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We welcome contributions from our alumni. If you are interested in writing for the newsletter, please contact the Editor at chmcws@nus.edu.sg.

Editorial Notes
We are very happy to note that the May 2017 e-issue of a rejuvenated ChemConnections has rekindled interest, and favourable feedback from our alumni. It is clear many of you enjoy reading updates of, and news from, the Department once every few months.

This electronic newsletter can only be sent to you if we have your email address – and we promise it will only be used for this sole “bonding” purpose. Knowing how everyone is so busy in Singapore, we will do our best to keep every issue short and sweet – just enough for a “click reaction”.

Last call to attend the 88th Anniversary Dinner

Chemistry 88th Anniversary Dinner
27 October 2017 (Fri) The Fullerton Hotel
1 Fullerton Square, Singapore 049178

Hurry, tables are filling up fast for our reunion dinner on 27 October. Make your plans soon! Join other alumni who are forming research-group/graduation-class tables to meet up at this meaningful event. Come and catch up with your former professors, lab support staff and classmates! What’s more, your registration for the dinner via the gift form allows us to set up scholarships/awards in our commitment to provide fulfilling learning experience for all students regardless of their backgrounds. The gift form can be obtained here: http://www.chemistry.nus.edu.sg/_file/alumni/Gift%20Form%20Chemistry%2088.pdf

Chemistry Merit Scholarship in honour of Emeritus Professor Huang Hsing Hua

Emeritus Professor Huang served the Department with distinction from the 1960s until his retirement in 1997 and contributed significantly to the University. He researched in the field of physical organic chemistry and spectroscopy, and taught statistical thermodynamics to many of us (Yes, do you remember those differential equations?). Being the Deputy Vice-Chancellor from 1981 to 1994, E/Prof Huang was also instrumental in setting up the infrastructure at our Kent Ridge campus and lifting the image of NUS among global tertiary institutions in those foundational years. We are pooling our efforts during this 88th Anniversary to establish a Chemistry Merit Scholarship in honour of E/Prof Huang. If you are interested to join in or have any queries on this effort, please write to A/P Chin Wee Shong at chmcws@nus.edu.sg.
Welcome Assistant Professor Kim Jung Eun!

The Department welcomes in July 2017 Assistant Professor Kim Jung Eun to our Food Science & Technology (FST) programme. Dr Kim is a nutrition scientist with advanced training in dietetics and human clinical research. After her B.Sc. and M.Sc. at the Ewah Woman’s University of South Korea, Dr Kim pursued her Ph.D. in Nutritional Sciences at the University of Connecticut, USA and further completed a dietetic internship at Yale-New Haven Hospital and post-doctoral research at Purdue University, USA. To fulfill her long-term goal, Dr Kim’s current research interest includes investigating the effects of bioactive compounds-rich whole foods or a healthy eating pattern diet recommended by the Health Promotion Board in Singapore.

New buildings, new homes!

The Faculty of Science is undergoing a major facelift to establish a more conducive learning environment for our students. Our old Science canteen, and block S10 and LT23 were demolished to make way for a central student educational cluster and a new air-conditioned food complex. Construction of these new building are underway, and are due to be completed at the

Construction underway at the former sites of S9, S9A and LT22

Blocks S9, S9A and LT22 were also torn down last year in preparation for a new Science Building that will house new chemistry teaching facilities, research laboratories and a central instrumentation facility to serve the needs of a growing department. The building is scheduled to be completed in the last quarter of 2019. In the meantime, to meet our urgent research needs, the Department has established new chemistry research laboratories in the Tahir Foundation Building (MD1) on levels 5, 14 and 17.

Chemistry Laboratory Inaugural Winner in New BCA Scheme

Our Chemistry laboratory at MD1 Level 14 has recently won the platinum award under the Green Mark for Laboratories scheme launched by the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) in May 2017. This scheme recognises the efforts and commitments by NUS to meet research needs at the highest level while implementing features and practices that are environmentally sustainable. For example, the laboratory has recirculating water coolant for reflux condensers and to reduce water wastage, and localised exhaust was installed to reduce ventilation energy.

Lifelong education opportunity for Chemistry Alumni

The NUS School of Continuing and Lifelong Education (SCALE) was established in January 2016 to promote and expand lifelong learning opportunities for working adults. Through the various programmes it initiated, working adults can further excel and improve their competencies as well as update themselves in their chosen fields. Supporting the programmes offered by SCALE, NUS Chemistry offers the following modules for our alumni to upgrade themselves and remain relevant in the face of industry demands: CM4251 (Characterization Techniques in Materials Chemistry), CM4254 (Chemistry of Semiconductors), CM5241 (Modern Analytical Techniques), CM5244 (Topics in Environmental Chemistry) and CM5245 (Bioanalytical Chemistry). For more information, please go to this website: http://scale.nus.edu.sg/programmes/AlumniLifelongLearning.html
New EXCO for NUS ACS Student Chapter

The NUS American Chemical Society Student Chapter (NUS ACSSC) marked its new academic year in August by welcoming several enthusiastic newcomers to form its EXCO for AY2017/2018. They were a mixture of sophomores and freshmen, and the positions filled included Secretary, Treasurer, Logistics Manager, Publicity Officer, Programs Director and Marketing Officer. With a mixture of senior and new EXCO members, the Chapter hopes to have a sweet blend of valuable experience and fresh ideas in organising more and better events for our undergraduates. NUS ACSSC aims to bridge its undergraduates to the professional world through various events such as industrial visits, career interviews and research symposia. You can follow its activities on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/NUSACSSC/.

From left: Lum Yi Chyi (Head of Programs), Wong Shuyii (Vice-President), Shaun Tan (Vice-President), Li Beiyue (Logistics Manager), Hashir Gill (Marketing Officer), Amelia Gunawan (Programs Director), Nguyen Vu Ha Anh (Treasurer), Tan Wei Lin (Secretary), Chen Yi Xin (Publicity Officer), Tan Ke Tian (Head of Publicity).

Not in picture (away on exchange): Max Tan Jin Hui (President).

Congratulations to Team Singapore at the 49th International Chemistry Olympiad

Singapore team, led by Dr Tan Wee Boon and Dr Zhang Sheng from the department, successfully brought home two gold medals and two silver medals, to secure sixth place among the 76 participating countries at the 49th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) held at Mahidol University, Thailand, from 6 to 15 July 2017. Among 297 participants, Zhang Zhiyuan also won the IUPAC Prize for achieving the second highest score in the theoretical examination. The road to representing Singapore at the IChO started from participating in the Singapore Chemistry Olympiad (SchO) in November 2016. After rigorous training and extensive examinations, selected students were invited for further training at NUS-Chemistry, conducted by school teachers and our staff. Singapore first participated in the IChO in 1988, and has since won a total of 29 gold, 47 silver and 36 bronze medals.

From left: Ms Ng Yu Rui (MOE), Dr Zhang Sheng (NUS), Ms Tang Yimian (RI), Lam Tze King (NUSHS), Liu Yi Quan, Matthias (NUSHS), Zhang Zhiyuan (HCI), Dr Tan Wee Boon (NUS), Tham Zi Sheng (RI).

Chemistry Graduate Research Symposium 2017

The Chemistry Graduate Society (CGS) organised its second Graduate Research Symposium on 11 August 2017. A total of 38 Ph.D. candidates from the Department participated to showcase their research findings and achievements, and also to look out for inspirational ideas and inter-group collaborations. Through vigorous judging by staff panels, four students were awarded prizes for best poster, and five students won prizes for the People’s Choice Award at the Symposium.

From left: Yang Xin (CGS), Han Yi (CGS), Ms Sun Xue (CGS), A/P Ang Wee Han (Deputy Head), A/P Chua Lay Lay (Asst. Head), Prof Richard Wong (Head), Dr Foo Maw Lin (CGS advisor), Ms Deepshikha Arora (CGS President), Tao Junrui, Nipun Kumar Gupta (CGS).

Posters for inspiration and competition

From left: Ms Ng Yu Rui (MOE), Dr Zhang Sheng (NUS), Ms Tang Yimian (RI), Lam Tze King (NUSHS), Liu Yi Quan, Matthias (NUSHS), Zhang Zhiyuan (HCI), Dr Tan Wee Boon (NUS), Tham Zi Sheng (RI).
Learning experience at NUS Overseas College @ Shanghai

Our Year 4 Chemistry student, Ms Lum Yi Chyi, embarked on a year-long internship at ARPlanet Technology (Shanghai) Co. Ltd, an Augmented Reality (AR) company that delivers creative AR marketing solutions for businesses, through an NUS Overseas College (NOC) programme last year. During the internship, Yi Chyi was immersed fully in the startup that gave her different responsibilities to understand the challenges faced by start-up businesses. She had to quickly adapt not only to the different culture and background overseas, but also the technical demands that are not much related to chemistry. Well – we would like to say that Chemistry training does give her the relevant attitude and aptitude – and she embraced it positively, “…Although the learning curve might be steep initially for a student as chemistry major in a technical company, it was an extremely rewarding journey where I could experience something very different and the internship) improved both my hard and soft skills tremendously...”. Thanks to the help of all, our students are fortunate indeed to have such opportunities these days to broaden their perspective both in their study and working lives!

“JC Afternoons” workshops

Every July, the Department organises a series of half-day workshops for junior college (JC) students to experience what NUS-Chemistry has to offer. This year, 188 students from Meridian JC, Anderson JC, Temasek JC, Serangoon JC, National JC and Dunman High School participated. Dr Emelyn Tan shared with them the various options offered in our undergraduate programme and the career opportunities awaiting them as Chemistry graduates. The participants then had an app-assisted interactive tutorial using “ARMolVis”, an in-house developed augmented reality mobile application. It allows users to hover over 2D photographs of some everyday products to view the corresponding predominant molecules in the product in 3D. Participants also spent an hour and a half in one of the teaching laboratories to carry out their selected experiments. Before the tea session at the new Science canteen, students also toured Kent Ridge campus and viewed its various faculties, facilities and residences.