



Dear Alumni and Friends,

It's been quite an eventful year in our department! First and foremost, in May we bid farewell to one of our largest graduating classes on record with 62 (including summer graduates). All of our majors have been consistently growing over the past 10 years with the two BS degrees (BS Chemistry and BS Biochemistry) showing the fastest increases. This is a far cry from when I first came to Rowan and upper level courses were in danger of being cancelled due to low enrollment! This evolution is a testament to the quality and dedication of our faculty for putting forward an exceptional degree program, as well as to our students who put their hearts and minds into the hard work required for success in our programs. Our graduates from 2015 are already on the paths to great achievements including graduate programs (PhD, MS and MA), medical school, dental school, and of course into industry.

Our department is also undergoing significant growth in many different areas. Not only are our undergraduate majors steadily growing, but we're also involved in the launch of numerous new programs. We have launched a new MS program in Pharmaceutical Sciences in Fall 2014 with both thesis and non-thesis tracks. Our program has already exceeded 5-year projections for enrollment and we are enthusiastic about recruiting for future classes.

The chemistry and Biochemistry department was awarded accreditation by the American Society for Biochemis-

try and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) for our BS Biochemistry program. The ASBMB is a national organization with over 12,000 members which is focused on advancing the science of biochemistry and molecular biology through publication of scientific and educational journals, organization of scientific meetings, advocacy for funding of basic research and education, support of science education at all levels, and promoting the diversity of individuals entering the scientific workforce. Our program received accreditation for 7-years, the maximum term allowed for ASBMB programs.

FEBRUARY 2017

Our accreditation cohort included institutions such as Miami University, Texas A&M, University of Arizona, and University of the Sciences. The full list of accredited schools can be found here. We are proud to be among such prominent institutions which speak to the quality and depth of our BS Biochemistry program. The accreditation of the BS Biochemistry degree parallels the longstanding accreditation for our BS Chemistry degree from the American Chemical Society (ACS).

As always, our doors are open to you. Feel free to email, call, or stop by when you're around! We'd love to hear from you and get an update!

Dr. Greg Caputo, Department Head



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Dr. James Grinias

## **New Faculty Profile**

Jim Grinias received his B.S. in Professional Chemistry from Eastern Michigan University where he first began his research career in analytical chemistry and chemical separations. From there, he moved to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to pursue his Ph.D. in the Jorgenson Lab, with research focused on fundamental liquid chromatography including column development and instrument design. During his time at UNC, Jim received both a Royster Society Graduate Fellowship and a NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. He also was the recipient of the 2013 Csaba Horváth Young Scientist Award, a top award for liquid-phase separations research named after the Yale professor who reported the first demonstration of HPLC instrumentation. In 2014, Jim moved to the Kennedy Lab at the University of Michigan for a postdoctoral research focused on instrument miniaturization and the application of LC to biological samples. For his project related to microfluidic LC applied to the analysis of neurotransmitter samples, he received a NIH NRSA F32 Postdoctoral Fellowship. Jim joined the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry at Rowan in January 2017, where he now teaches courses in general and analytical chemistry. His research group at Rowan will be focused on measuring and improving LC column efficiency and developing new LC -based methods for the analysis of complex biological samples. Additionally, Jim's group will work on designing new separation techniques and control modules for microfluidic platforms through the use of photolithography and microfabrication.

The department is happy to welcome Dr. Grinias!

## **Recent Faculty Awards**

### **Promotions:**

Associate Professor
Lark Perez

**Proposals Awarded** 

Lark Perez NIH

Gustavo Moura-Letts

Sysra Corporation

**Sponsor** 

#### Additional Awards

Dr. Tom Keck received the Maharaj Ticku Memorial Travel Fellowship for New Investigators to attend the Behavior, Biology, and Chemistry: Translational Research in Addiction meeting (March 2017, San Antonio TX)

### **Invited Talks**

Dr. Mark Hickman presented: "The evolutionary constraints of gene expression levels in S. cerevisiae.", at the Genetics conference (July 2016, Orlando FL)

Dr. Tom Keck presented: "Medications development for drug addiction: the dopamine D3 receptor story", at the Annual Mid-Atlantic Pharmacological Society meeting (October 2016, Philadelphia PA).

In addition to receiving awards our faculty published articles in peer reviewed journals and submitted **19** grant proposals. A true testament of our faculty's dedication to academic success — Congratulations!!



## **ACS Student Chapter**

#### The objectives of our ACS chapter are:

To afford an opportunity for chemical science students to become better acquainted with each other To secure professional associations

To obtain experience in preparing and presenting technical material before chemical audiences. To foster a professional spirit and pride in the chemical sciences

To receive an awareness of the responsibilities and challenges of the modern chemist

Below is the schedule of events for the ACS chapter during Spring 2017:

#### **February**

24th- Guest Speaker: Dr. Brian Sauer, DuPont, 2 pm (338)

#### March

#### 1st- Seminar Speaker at 1:15 - Prof Lawrence J. Williams (Rutgers) (347)

3<sup>rd</sup> - EBoard Presentation: Chemistry Careers OR Chemistry Experiment, (338/ 326) 2 pm Bowling night at Glassboro Lanes, 7 pm -- \$13 per person w pizza and soda (2 hours)

8th- Seminar Speaker - Prof Andre Isaacs (Holy Cross) (347)

10<sup>th</sup>- Pi the Professors, 2 pm Science Hall Atrium

23 - Pretzel Sale

25th - AlChE Mid Atlantic Meeting at Rowan

30th- Bristol Myers Squibb Seminar, time TBA

#### **April**

7<sup>th</sup>- Guest Speaker: Dr. Robert Rossi, "The Chemistry of Paper Wet Strength," 2 pm (338) Relay for Life 6 pm

14th- Third Member Meeting and Eboard Elections, 2 pm (347)

19th- Seminar Speaker - Danielle Guarracino (TCNJ) (347) Liquid Nitrogen Ice Cream, 12 pm Science Hall Atrium

20 - Pretzel Sale

22<sup>nd</sup>- March for Science, Washington D.C

28th- End of Semester Party, 2 pm (347)

#### May

10th- Chemical Heritage Foundation & Lunch in Philadelphia

Tours & Smashburger Fundraiser dates TBA

## **ACS Student Chapter**



Above: (from left to right) Logan Schnorbus (Vice President), Jill Adams (President), Leah Horvat (Fundraising Chair), Alyson Paneque (Treasurer), Alan Tran (SGA Rep), Eileen Savaiinaea (Public Relations Chair) Not Pictured: Eric Kohn (Secretary) and Dr. Vaden (Advisor)

Right: (from left to right) Jorge, Desiree, Brittany, Jill (President), Alyson (Treasurer), Logan (Vice President), Alan (SGA Rep), Dr. Vaden (Advisor), (back) Eric (Secretary).



## **ACS Student Chapter**



Above left: secretary, Eric Kohn, enthusiastically giving away 'Welcome Back Bags' with candy, ACS pens, and ACS lanyards



Above right: from the Haunted Student Center. We taught kids the concept of "Like Dissolves Like" with M&Ms in either water, oil, or alcohol



Left: from a cupcake fundraiser we had to kick off the semester



# Keep in Touch!!

We are always excited to hear from our former graduates. We encourage you to drop us a note by email or return the card below by mail to give us an update on where you are and what successes you've found since leaving Rowan and the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

## Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

201 Mullica Hill Rd
Department of Chemistry and
Biochemistry
Science Hall
Glassboro NJ 08028

Phone: (856) 256-4505 Fax: (856) 256-4478

Web: www.rowan.edu/chemistry

Name	
Address	
Phone	E-mail
Current Position	
Year of Graduation	

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