

UTC CHEM CONNECTION

SUMMER 2011

Newsletter for the Department of Chemistry at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Connection: The importance of chemistry is widely recognized, and the year 2011 has been designated by the UN as the “International Year of Chemistry.” We are grateful for that general recognition of chemistry and particularly grateful that you recognize the importance of the Department of Chemistry at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. I want to thank you for your connection to us and your support and give you an update of departmental happenings. Tom Rybolt, Head Dept of Chemistry



Back in Grote Hall: The Chemistry Department moved offices and select labs to temporary modular buildings in August 2008. We moved back into the newly renovated Grote Hall in September 2010 and we now occupy the third and fourth floors. The third floor contains the general chemistry lab, biochemistry lab, two classrooms, 24-computer station computer lab, student room, and student lounge/study area. The fourth floor has the Organic lab, Quantitative Analysis, Instrument lab, NMR, expanded space for research students, an advanced research instrument lab, seminar room, and classroom. The main department office is on the third floor along with most of the faculty offices. The Department of Physics and Geology is now located on the first and second floors, and some new Environmental Studies/Biology labs are on the first floor.

Improvements: The conclusion of this eight million dollar, state-funded renovation of Grote Hall is an exciting time of opportunity and challenge for us in the Department of Chemistry. We have new classrooms, new teaching labs, an extensive space for research activities with students, a new larger general chemistry lab room, an organic lab with all students working in hoods, a new centralized instrument lab, a computer lab, and a number of significant improvements in laboratory appearance, function, and safety.

News and More (click on items below for more information and pictures):

[Pictures of new chemistry labs and rooms in Grote Hall](#)

[Grant receives National Chemistry Award for undergraduate research](#)

[Grote Scholar and chemistry major Tyson Ward to return to campus after recovering from boating accident and coma](#)

[Ben Gross \(retired\) celebrated renovation of Grote Hall and History of Department at 23rd annual Department of Chemistry Awards Banquet](#)

[Potts research students studying electronic cigarettes and cigarette litter](#)

Sherlock Holmes chemical mysteries by Waddell (retired) and Rybolt featured in the inaugural virtual issue of the Journal of Chemical Education

UTC commencement address to December 2010 Graduates given by Symes

Grant along with Kim and Knight secure funding for Benchtop X-ray Diffractometer

Symes recipient of 2010 UT Alumni Association's Outstanding Teacher Award

Additional Faculty News

Student presentations at professional meetings

Alumni News (miscellaneous updates past students have shared with us)

To share news with us go to <http://www.utc.edu/chemistry> and select "Alumni"



Students: We taught 2200 lab students during the most recent academic year. Also, in 2009-10 we had 32 graduates and in 2010-11 we had 28 graduates complete their chemistry degrees. Among our recent graduates, we have had students go on to professional schools in pharmacy, dentistry, engineering, nursing, and seven of last year's chemistry graduates entered medical school. Still others continued on to graduate schools to pursue MS or PhD degrees in chemical or biochemical areas. Other graduates proceeded directly to industrial employment or teaching.

Future: We are excited to have an improved physical space to more closely fit our needs, glad (and challenged) to have many students taking chemistry classes, and proud of our graduates. We seek to serve the educational needs of our students in lectures, laboratories, and research. Should you have any questions about future donations to UTC or if you wish to make a donation to the department you can specify the "Chemistry Gift Fund." Click on [UTC Development](#). If you would like more information about the department, please see our website <http://www.utc.edu/chemistry> and if you want more pictures or past newsletters, then from our website select the option "News and Pictures."

