



UCSC Chemistry and Biochemistry

Spring 2015 Newsletter

Dear Alumni/Supporter,

As we enter the last quarter of the 2014-2015 academic year, I am delighted to share with you this brief update about our department. We have had another wonderful year marked by a record number of students who are about to graduate and many more students who filled to capacity our chemistry courses. Our faculty and students continue to do phenomenal work and receive awards and recognition. You can read more about these in the News section of our department website:

<http://www.chemistry.ucsc.edu>

I am excited to tell you about three new junior faculty members who joined, or are about to join our department: Last summer **Prof. Jevgenij Raskatov** and **Prof. Alex Ayzner** joined our faculty. Jevgenij's research utilizes organic synthesis, biophysical methods and molecular modeling to address disease-oriented chemical biology problems. Alex's research focuses on the physical chemistry of organic semiconductors, polymer physics and charge and energy transport. You can read more about their research interests by visiting their websites:

Alex Ayzner:

http://www.chemistry.ucsc.edu/faculty/singleton.php?&singleton=true&cruz_id=aayzner

Jevgenij Raskatov:

http://www.chemistry.ucsc.edu/faculty/singleton.php?&singleton=true&cruz_id=jraskato

This summer **Prof. Nikolaos Sgourakis** will join the department, and his research will utilize NMR spectroscopy and computational structural biology to gain basic mechanistic insight into systems with open and important biological questions. You can read more about the Sgourakis lab here: <http://niksgourakis.chemistry.ucsc.edu/>

This Fall we will be recruiting a new faculty member in computational quantum chemistry. All these hires demonstrate the continued university investment in biomedical and material science research in our department.

Our department continues the tradition of the annual **Bunnett Symposium**, which features a lecture from an eminent scientist and a student awards ceremony. This year the event will take place on **Friday May 1st**, and the speaker will be Professor Dennis A. Dougherty from

the California Institute of Technology. More details and registration information is available here:

<http://www.chemistry.ucsc.edu/news-events/events/bunnett-symposium.html>.

I hope that you will join us for this event.

I am also happy to tell you that the **ACS 27th Annual Northern California Undergraduate Research Symposium** will be hosted by our department on Saturday, May 9th, 2015 in the Jack Baskin Auditorium on the UCSC campus. The schedule includes sessions for posters and oral presentations by undergraduate researchers and a keynote address. You can find more information about this exciting event here:

http://www.chemistry.ucsc.edu/ACS_May2015/Index.html

Please feel free to send me your feedback and to visit our website to learn more about the outstanding research that our students and faculty are doing, and about exciting developments and news throughout the coming year.

Best wishes,



Ilan Benjamin, Ph.D.

Chair, Chemistry and Biochemistry

Your private gift can have a big impact

Your gift can make an enormous difference to the education and research careers of our students and faculty. It can help support fellowships for graduate student research and for undergraduate independent research in our labs, help support the seminar series in which internationally-renowned scientists are invited to share their work, and help create Endowed Chairs for Distinguished Chemistry and Biochemistry faculty.



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