

## Chemistry Professional Development Organization (CPDO) Newsletter

### About CPDO

CPDO was founded this year to enhance the professional development opportunities available to chemistry and chemistry-affiliated graduate students and postdocs from diverse backgrounds. Based on data from the spring's graduate student and postdoc survey, info sessions, and ongoing evaluations, we have developed programs within three broad areas related to professional development:

- ◆ Career options exploration
- ◆ Professional skill development
- ◆ Community, communication, & resource building

This newsletter highlights recent CPDO events within these categories and provides a preview of exciting things to come.

### Preparation for Academic Job Searches

CPDO collaborated with Prof. Banaszak Holl and the Michigan Postdoctoral Fellows Program to host a pair of skill-development events.



- ◆ In August, a faculty panel discussed the process of applying for tenure-track academic jobs at Ph.D.-granting institutions like UM. Profs. Bartlett, Fierke, and Montgomery shared their perspectives with the 40 audience members, explaining and answering questions about all aspects of the process—from identifying open positions to negotiating once an offer has been made.
- ◆ In September, department postdocs Joseph Wallace and Gurjit Mandair each acted as candidates interviewing for a tenure-track faculty position at a research-intensive university and gave short 'mock' faculty candidate talks on one of their planned research projects. Profs. Banaszak Holl, Chen, and Fierke were the mock faculty audience and provided insightful feedback and advice to the speakers and the 63 attendees, helping to demystify this aspect of the academic job search process.

### Join CPDO!

Are there other professional development events you want to see? Would you like to meet chemists from outside of UM, learn valuable networking and management skills, and give back to the department? *If so, you should consider joining CPDO!* We are looking for new members to start one year terms in Jan. 2010. Check your email for an announcement and info on our Open House (Dec. 4th, 12-1:30 PM, Chemistry A859) for those interested in learning more.

### Career Exploration Series

In response to many requests for career exploration opportunities, we have hosted a series of events.

- ◆ July's panel featured four department postdocs on the verge of departing for their new faculty jobs at different kinds of universities. Drs. Gabe Hanna, Liz McDowell, Hung Nguyen, and Sam Pazicni shared their successful academic job search stories.
- ◆ The August topic focused on faculty positions at schools outside the "Research I" world of UM. Profs. Deborah Heyl-Clegg (Eastern Michigan), Tom Kuntzleman (Spring Arbor), Keith McCleary (Adrian), and Christopher Rohlman (Albion) gave advice to the 50 audience members on preparing for careers at teaching-focused institutions and shared their insights on teaching, chemical education, research, and community outreach.
- ◆ In October, Dr. Debra Rolison (Naval Research Lab) gave a seminar on careers in federal research and discussed the wide variety of career paths she and her colleagues have pursued in government.
- ◆ In November, Drs. Lidaris San Miguel Rivera (Dow), Catherine Summers (Sankyo Pharma), Chris Whitehead (ex-Pfizer, now UM MBA), and Peter Wuts (Kalexsyn) shared their perspectives on different kinds of chemistry-related companies and the variety of career paths available in industry.



### Networking Events

Professional development includes building communication skills and networking with fellow students, postdocs, and faculty members. Since one of our goals is to foster communication and an open, collaborative environment in the department, we periodically sponsor informal events to facilitate networking among those who may not have other opportunities to interact. Our well-attended events have included a pizza lunch (June), ice cream social (July), and continental breakfast (November). We encourage everyone to attend these events and connect with colleagues you don't often get to see.



### Did you know?

- ◆ Our planned Winter 2010 events include:
  - *Jan. 25th*: Seminar visit by Dr. Kathryn Beers, National Institute of Standards & Technology
  - *Feb. 19th*: Seminar visit by Prof. Elsa Reichmanis, Georgia Tech (formerly at Bell Labs)
  - *April*: Negotiation skills workshop (tentative)
  - *May 20th*: Seminar visit by Prof. Catalina Achim, Carnegie Mellon
  - Other career exploration, skill-building, and networking sessions
- ◆ During the Winter semester, we will be working with the Student Services and Computer Support offices to develop a section of the department website with a variety of resources for graduate students and postdocs.
- ◆ Many resources from our events (podcasts of selected presentations, copies of handouts) can be found on the CPDO-Public section of CTools (<http://ctools.umich.edu>).
- ◆ You can email questions or suggestions to [chempdo2009@umich.edu](mailto:chempdo2009@umich.edu).

### Visiting Chemist Seminar Series

CPDO invites external role models to present a traditional department seminar and to spend much of their visit talking with students and postdocs about topics complementary to research. Our first of several such speakers, Prof. Rigoberto Hernandez (Georgia Tech), visited the department in October. As part of his visit, he discussed balancing research and other components of an academic career, touched on diversity in academic settings, and met one-on-one with students as an outside mentor.



### CPDO Members

- ◆ Alana Canfield (graduate student, Brooks lab)
- ◆ Valerie Cwynar (postdoc, Vedejs lab)
- ◆ Xiaomu Guan (graduate student, Fierke lab)
- ◆ Corissa Lamphear (graduate student, Fierke lab)
- ◆ Xin Liu (graduate student, Fierke lab)
- ◆ Rosalynn Quiñones (postdoc, Matzger lab)
- ◆ Shannon Watt (postdoc, Chen lab)
- ◆ Terry Watt (postdoc, Fierke lab)



### Thanks to CPDO supporters!

CPDO would like to thank the faculty and staff for their help, support, and efforts on behalf of CPDO, particularly:

- ◆ Mike Kelly, Jeff Green, Michelle Beaudry, and everyone in the Business office;
- ◆ the Student Services and Administration offices; and
- ◆ Professors Banaszak, Holl, Fierke, and McNeil.