

**BARNARD COLLEGE  
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY  
MEMORANDUM**



**To:** Barnard Chemistry and Biochemistry Majors

**From:** Sally Chapman, Chair

**Re:** Happy New Year and New Semester!

**Date:** January 18, 2008

**Welcome back.** I hope everyone enjoyed some rest and relaxation during the winter break, and is eager to get started in a new year. It should be a busy semester for us all. 23 Seniors are preparing to graduate in May, with seven completing senior theses. Their thesis presentations are in April; everyone is encouraged to attend these always excellent talks.

**New Face.** **Molly Gill** joined the department as our Administrative Assistant this Fall; she also works with the Physics and Astronomy department. Among other things, she handles student job contracts and biweekly timesheets. If you haven't met her, stop by room 504A and say hello.

**Guest Speakers.** The department is interviewing two potential new faculty members whose research interests are in nanoscience. The successful candidate will spend next year as a visiting scientist at Columbia's Nanotechnology Center, and will start teaching here in the fall of 2009. We invite you to participate in the interview process, attending the research talks, which are designed for an undergraduate audience, and/or meeting with the candidates over lunch; we will order sandwiches. Meeting our excellent students helps to recruit the best faculty! Dr. **Tamara Hamilton** (Ph.D. University of Iowa, now at the Université de Montréal) will be here on **Friday, January 25**, giving her talk at 2:00 PM in 805 Altschul, and Dr. **Marisa Buzzeo** BC'01 (Ph.D. Oxford University, now at Caltech) will be here on **Monday, January 28**, giving her talk at 4:30 PM in 804 Altschul.

**Faculty Talks.** Each year in February selected chemistry faculty give brief talks introducing their research. The principal purpose is for prospective summer and thesis students to hear about faculty research and the opportunities for student involvement. But it is also just an occasion to learn more about what goes on in the department. This year's talks are on **Friday February 8**, from 2 to 4 PM, in 805 Altschul. Please come, whether you might be looking for a summer internship here or not. Juniors considering a senior thesis next year are expected to attend. Invite others as well: first-years and sophomores interested in chemistry and biochemistry are also most welcome. Refreshments will be served.

**Spring Luncheon.** The traditional spring luncheon for chemistry and biochemistry majors and staff is on **Friday, April 4**. Our guest and speaker will be **Megan Núñez**, a bioorganic chemist from Mt. Holyoke College. A graduate of Smith College, Prof. Núñez received her Ph.D. in 2001 from Caltech, where she worked in the research group of Jackie Barton BC'74. Mark your calendars now! We always enjoy this opportunity for an informal gathering.

**Barnard Chemistry Society.** Senior **Mira Atanassova** is the enthusiastic organizer of this student chemistry club. They welcome anyone who is interested in planning, organizing, and executing activities. This fall, they again celebrated National Chemistry Week with a fun kids-oriented activity booth at the National Hall of Science in Queens. If interested, speak to Mira or see the web page <http://www.barnard.edu/chem/BCS%20WebSite/Homepage.htm>

**Rooms 804 and 806** are used for a variety of chemistry classes, office hours, help sessions, group meetings etc. The schedules are posted on the doors. You are welcome to use these rooms for grading, study, or small group meetings when they are not otherwise scheduled. Speak to Prof. Chapman or to Erika Hawthorne if you wish to reserve one of these rooms.

**Computer Room.** We remind you of the policies governing the use of the chemistry computer room, 613 Altschul. Students doing chemistry have priority on these machines, but you may use them for other work if no one else needs them. Always be careful about security: when you borrow the key, you are responsible for the equipment. Never leave the room open and empty, even for a minute. Do not install software on these machines without the permission of a faculty member, and never open attachments unless you are absolutely sure they are legitimate. *Food and drink are absolutely prohibited in this room.* Violators will be denied access! If a computer or printer is not working right, please fill out a form and/or tell a faculty member.

**Bulletin Boards.** We receive many notices about seminars, graduate schools, and job opportunities (summer and permanent). On the *8th floor* look for notices of seminars, full and part-time jobs, and summer opportunities. On the *7th floor*, you will find selected graduate and professional school posters. Notices of special interest to majors may also be posted on the chemistry board opposite the elevators in the lobby. Also check the department's web site.

**Graduate and Professional School and Jobs.** We are mailed lots of posters and pamphlets about graduate and professional schools. These are filed in room 804, in the wire bins on the bottom shelf of the bookcases. Feel free to browse. The *Directory of Graduate Research* (DGR) of the American Chemical Society (ACS) is also there; it is very useful for comparing programs. An on-line version of the DGR (<http://dgr.rints.com/>) and the ACS Guide to Graduate Study (<http://acswebcontent.acs.org/education/cpt/graduate/index.html>) are also informative. The ACS web site also has much useful information about jobs and careers in chemistry.

**Summer internships.** There are many summer opportunities for chemistry students, both here and elsewhere. Some colleges and universities have REU (Research Experiences for Undergraduates) programs, sponsored by the NSF (National Science Foundation). Often they are looking for rising seniors, but some programs are open to those finishing sophomore year as well. Come to the talks on Friday February 8 to hear about opportunities in our department. A web site listing many opportunities in science is maintained through the college's Howard Hughes program: ([http://www.barnard.edu/hssp/Internship%20website/science\\_internships.dwt](http://www.barnard.edu/hssp/Internship%20website/science_internships.dwt)). Also check the 8<sup>th</sup> floor bulletin board. Notices will continue to arrive for the next months. Some application deadlines are as early as February, others are later, so check back frequently.

**Student Jobs.** If you are doing a new or different job in the department this semester, you need to fill out a new contract. Molly Gill (504A Altschul) signs contracts and processes all timesheets. If yours is a continuing job with the same salary, then a new contract is *not* required.

**Tutors.** Sometimes I receive phone calls from parents seeking chemistry tutors for their high school children. Students in courses here also often request tutors. It can be an interesting challenge, and a good source of income. If you would like me to refer you, please tell me!

**A final note.** My door (802 Altschul) is almost always open, and I welcome you if you have any questions or problems. I cannot promise to fix everything, but I will do what I can, and I do like to know about any problems, concerns, or suggestions you have. If you need to speak privately, just say so. We are looking forward to a good spring semester for us all!