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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

It seems just like yesterday when we wished everyone “Happy New Year” and now we are already in the last quarter of the year. Throughout this year, we had several major happenings such as the opening of Frontier Science canteen, the setting up of Huang Hsing Hua Chemistry Merit Scholarship, the first disbursement of Chemistry Alumni Study Awards, graduation of our first batch of M.Sc. in Chemistry for Energy & Environment, and also our first “20th, 30th, 40th Graduation Anniversary Reunion @NUS Chemistry”! Some of these would not have been achieved without the support of our alumni and students. Thank you all, and please continue to keep in touch with us 😊

20th, 30th, 40th Graduation Anniversary – Reunion at NUS Chemistry!

NUS Chemistry organised its first Graduation Anniversary reunion on Fri 28 Sep 2018. Beginning with cohorts who graduated in 1978, 1988 and 1998, the department plans to organise similar events annually. The 20th, 30th, 40th anniversary reunion event started with a tour of the department’s teaching laboratories and the Chemical, Molecular, and Materials Analysis Centre for some alumni who signed up for the tour, to jog their memories of their laboratory classes all those years ago. For some, it was an opportunity to catch up with laboratory technologists whom they had known well from their time as students. Prof Richard Wong and Assoc Prof Chin Wee Shong welcomed 35 alumni, staff and students that evening shortly before the dinner started. Overall, it was an enjoyable reunion for former students and staff to reminisce about the past, and to catch up with the present.
Congratulations! NUS Chemistry Class of 2018

Over 260 chemistry graduates marked a significant milestone on 12 July 2018 as they begin a new chapter in their lives. The first batch of graduates for the new M.Sc. in Chemistry for Energy & Environment programme, was inaugurated in this commencement. Mr Cao Xujun shared his feelings and experiences as the Chemistry Valedictorian “...we transit from student to graduate and in making that transition, we have worked hard, we have shared many moments of excitement and frustrations... I believe that in each and everyone of us, today is all the more significant, because only we know how difficult it was to get here ... Our time here has instilled in-built us the ability to adapt and improvise, making us more qualified than we think... “

Welcome to NUS Chemistry new Faculty members

The Department welcomes Asst Prof Li Dan, Assistant Liviu Ungur, Asst Prof Zhu Ye, and President’s Asst Prof Koh Ming Joo in AY 2018/2019. Their expertise in Food Science, Theoretical, Physical, Organic and Organometallic Chemistry will enhance the department’s strong research pool further. Read their full profiles here.

International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) 2018

Congratulations to the Singapore team who won two Gold Medals and two Silver Medals at the 50th IChO held in Bratislava, Slovakia and Prague, the Czech Republic from 19 to 29 July 2018. Months prior to the event, the students had gone through rigorous training at NUS Chemistry guided by Dr Tan Wee Boon and Dr Zhang Sheng. The team ranked 6th among the 76 participating countries, and Marvin Dragon Choo attained 5th position among 300 participants. Congratulations to the Singapore team and its mentors.

The new NUS Chemistry management team

There are changes in the department management team as of 1st Sep 2018. Prof Wu Jishan and Assoc Prof Chng Shu Sin joined the management team as the Deputy Head (Research) and Assistant Head (Research & Education), respectively. Prof Wu Jishan replaced Assoc Prof Chen Wei who will continue helming research collaborations and programmes in the department and Assoc Prof Chng Shu Sin replaced Assoc Prof Zhao Yu who has been appointed as Assistant Dean (Graduate Studies and Safety) in the Faculty of Science since 1st Aug 2018. The NUS Chemistry management list is here.
The 13th Singapore National Crystal Growing Challenge

The finale of the 13th Singapore National Crystal Growing Challenge took place at NUS Chemistry on Sat, 26 May 2018. This is a biennial event for secondary school, junior college and polytechnic students. During the crystal growing process, the participating students learn about the chemical processes behind crystallisation as well as the science and art behind marvelous crystals. A total of 109 teams from 47 schools participated in the challenge in 2018. This year, the students presented ammonium cobalt (II) sulfate hexahydrate crystals for the Junior category and sodium zinc sulfate tetrahydrate crystals for the Senior category. In the Open category, they were challenged to grow a “Crystal Tree”. The results of months of hard work, and patience, were showcased at the NUS Chemistry Teaching laboratories for judging.

Essentials for Year 1 by Chemical Sciences Society (CSS)

The CSS organised an “Essentials for Year 1 Chemistry” session on 17 Aug 2018. This session helped to kickstart the undergraduate life of chemistry freshmen as well as provide a platform for Year 1 students to get to know their peers, seniors, and staff better. They were also able to obtain an insight into other activities / programmes eg. SEP, UROPS, NOC, etc. that the department have, which can enrich their undergraduate life on top of their study here.

Graduate Welcome Reception by Chemistry Graduate Society (CGS)

The CGS organised a reception to welcome new chemistry graduate students on 23 Aug 2018. Dr Foo Maw Lin, CGS advisor, and Ms Li Xinshi, CGS president, shared their graduate study journeys in NUS Chemistry, and explained what the CGS is all about, its activities. Everyone enjoyed the ice-breaking games, and the dinner.
The Chemistry Freshman Orientation Camp, held from 13 to 15 July 2018, is an annual event organised by the NUS Chemical Sciences Society (CSS) for newly matriculated freshmen majoring in chemistry. The camp included informative activities such as laboratory and library tours, welcome talks as well as introductory courses on ChemDraw (a molecule editing software). There were also games designed to foster friendships while concurrently facilitating the orientation of students within and around NUS. Chew Hui Jie, one of the chemistry freshman said, “The camp was a great opportunity to meet fellow chemistry batch mates and seniors, and it is one not be missed for potential chemistry major students.” Another freshman, Lin Xiaoxuan said, “a key takeaway from the camp was meeting informative and helpful seniors who helped us freshmen settle into university life with ease.” In his closing address, camp director Leon Goh, who is currently in Year 2, thanked the seniors who had worked hard behind the scenes to make this camp possible and hoped that they continue to provide support to their juniors in the semesters to come.

Upcoming events ...

The 9th Asian Biological Inorganic Chemistry Conference

NUS Chemistry and NTU CBC will jointly organise the biennial 9th Asian Biological Inorganic Chemistry Conference (AsBIC-9) at U-Town’s Stephen Riady Centre, NUS from 9 to 14 Dec 2018. This is the first time Singapore is hosting an important biological inorganic chemistry conference and we are expecting over 300 attendees from all around the world to participate. It promises to be an exciting gathering of the top intellectual minds in this field. More details are at www.asbic9.org

The 10th Singapore International Chemistry Conference

NUS Chemistry, NTU’s Division of Chemistry & Biological Chemistry, and the Singapore National Institute of Chemistry are jointly organising the 10th edition of the Singapore International Chemistry Conference (SICC-10) covering both fundamental chemistry and functional materials chemistry topics. The conference will take place at the Stephen Riady Centre from 16 to 19 December 2018. The conference aims to reflect on the significant scientific developments in fundamental chemistry and functional materials, to discuss new ideas and trends in chemical sciences, and to raise the profile of chemical research in Singapore. More at www.sicc10.org

NUS Chemistry’s 90th Anniversary

The Department is celebrating its 90th Anniversary next year. Many events are being planned to commemorate the anniversary. Stay tuned! 😊