

This is the first edition of the Chemistry Chronicle, the re packaged RSC News. The intention is for this chronicle to be more inclusive with future editions including articles from the Department of Chemistry.

Congratulations go to Val Murray who came up with the new name!

This edition is packed full of new people arriving and a long time member of staff, Lesley Harland leaving, as well as details of the Business Group move while renovations are undertaken on the existing office and who won this month's lovely lab competition.

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

CONGRATULATIONS

• Our congratulations go to **Lucy Carpinelli** who represented the College of Science at the 2006 Lions Inter College Oratory Competition. Lucy discussed the topic 'They shall not grow old' which she contextualised by looking at the state of biomedical research and the current priorities of the pharmaceutical industry.

• Congratulations to **Neil Bayley** and **Jo Fischetti** on their engagement.

as well as the following completing PhD scholars

Mr Adam Perriman BSc James Cook
Chemical Denaturation of Proteins at an Interface
Supervisor: Professor J W White
Submitted 10 October 2006

Mr James Reid BSc LLB Victoria U Wellington NZ
Fluctuations of Dynamic Systems
Supervisor: Assoc. Professor E M Sevick
Submitted 1 September 2006

Mr Gregory Sandala BSc Windsor
Theoretical Studies of Adenosylcobalamin-Dependent Enzymes
Supervisor: Professor L Radom
Submitted 21 September 2006

and the following students who have been admitted

Dr Kelly Ann Fairweather BSc Auckland NZ
Hons ANU
A Formal Total Synthesis of the Marine Diterpenoid Diisocyanoadociane
Supervisor: Professor L N Mander
Admitted 15 September 2006

Dr Ah Young Park BSc Victoria U Wellington
Structure and Function of the Proofreading Exonuclease Subunit of E. coli DNA Polymerase III and Related Enzymes
Supervisor: Professor N E Dixon
Admitted 21 August 2006

RECENT ARRIVALS

A sincere welcome is extended to the following people who have joined us recently:

Dr Richard (Spike) Cordiner has taken up a position as Postdoctoral Fellow with Professor Hill's research group (room 111, ext 53640)

Dr Elise Dumont has taken up a position as Postdoctoral Fellow with Professor Gill's research group (room E117, ext. 53573)

Dr Jitendra Mata has taken up a position as Postdoctoral Fellow with Professor White's research group (room 2, ext 53575)

Ms Amelia Irby has joined the RSC Business Office.

Dr Jorg Wagler has joined Professor Hill's research group whilst holding a DAAD Fellowship from Germany (room 114 ext 53641)

Mr Isaac Arthur from Technical University Braunschweig, Germany has commenced PhD studies under the supervision of Professor Chris Easton (room 109, ext. 54207).

Mr Isaac Ugwumba from the University of Lagos, Nigeria has commenced PhD studies under the supervision of Professor Otting and Dr Sue Brown (based at CSIRO).

Mr Kim Elliott has commenced as an honours student under the supervision of Dr Yun Liu (room E8).

Mr Franco Du Preez from the University of Pretoria is a Visiting International Scholar for one month under the supervision of Professor David Ollis (ext. 58017).

DEPARTURES

Farewell and best wishes to the following who have left the School since our last issue.

Dr Mark Henderson has left the RSC to take up an appointment at the University of Maine, France.

Dr Johann Zank has left the RSC to take up an appointment with Orica, Kurri Kurri, NSW

Ms Lesley Harland has retired after 25 years in the RSC to undertake other projects.



Birch Top Floor Opening

Wednesday 4th October also saw the long awaited official opening of the top floor of the Birch Building. With guests invited and cake on offer there was a good turn out of RSC members to watch Denis Evans cut the ribbon and declare the top floor officially open.

Chris Easton thanked the many people who helped get RSC back on its feet again after the fire, including Waters who provided sponsorship for the opening.



COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA REPORTS

Please let Seona Meharg, smeharg@rsc.anu.edu.au know if you have been in the media or if you have participated in communications activities.

Siemens Science Experience

Wednesday 4th October was a busy day at the Research School of Chemistry, starting with the RSC hosting 30 Year 9 students from across ACT and NSW participating in the 2006 Siemens Science Experience.

The Siemens Science Experience is run at a number of locations across Australia. The director of the ACT Experience, Greg Lane from the Department of Nuclear Physics coordinated the student visits to the ANU, CSIRO, the University of Canberra, CIT and Questacon. The idea is to expose the Year 9 students to real science and real scientists, hopefully getting some to pursue science at university.

Lasse Noren, Paul Siu and Chris Blake entertained and informed the students on chemistry in general, glass blowing, NMR and the rock scene in Sweden. Thanks to everyone who helped to make the event possible.

BUSINESS NEWS

Two members of the Business Group will be departing in the next few weeks. Elouise O'Toole will be taking up a new challenge in the College of Medicine and Health Sciences, while Lorna Monaghan will be undertaking a year long secondment with the College of Business and Economics.

If you have any questions about travel and reimbursements please see Amelia Irby.

If you have any questions about grants please see Kerry Jackson.

Reminder that-

Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) Scholarship round closes 31st October 2006.

www.anu.edu.au/graduate/scholarships/

KEY'S COLUMN

The Business Group will be moving out of their office temporarily while a refurbishment is undertaken on the existing office space. The renovation will include the moving of the reception desk to the opposite side of the main foyer while a hole is punched through to the new business office.

RSC Administration Office (rooms 53 to 59) will be refurbished over the next 5/6 weeks. The workshop will commence moving the occupants from this area on Tuesday 17/10/06.

For the next six weeks our telephone numbers will remain the same, however please take note of the following room changes.

Seona Meharg, Val Murray and Maureen Slocum will be relocated to E2 on the ground floor of the Craig Building.

Elouise O'Toole and Lorna Monaghan will be relocated to Rm 131 on the middle floor of the Birch Building.

Neil Bayley, Brendan O'Brien and Amelia Irby will be relocated to Rm 221 on the top floor of the Birch Building.

Kerryn Jackson will be relocated to Rm 122a on the middle floor of the Birch Building.

SAFETY MATTERS

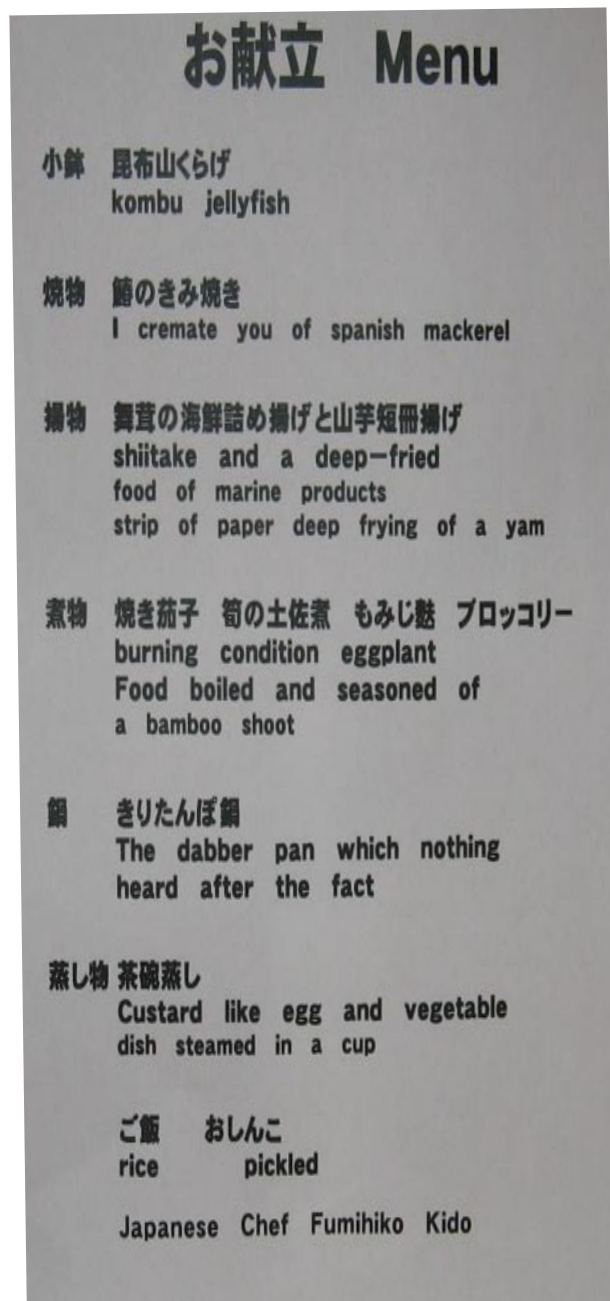
The winner of this month's Lovely Lab competition goes to the occupant's of Room 219/220 who proved conclusively that good housekeeping and good chemistry are not mutually exclusive.

On the contrary, for any of you who have tossed out that brown oil in the bottom of an unlabelled flask that's been lying around for weeks amongst all the other unlabelled flasks, only later to remember it contained the product of the 19th step in a 20-step synthesis, then 'good housekeeping and good chemistry being mutually dependent' seems more apropos. (That last sentence was long enough to give even Dickens a run for his money!)

Each student lab member wins a voucher for a coffee & muffin at the Purple Pickle.

STUDENT MATTERS

Next student meeting to be held Thursday 19th October at 4pm in the Tea Room.



CONFERENCE PARTICULARS

Thank you to Richard Welbury and Ray Withers who thoughtfully brought back a photograph of a menu from a recent conference in Japan to share with us.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

One of the reasons why the English language is so hard to learn:

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.
- 11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 12) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
- 13) They were too close to the door to close it.
- 14) The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- 15) A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
- 16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- 17) The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
- 18) After a number of injections, my jaw got number.
- 19) Upon seeing the tear in the painting, I shed a tear.
- 20) I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
- 21) How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?
- 22) There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple.
- 23) English muffins weren't invented in England nor French fries in France (Surprise!).
- 24) Sweetmeats are candies (or nuts) while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat.

25) Quicksand works slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea, nor is it a pig . And, why is it that writers write, but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham?

26) If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So, one moose, 2 meese? Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it? Is it an odd, or an end?

27) If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship?

28) Why do we have noses that run and feet that smell?

30) How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out, and in which, an alarm goes off by going on.

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

STAFF PUBLICATIONS SINCE LAST ISSUE AS AT 28TH SEPTEMBER 2006

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- Collins M A, Deev V A **Accuracy and efficiency of electronic energies from systematic molecular fragmentation.** *J. Chem. Phys.* (2006), 125(10), 104104/1–15. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1063/1.2347710>
- Di Bartolo N, Sargeson A M, Smith S V **New ^{64}Cu PET imaging agents for personalised medicine and drug development using the hexa-aza cage, SarAr.** *Org. Biomol. Chem.* (2006), 4(17), 3350–3357. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1039/b605615f>
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- Foot J S, Phillis A T, Sharp P P, Willis A C, Banwell M G **Dichlorocarbene adducts of alkyl enol ethers as precursors to furans: application to a total synthesis of the furanosesquiterpene (\pm)-pallescensin A.** *Tetrahedron Lett.* (2006), 47(38), 6817–6820. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tetlet.2006.07.068>
- Godsi O, Evenhuis C R, Collins M A **Interpolation of multidimensional diabatic potential energy matrices.** *J. Chem. Phys.* (2006), 125(10), 104105/1–18. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1063/1.2338912>
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Wood G P F, Easton C J, Rauk A, Davies M J, Radom L **Effect of side chains on competing pathways for β -scission reactions of peptide-backbone alkoxy radicals.** *J. Phys. Chem. A* (2006), 110(34), 10316–10323. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1021/jp062916j>

Patent

Dixon N E, Schaeffer P M, Muclair M D **Double-stranded oligonucleotides and uses therefor.** International Patent Number WO2006/081623 (2006), 178 pp. <http://v3.espacenet.com/textdoc?DB=EPODOC&IDX=WO2006081623&F=0>