Greetings, alumni and friends of Ursinus chemistry!

Much has happened this year in the Ursinus chemistry department, and we want to share the news with you. We also want to continue to use this newsletter as a way of building stronger ties with our alumni.

Message From The Chair

Welcome to another edition of our annual newsletter!

The 2018-2019 year gave us much to celebrate. Julia Dorsheimer ‘19 was awarded an NSF graduate research fellowship to support her graduate education at Columbia University (Page 8) and Prof. Mark Ellison was awarded a three-year NSF grant to support his nanotube studies in collaboration with researchers at MIT. In alumni news, Aubrey Paris ‘15 was recognized as one of 118 outstanding younger chemists from around the world as part of the IUPAC Periodic Table of Younger Chemists.

In addition to these notable achievements, the department welcomed new laboratory manager Matt Zrada (profile on Page 5), and hosted another great group of students for summer fellows (Pages 11-12).

Unfortunately, we also learned of the passing of Prof. Emeritus Ron Hess in early July. His legacy lives on in the thousands of students he taught and mentored over his 50-year career at Ursinus. We celebrate his memory and achievements on Page 6. He will certainly be missed by family, friends, and the Ursinus community.

As we look forward to another year, I encourage you to update us on where life after Ursinus has taken you. A link to submit your information can be found on the last page of this newsletter. If you are interested in participating in an alumni career panel (Page 7) or giving a chemistry seminar in the department, please contact us!

As the college celebrates its 150th anniversary this year, I invite everyone to join us during Homecoming and Family Weekend for the dedication of the Periodic Table installation outside the IDC at 5 pm on Friday, September 20th. If you arrive early, we would love to have you join us for Chemistry Tea beginning at 3:30 pm that afternoon in Pfahler 202.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Amanda J. Keig
Dr. Mark Ellison had an eventful year. Just before the start of the school year, he and three students (Jordan Carver, Noel McCampbell, and Audrey Simpson) went to the ACS National Meeting in Boston. (see page 9). There, his students presented a poster and he presented a talk. Then, he taught general chemistry and physical chemistry in the fall semester. In the spring semester, he had a sabbatical leave. The plan was to collect data at Ursinus and also visit his collaborator, Dr. Michael Strano, at MIT and perform some experiments there. In early March, he traveled to MIT to attend a conference. Unfortunately, while riding his bike from the hotel to MIT, he slipped on some ice, fell, and broke his leg.

After surgery to insert four screws and a plate into his femur, he spent five days in Massachusetts General Hospital. He then returned home to Collegeville to begin the long recovery. He was on crutches for about eight weeks. In mid-May, he was able to walk without crutches and with continued physical therapy is now about 90% of where he was before the accident.

While he was less mobile, he analyzed data students had collected and started to write a paper about research using nanomaterials to combat antibiotic resistance that he and Dr. Tony Lobo (Biology) and their students have performed. He also worked on ways to incorporate more active learning exercises into his courses. Although he did not plan to be confined to his home for much of his sabbatical, he was able to get some meaningful work done.

During Summer of 2019, he mentored one Summer Fellows and three high school students. He also learned that he was awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation to study the motion of ions and molecules through carbon nanotubes. This is a continuation of his collaboration with Dr. Michael Strano of MIT, and he is excited to carry on this research.

In his personal life, Dr. Ellison continues to coach his daughter’s youth soccer and basketball teams. His family is planning a camping trip and white-water rafting trip on the Lehigh River before summer ends.

Dr. Brian Pfennig finds it hard to believe that he has already taught for fifteen years at Ursinus. He continues to teach his favorite class CHEM-151 every fall. This past fall he had a Teaching & Learning Intern (a former 151 student) videotape and sit in on every class so that he could learn about how to adapt his teaching style to the changing ways that students learn. This was a very informative and enlightening experience. He continues research in the areas of mixed-valence compounds and CO$_2$ reduction catalysis.

In personal news, Dr P has done a lot of traveling in 2019, spending spring break in Arizona to see the desert wildflower bloom and a family vacation in Hawaii in May. He has also purchased a conversion van named Vanna White the Camper Van and took a week-long trip to North Carolina through Shenandoah and Great Smoky Mountain National Parks and spent twenty-four days in July traveling across the country with her. Vanna has now been to nine national parks and seventeen different states in two months of ownership. Dr P is looking forward to more of the #vanlife when he retires early in a few more years. You can follow him on the Gram at chemdude.

Dr. Amanda Reig kept herself busy this year teaching General Chemistry I and II while mentoring 8 research students. Three students accompanied her to the National ACS meeting in Orlando, FL, where they enjoyed sunshine and great science (but did not have time to visit Mickey Mouse or Harry Potter). She also had the privilege of serving on a Ph.D. thesis committee at Temple University in the spring, and has spent the summer crafting killer multiple choice questions as part of a team creating the next version of the standardized ACS exam in Inorganic Chemistry.

Her girls, Cora (7) and Lena (3), are full of energy and keep her busy with ballet and swim lessons. Dr. Reig was fortunate to take several trips throughout the year to visit extended family and friends in Florida, California, Missouri, Arkansas, and Oregon.

Dr. Victor Tortorelli continued teaching the organic chemistry course sequence and coordinated the organic chemistry laboratories this past year and coordinated the Chemistry Department’s Seminar Program. Dr. T.
continues to direct the Science in Motion Program, a science outreach program, with funding from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Education. The program provides science experiments to surrounding secondary and middle schools.

Although Dr. T. officially retired after the Spring 2019 semester, he will be back this Fall teaching a section of organic chemistry lecture and coordinating the organic chemistry laboratory. He will also continue directing the Science in Motion program for as long as he can get external funding.

When not in the office, Dr. T. continues to travel to baseball parks, National Parks, and historic sites. This summer included travelling to Colorado to visit Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, the Black Canyon of The Gunnison National Park, and the Colorado National Monument. Additionally, several historic steam locomotive trips were completed including the Cass Railroad in West Virginia and the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad in Colorado.

Dr. Ryan Walvoord continued to share his enthusiasm for all things carbon in the Organic Chemistry sequence this past year. In addition to pushing arrows and making bonds, he also taught CIE-100 for the first time. This course provided a thoroughly enjoyable opportunity to engage students with questions perhaps even bigger than how to efficiently and selectively form a desired C-C bond! He looks forward to teaching CIE-100 again this coming fall. Dr. Walvoord’s second iteration of an Advanced Organic Chemistry class ran this spring. The course included a semester-long project designing an efficient and plausible synthesis of a recently discovered (and unsynthesized) natural product, and the students produced many creative and interesting proposals. He looks forward to incorporating additional material at the intersection of science authorship, publication, and ethics in future courses.

The Walvoord research team had a very busy but productive year. Two students gave oral presentations on their work on synthetic fluorophore modification at this year’s ISCC at Gettysburg College. In April, four seniors accompanied Dr. Walvoord and did an exceptional job presenting their research at the National ACS meeting in Orlando, Florida. He was pleased to have two excellent students continue their research over the summer though the Summer Fellows Program, and he looks forward to another busy year of research in the Pfahler fume hoods.

Outside of teaching, research, and advising, Dr. Walvoord can likely be found either caring for his beloved 300 MHz NMR or at the local rock climbing gym. He was recently able to visit Bar Harbor, ME with his family and highly recommends any of the summit trails at Acadia National Park.

Dr. Eric Williansen taught both semesters of general chemistry lecture, instrumental analysis lecture and laboratory, spectroscopy, and CIE II. In the spring, Eric and his research students started a new collaboration with Biology Professor Lobo to investigate how effective thermophiles may be in decomposing plastics. His group will grow in the fall and continue work on this collaboration as well as adding to some projects on characterizing HPLC stationary phases and analyzing food. Eric served as one of the biochemistry and molecular biology (BCMB) co-coordinators, a member of Academic Council where he served as the main conduit between Academic Council and the Registrar and catalog, the Cub and Key faculty advisor, a member of the pre-health committee, a member of the Library and Information Technology subcommittee, and one of the people helping the new Ursinus Quest core curriculum through its first year. For fun, he traveled to western Virginia several times for wine, food, history, and theater; the Finger Lakes in New York for food, wine, and to see our graduation speaker Rhiannon Giddens in concert; Columbus, Indiana to tour several public and private buildings that have some significant architecture; Wisconsin to visit the family; and Huntington, WV and Louisville, KY to see what’s there. He highly recommends any of these places. In food, he continues to experiment and this year primarily using Koji rice to enhance the flavor of many dishes. In Wisconsin, he was recently exposed to using sous vide technique to brew coffee. He thinks it’s time to enhance his analytical chemistry knowledge of extraction to obtain some new coffee experiences!

Dr. Samantha Wilner completed her first year at Ursinus, teaching two biochemistry courses, biophysical chemistry, and a section of organic chemistry lab. Through these courses, she had the opportunity to meet wonderful Ursinus students majoring in chemistry, biology, neuroscience, and biochemistry. She greatly enjoyed her first year at Ursinus and is excited about revisiting these courses and teaching many of the same students in the upcoming academic year. Samantha also began building her research
laboratory which currently focuses on using DNA as a tool to control assembly of drug delivery vehicles. Samantha welcomed two students into her lab in the spring and worked with two excellent students in the Summer Fellows research program this past summer. One of her Summer Fellows nicely described their research in a short video that was highlighted on the college’s website. Her students also presented their preliminary work in poster format at the Celebration of Student Achievement (CoSA) in the spring and at the Summer Fellows Symposium. Samantha is looking forward to growing her lab in the fall and attending external conferences with her students in the upcoming year. Outside of the classroom and lab, Samantha recently married her husband Eric in Philadelphia and traveled to Italy for their honeymoon.

**Monica Giancarlo** continued providing administrative support for the department faculty, staff and students this year.

Monica and her husband celebrated with their son, Dominic, as he graduated with a B.S. in engineering from Elizabethtown College in May.

Taking a vacation in June, she and her husband spent a few days in the Blue Ridge mountains in Virginia and hope to schedule more visits to other beautiful vistas.

**Matthew Zrada** (Mr. Z), having taken over the role of Chemistry Laboratory Manager from Mr. Brian Phillips, who retired in December of 2018, was heavily involved in learning the ‘ins and outs’ of his job. In this role, he experienced the usual challenges of starting a new job in a new location—that is, meeting new people, learning their names, and trying his best to remember them! During the school year, he spent most of his time preparing for the weekly chemistry lab courses, which included General Chem. 1 and 2, Advanced Gen. Chem., Organic Chem. 1 and 2, Physical Chem., Inorganic, Instrumental, Environmental, and Forensics. This involved not only setting up equipment and solutions for each weekly experiment but also learning the locations and hideaways of all the departmental goodies. He has also devoted some of his time to working with Carol McMillan on health and safety issues within the department.

The summer brought an opportunity to do some cleanup around the department in addition to acting as liaison between the college and outside groups using the departmental labs for science based summer camps.

On a personal note, Mr. Z took a week-long cruise in the western Mediterranean with his wife, Cathy, his son Matthew, his daughter Laureana, and his daughter-in-law, Samantha. Together they visited Naples, Rome, Florence, Cannes, Palma in Majorca, and Barcelona. While they enjoyed a busy eight days, coming back to the US was a big relief from the 103-106°F days spent walking through parts of Italy. He was also able to enjoy a fantastic fishing trip earlier in the summer out of Indian River Marina, DE, where he successfully landed a 30lb. yellowfin tuna!

In his leisure time, Mr. Z enjoys vaca-tioning at the beach, deep-sea fishing, activities with his family, cooking, and hiking.
Chemistry Dept. Welcomes Matt Zrada, Laboratory Manager

The Chemistry Department welcomes our new laboratory manager who joined the department in August 2018, where he worked and trained alongside Brian Phillips before Brian’s retirement in December 2018.

Matt was born and raised in Northeast Philadelphia, PA and received his B.S. degree in Chemistry from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, now the University of the Sciences.

While working as a bio-analytical medicinal chemist for 32 years at Merck & Co., Inc., Matt earned his M.S. in chemistry in 1990 from St. Joseph’s University and then his J.D. degree in 1995 from Temple University as an evening division student.

Following his career at Merck, Matt has tutored students in chemistry and mathematics, served as an assistant science director for a Boy Scout summer camp program, and worked as a substitute teacher for the Souderton Area School district.

When he is not preparing for weekly laboratory experiments or helping with safety awareness, Matt enjoys cooking, deep sea fishing, vacationing at the beach and hiking. He can also be found volunteering as an adult and youth trainer for the Washington Crossing Council, BSA.

Chemistry Students Earn Honors

For the 2018-19 academic year, the chemistry department had two students complete honors projects, both under the mentorship of Dr. Ryan Walvoord.

Julia Dorsheimer ’19 - Chemistry Major & Mathematics minor:
“Toward the Rational Design of Photo-induced Electron Transfer (PET)-Based Fluorescent Probes”

Omar Elghawy ’19 - BCMB Major & Chemistry minor:
“Facile Conversion of Hydrofluorophores to Aminofluorophores via Smiles Rearrangement.”

Congratulations to Julia and Omar on this achievement!
It is with great sadness that we write of the July 1st passing of Ronald Hess, Professor Emeritus of chemistry.

According to his obituary, Dr. Hess was born on November 22, 1938, in Flemington, Co., PA. He earned a bachelor of science degree in chemistry from Lock Haven State College and a doctorate in organic chemistry from Cornell University. Prior to his arrival to Ursinus College in 1966, Ron taught at Cheltenham High School. And after fifty years of teaching at Ursinus College, Dr. Hess had retired in 2016.

While at Ursinus he chaired the chemistry department and served as adviser to the pre-med society, Brownback-Anders Premedical Society, served as an adviser to the Cub & Key Society, and was also a pre-legal adviser.

Dr. Hess touched the lives of countless Ursinus students through his many organic and general chemistry courses as well as advising first-year students and students in honors research and directed research.

In 2003, Dr. Hess was honored with the title of David Laucks Hain Professor of Chemistry. Accolades continued in 2005 when he was awarded the Freshman Advising Award and then in 2008, when he received the American Chemical Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in the Chemical Sciences from the ACS Philadelphia section.

Outside the classroom, Ron Hess enjoyed baseball, trains, photography, and Bermese mountain dogs. He was a coach for the Collegeville American Legion baseball team and an avid Phillies fan. Ron collected railway art and was a member of the National Railway Historical Society. He was also a member of the Augustus Lutheran Church, where he served on the church council and cemetery committee.

Ron is survived by his beloved wife, Susan; his sons, Stephen and David; his daughter-in-law, Christine; and his grandsons, Caleb and Elijah.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 24th at the Augustus Lutheran Church, 717 W. Main Street, Trappe, PA. His obituary states that friends may call from 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. Saturday at the church.

Memorial contributions may be made to Augustus Lutheran Church, 717 W. Main St., Trappe, PA 19426; or Ursinus College, Advancement Office, 601 E. Main St., Collegeville, PA 19426, [https://www.ursinus.edu/support-uc/](https://www.ursinus.edu/support-uc/).
Chemistry Department Hosts Sixth Alumni Career Day

On Friday, March 1st, the chemistry department once again welcomed back a few of our alumni for the annual Alumni Career Panel. The afternoon began with chemistry tea where our alumni, Melonie Phillips ’14, Jonathan Stoeber ’17, Paige Fronheiser ’14, and Chuck Blackledge ’96 mingled with faculty, staff and students before the afternoon program.

Melonie Phillips, a 4th-year medical student at Drexel University College of Medicine spoke about her path to medical school from a sophomore-year hospice experience that lead to her journey on the pre-med track. From there, Melonie exercised a one-year deferral on admission to medical school while gaining employment at Johnson Matthey to work on solutions to coat catalytic converters. In May, she graduated from Drexel University College of Medicine.

Jonathan Stoeber completed his second year of graduate school attending Rutgers University. He is working in the Baum Group’s research lab investigating the interactions between α-syn and various nanoparticles with the goal of one day designing a nanotherapeutic program for Parkinson’s disease.

Chuck Blackledge is currently a Chemistry Operations Manager at GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) running labs in London, Spain, Germany and U.S. for the last two years. Chuck completed an internship in both his junior and senior years at Ursinus. After Ursinus, Chuck worked in medicinal chemistry, oncology research and led a chemistry program with coop and internship programs before heading global operations at GSK.

Paige Fronheiser is a Business Process/Customer Service Specialist at Chemours Company. After Ursinus, Paige was first employed by Johnson Matthey in process development working with catalyst technologies. At the Chemours Company, she worked in the coatings R&D group for fluoroproducts making and testing Teflon polymers for textile before making the move to the business process side of customer service.

When talking about their valuable experiences at Ursinus, our alumni highlighted problem solving and critical thinking skills gained in independent research, becoming adaptable so one can reinvent one’s self which puts you in a position to win, and becoming an independent learner. Most noted that it was an internship experience that helped to decide their future career path and provided an opportunity to meet and network with people.

Our alumni were also asked about their extracurricular experiences while at Ursinus College. For Jonathan, the football team helped him to gain valuable communications skills in talking to others outside of the science arena. For Melonie, her hospice work helped direct her career path. Chuck’s experience playing trumpet in the band and taking a public speaking course helped him to feel more comfortable speaking to a group. Paige spoke about gaining her leadership skills through her resident assistant position at Ursinus and learning to have those difficult conversations.

When it came to the question of what would they have done differently all the alumni spoke about classes they wish they took outside of the science courses – introduction to programming, Spanish, and business courses as well as study abroad experience.

Current Ursinus students enjoyed the discussion with our alumni panelist and walked away with some ideas on how to amplify their own Ursinus quest.
Julia Dorsheimer ‘19 was awarded the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship and will be pursuing a Ph.D. degree in organic chemistry from Columbia University. The fellowship includes a $34,000 stipend and $12,000 cost-of-education allowance. She credits her internship with GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals and her four years of chemistry research with Dr. Ryan Walvoord and Dr. Amanda Reig for her interest in studying organic chemistry in her graduate studies. Julia had also participated in the FUTURE Summer Research Program prior to her first year at Ursinus.

Julia joins several other Ursinus graduates in receiving the NSF Scholarship—Aubrey Paris ‘15 (chemistry), Jacob Hollingsworth ‘16 (physics) and Jenna Pellegrino ‘17 (BCMB). “I feel as if I made my professors proud and that all my hard work had paid off,” Dorsheimer says of the fellowship. Read more on Julia’s achievement.
Chemistry, BCMB and Biology Majors Present Research at Conferences

Student researchers working in the laboratories of professors Ellison, Reig and Walvoord had the opportunity to present their research at both national and local meetings.

The 256th ACS (American Chemical Society) National Meeting and Exposition convened at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center in Boston, MA, August 19th through 23rd. The theme for the second bi-annual national meeting of 2018 was Nanoscience, Nanotechnology and Beyond. Dr. Mark Ellison accompanied his student researchers since he was also presenting at the annual meeting.

During Monday afternoon’s undergraduate research poster session in the Division of Chemical Education, Jordan Carver (Biology ’19), Audrey Simpson (BCMB ’19), Nöel McCampbell (Biology ’20) co-presented their research poster entitled “Interaction of antibiotic-functionalized carbon nanotubes with antibiotic-resistant bacteria.” As their poster abstract stated, this is research using single-walled carbon nanotubes to deliver tetracycline to antibiotic-resistant and non-resistant Escherichia coli.

Chemistry professors, Amanda Reig and Ryan Walvoord, traveled with their research students to Orlando for the Spring 2019 American Chemical Society (ACS) National Meeting.

On Sunday, March 31st, Sophie Worthington-Kirsch presented her poster titled “Systematic evaluation of copper binding and activation by de novo Due Ferri Single chain proteins” at the poster session of Undergraduate Research at the Frontiers in the division of inorganic chemistry. Brian van Dyke ’18 was listed as co-author along with faculty mentor, Amanda Reig.

At the same inorganic session, Stephanie Hawkins and Alana Huynh co-presented their research titled “Hydrolytic activity of Due Ferri single chain proteins” which is collaborative research conducted with Gettysburg College. Stephanie and Alana also conducted their research in the lab of Amanda Reig.

Concurrently in the same hall, the poster session New Reactions & Methodology in the division of organic chemistry featured a poster co-presentation by Yusef Ahmed ’19 and Omar Elghawy ’19. Mentored by Ryan Walvoord, their presentation title was “Facile conversion of hydroxyfluorophores to aminofluorophores via Smiles rearrangement.”

On Monday evening, another set of Dr. Walvoord's research students, Julia Dorsheimer ’19 and Reid Luksic ’19 co-presented their re-
search titled “Systematic investigation of photinduced electron transfer in coumarins: Applications in triazine detection” in the meeting-wide Sci-Mix poster event representing the division of organic chemistry. The Sci-Mix poster presentations represent the best of what each division has to offer in terms of science and presentation. The duo also presented their poster at the Tuesday Materials, Devices & Switches poster session.

Chemistry research students finished the academic year with presentations at the local ISC Convention on Saturday, April 6th. Ursinus College faculty and students attended the 83rd Intercollegiate Student Chemists Convention (ISCC). This year’s convention was hosted by Gettysburg College on their campus. Amid the field of presenters from other area colleges, two Ursinus College student researchers, Julia Dorsheimer and Daniel Lippe, presented their research at this year’s convention.

Julia Dorsheimer (CHEM ’19) presented her research “Toward the Rational Design of Photoinduced Electron Transfer-Based Fluorescent Probes.” Under Dr. Ryan Walvoord’s mentorship, Julia used the new Bruker 300 MHz NMR in her research work.

Also mentored by Dr. Walvoord, Daniel Lippe (CHEM ’20) presented his research work “Synthesis of Aminofluorophores via the Smiles Rearrangement.” Like Julia, Daniel also used the new NMR that is housed in the lower level of Pfahler Hall while conducting his research.

Several faculty members from the chemistry department and fellow chemistry majors accompanied the pair presenting at the ISCC in Gettysburg to lend support and to hear about research being conducted on other college campuses. This was an exciting day of chemistry for all the attendees particularly for our student chemists looking forward to next year’s convention.
Once again the summer research program known as Summer Fellows wrapped up their eight weeks of research with a Friday morning symposium on July 19th. The following students working with chemistry faculty participated in a Summer Fellows research project.

**Poster Presentations:**

- Matthew Balestriere, *Towards the Rational Design of Photoinduced electron transfer (PET)-based Fluorescent Probes*, Mentor: Dr. Ryan Walvoord
- Emily Bender and Emily Franz, *Using Nucleic Acids to Improve Micelle Stability*, Mentor: Dr. Samantha Wilner
- Brendan Cherrey, *Nuclease Activity of Zinc DFsc Proteins*, Mentor: Dr. Amanda Reig
- Daniel Lippe, *Facile Conversion of Hydroxyfluorophores to Aminofluorophores via Smiles Rearrangement*, Mentor: Dr. Ryan Walvoord

**Oral Presentations:**

- Broderick Johnson, *Using Cysteine to Reversibly Attach Clarithromycin to Carbon Nanotubes*, Mentor: Dr. Mark Ellison
- Joseph Pantel, *Characterization of Hydrolytic Activity in Zinc Bound DFsc Proteins*, Mentor: Dr. Amanda Reig

Follow [this link](#) to watch a video of Emily Bender discussing her Summer Fellows research project.

More Summer Fellows photos on next page!

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## Internships and Summer REU

Three Ursinus chemistry majors spent their summer gaining valuable experience off-campus. Kailyn Cohen ‘20 worked in the Powers Lab at Texas A&M University as part of a Research Experience for Undergraduates focused on green chemistry. Alyson Manley ‘20 and Christina Wentz ‘21 spent their summers learning more about the pharmaceutical industry through internships at Merck and Teva Pharmaceuticals, respectively.
Summer Fellows 2019 (continued)

Emily Bender and Emily Franz explain their micelles Summer Fellows research.

Joseph Pantel with FUTURE student Sandra Phan working on Summer Fellows project.

Daniel Lippe discusses his research on Smiles Rearrangement with another Summer Fellows researcher.

Miriam Thomas worked on a collaborative carbon nanotubes project with Dr. Ellison in chemistry and Dr. Lobo in biology.

Brendan Cherrey with his Summer Fellows poster on Zinc DFsc proteins.

Brody Johnson’s oral presentation on carbon nanotubes during the Summer Fellows Symposium.
In Appreciation

In this newsletter, we would like to extend a very gracious note of thanks to all of our chemistry and biochemistry alumni who gave to the college in the 2018-19 fiscal year.
Alumni News

Nicholas A. Abidi, M.D. ‘86 is a sports medicine physician and orthopedic surgeon and total joint replacement specialist with OrthoNorCal in California. Dr. Abidi is also a consulting team physician for the University of California, Santa Cruz, Cabrillo College, Aptos High School and WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca.

Matthew Muscara ‘09 is now living in Las Vegas, NV, where he is a medical doctor practicing pathology for the US Air Force at Nellis Air Force Base and was recently promoted to major.

Jacquelyn Rothera ‘99 (née Hickey) began her 19th year in education in the Tredyffrin/Easttown School District, serving as an assistant principal at Valley Forge Middle School in Wayne, PA. She received her EdD in education administration from Temple University in 2015. Jacquelyn is involved in her community by serving with the Chester County Women’s Commission, Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence Region, the Junior League of Philadelphia, and the Rose Tree Pops Orchestra.

Use the link in the last page of this newsletter to send us your updates and news to share.

Homecoming and Family Weekend Events

Ursinus College will celebrate Homecoming and Family Weekend from September 20-21, 2019. Join faculty, staff, and students from the Chemistry Department as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of both Ursinus and the Periodic Table of the Elements with our very own Periodic Table of Elements Celebration and Reception at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 20th in the lobby of the Innovation and Discovery Center. We will formally dedicate our very own Periodic Table, which is now installed in the south courtyard of the Innovation and Discover Center. Arrive early and stop by Chemistry Tea in Pfahler Hall 202 beginning at 3:30 p.m. For more information and a full schedule of events, click here.

Join Us on LinkedIn and/or Facebook!

Facebook: Search for Ursinus College Chemistry Department and join the group.
LinkedIn: Search for the group Ursinus College Chemistry Department and ask to join.

Get connected and stay in touch with the department!

Do you know of an internship or job opportunity at your company? Can you offer a medical shadowing opportunity to a student? Would you like to host a student in your workplace for 3-5 days of job shadowing during winter break? Are you willing to read a current student’s resume and give some pointers? Reach out to Career and Post-Graduate Development if you would like to discuss ways through which you can share your experience and advice with current students!

Alumni looking to “Hire a Bear” can access Handshake HERE. Alumni job seekers are encouraged to use Handshake to search for opportunities related to their interests. There are a number of positions in Handshake which are suitable for recent graduates and alumni with experience/advanced degrees.”
2019 Chemistry Graduates

This year talented seniors graduated and began the next phase of their lives.

Yusef Ahmed will be attending the graduate program at UC Davis.

Julia Dorsheimer was awarded an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship and will be attending Columbia University’s Ph.D. program in organic chemistry.

Sarah Snider-Leonhauser will be attending Acadia University.

Sophia Worthington-Kirsch is returning for a post-baccalaureate semester to student teach.

Share Your Alumni Information with Us!

We would love to know what is happening in your life.

Click here to send us your updates!