2014 ACS Undergraduate Award in Analytical Chemistry for UCR

June 23, 2014

Krystal Vasquez is UCR's recipient of the American Chemical Society Undergraduate Award for 2014. The ACS Division of Analytical Chemistry invites Chemistry Departments to select the top student in analytical chemistry at each university to receive this award.

## Bardeen Group JPC Letters paper selected as an Editors Choice

June 27, 2014

The Bardeen group publication entitled - Singlet Fission: From Coherences to Kinetics in the Journal of Physical Chemistry Letters has been selected as an Editors Choice manuscript that highlights new research of particular importance to the scientific community. Singlet fission is a process in which a photon creates an excited state that spontaneously splits into two lower energy excited states. This phenomenon has the potential to boost the efficiency of solar cells by up to 30 percent.

## 2014 Fall ACS CCG Excellence Award Winner

August 18, 2014

Christopher Roberts, a UCR chemistry graduate student in the group of Prof. Chia-en Chang, has won a Chemical Computing Group Excellence Award at the Fall 2014 ACS meeting. Chris' presentation entitled "Modeling of Enhanced Catalysis in Multienzyme Nanostructures Effects of Molecular Scaffoldings, Spatial Organization, and Concentration" was selected as one of 5 winners from more than two dozen applications. Chris' work focused on investigating the mechanisms and features that enhance the efficiency of enzyme spatially organized on a DNA origami scaffold over microsecond to millisecond timescale.

## Undergraduate students present posters on their summer chemistry research projects.

September 08, 2014

Six undergraduate students presented research posters at the 2014 Research In Science and Engineering (RISE) Symposium on work mentored by chemistry faculty (Mueller, Switzer, Ai, Zhong, Chronister, Millar).

## ACS Scholars Award Winner - Krystal Vasquez

October 15, 2014

Senior chemistry major Krystal Vasquez has been selected to receive an ACS Scholars Award. The ACS Scholars Program awards about 100 renewable scholarships nationwide to students interested in pursuing a career in chemical sciences.

## Kuwana-Sawyer and Sawyer Award Funds Support Analytical Chemistry Students

November 05, 2014

Thanks to generous donations by UCR Chemistry alumni John Precht and Eddie Seo, three of our undergraduate students worked full-time in the laboratory this summer. The Kuwana-Sawyer Award honors Ted Kuwana and Donald T. Sawyer, well-known analytical chemists and former UCR professors, while providing support for undergraduate students doing research in analytical chemistry. This year's Kuwana-Sawyer Award recipients are Austin Chang (working with Prof. Yinsheng Wang), Nancy Ortega (working with Prof. Wenwan Zhong), and Philip Lee (working with Prof. Huiwang Ai). The students are all very appreciative of the opportunity to work full-time in the lab this summer, doing cutting-edge science and building skills to use in their future careers. In addition to doing research, Austin, Nancy and Philip joined about 30 other summer research students from all areas of science and engineering for seminars on searching the literature, scientific ethics, academic professionalism, applying to graduate school, interview skills and making successful poster and oral presentations.

## UCR Chemistry Club ACS Award

December 10, 2014

The UCR Chem Club has been recognized as an honorable mention by the American Chemical Society for the second consecutive year. Student chapters receive special recognition on the basis of their programs and activities. UCR was also recognized as a green chapter due to a successful battery recycling program during the 2013-2014 academic year. Though all of the Chem Club officers should be commended for their efforts, outgoing President Anh Thac and current President Joe Mejia should be given special recognition for their leadership.