



# Chemistry Connections

Winter 2007

A newsletter from the Chemistry Department  
at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania

## Chemistry Students Present Research Results

### Miscellaneous

☞ Bloomsburg University Open House: Saturday, March 31st. Visit the chemistry department from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. For more information, go to: [http://www.bloomu.edu/prospective/open\\_house.php](http://www.bloomu.edu/prospective/open_house.php)

☞ If you're unable to attend an open house program, you're welcome to visit Monday through Friday. You can meet an admissions counselor, the Chemistry Department, and get a tour of campus. Call (570) 389-4316 to make arrangements.

☞ You can contact the chemistry department at Bloomsburg University several ways:

<http://department.bloomu.edu/chem/Default.htm>

570-389-4895 (main number)

Dr. Michael Pugh, Dept. Chair:  
570-389-4144;  
[mpugh@bloomu.edu](mailto:mpugh@bloomu.edu)

Sharlene Pollock, secretary:  
570-389-5159;  
[spollock@bloomu.edu](mailto:spollock@bloomu.edu)

Bloomsburg University is committed to equal educational and employment opportunities for all persons without regard to race, religion, gender, age, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or veteran status.



Four BU faculty members along with seven students recently presented their research results at the 232nd American Chemical Society National Meeting in San Francisco, CA. These students have spent the fall, spring and summer semesters working on research projects, advised by chemistry department faculty members. Being able to share the results of their research at the annual ACS meeting is a great learning experience for our chemistry majors, and also gives them the opportunity to talk to prospective graduate school representatives. Their poster presentations were very well received and many people stopped to talk to the students.

A scholarship fund established in memory of former Chemistry faculty member, Wayne Anderson, made it possible for these students to travel.



Attendees of the ACS National Meeting got in a little sight-seeing at the Muir Woods National Monument. Front (L-R): Dr. Mark Tapsak, Mike Giano (*Hunterdon Central, NJ*), and Rachel Harris (*N. Schuylkill*). Back (L-R): Matt Corridoni (*Pittston Area*), Dr. John Morgan, Sarah Leshinski & Heather Pursel (*Southern Columbia*), Chris Endress (*Bloomsburg*), Evan Thursby (*Benton*) and Dr. Eric Hawrelak.

*High school attended*

## Equipment Purchase Aides Research Efforts

Dr. Eric J. Hawrelak recently received a Cottrell College Science Award (\$46,500) which allowed for the purchase of a S.G. Waters Solvent Purification System for the BU Chemistry Department. One of the significant issues in chemical research is often trying to keep water out of the reactions. The major source of water is usually the solvent that is used. Historically, solvents have been dried using stills that contain reactive metals as drying agents, that are both fire and explosion hazards. To avoid the use of reactive metals and other dangerous drying reagent, about 30 years ago a design for a Solvent Purification System was introduced. Since then many SP system have become available on the commercial market. The SPS allows for the drying of solvents using benign drying agents that are safe for all researchers to use. Thanks to Dr. Hawrelak's efforts, student researchers at Bloomsburg University have a safe method to obtain dry solvents for their chemical reactions!



Dr. Eric Hawrelak demonstrates how to use the new solvent system.

## Faculty Profile

Dr. Toni Trumbo-Bell joined the Bloomsburg University Chemistry Department in the fall of 2002. Her educational credits include a BA in Chemistry and a PhD in Chemistry from the University of Louisville. As a Biochemist, she teaches Biochemistry 1 & 2 and Physiological Chemistry, as well as general courses for chemistry majors and University Seminar for freshmen. Dr. Bell believes in active involvement of undergraduates in her research in blood clotting. Current undergraduate researchers are synthesizing compounds with potential for inhibition of blood clotting, in hope of discovering a new anti-clotting drug. In addition to supervising research projects, she was instrumental in implementing the Science Iditarod, now an annual University science competition for high school students (scheduled for April 27 this year).

Dr. Bell is the proud mother of a 10-month-old son, Ryan, and a 16-year-old son, Brandon. She and her husband, Robb, both grew up in the south, but are now happy to make their home in Bloomsburg.



Dr. Toni Trumbo-Bell



## Chemistry Club Fun Stuff



Pumpkin carving is just one of the activities that the BU Chemistry Club does for fun. They go bowling, have a cookout every fall to welcome new freshmen, visit area elementary schools and show the kids some really cool experiments, volunteer to tutor their fellow students who may be struggling with a chemistry class, set up a dunking booth to soak the chemistry professors, and so much more!

## ALUMNI NEWS

Jackie Miller graduated from Bloomsburg University in 1990 with a BS Chemistry degree and went on to earn an MS in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Delaware. She worked for two years as a research chemist at MIDI, a microbial identification and software company. There she worked on new HPLC and GC applications of their pattern recognition software, and was able to combine her communication and technical skills while handling customer support issues. In 1999, Jackie decided to switch fields altogether and for 4 1/2 years recruited scientists and engineers for a staffing company, Kelly Scientific Resources, learning a lot about various industries and developing customer relations expertise. She joined Accugenix as a Data Analyst in 2004 and now is manager of the Technical Operations Services group. Accugenix is a GMP contract lab doing DNA sequencing to identify microbes and serve the pharmaceutical industry. She interacts with all groups (finance, quality, lab and customer service) and levels within the company as well as provides technical support to customers. Jackie lives in southern Chester county with her husband, son and daughter.

Having worked in lab and non-lab settings, small and large companies, and observed the variety of opportunities available for someone with a Chemistry degree, she believes that Bloomsburg University really prepared her to succeed in a variety of settings. The small class size and availability of professors to work through problems really increased her confidence in working with people of many levels, and taught her to never be afraid to try something or ask questions.