

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH FOR HORIZONTAL MENTORING ALLIANCES

NEWS AROUND THE ALLIANCE NETWORK

HONORS, AWARDS, AND LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2008-2009

Endowed Professorships

Professor Sunhee Choi in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at **Middlebury College (Alliance #1)** recently received an endowed professorship and was named the John G. McCullough Professor of Chemistry. For the full announcement, see http://www.middlebury.edu/about/pubaff/news_releases/2008/pubaff_633578651329940919.htm

Professor Miriam Rossi in the Department of Chemistry at **Vassar College (Alliance #1)** recently received an endowed professorship and was named the Mary Landon Sague Professor of Chemistry. This professorship is named in honor of Mary Landon Sague, a Vassar alumnus and a professor in the chemistry department from 1908-1952, who served as chair from 1924-1951.

Professor Kerry K. Karukstis, in the Department of Chemistry, Harvey Mudd College (**Alliance #1**), was selected as the Joseph B. Platt Chair in Effective Teaching. The Platt Chair, named in honor of the founding president of Harvey Mudd College, recognizes a faculty member who has ‘demonstrated both personal effectiveness in teaching and a passion to promote effective teaching in others’. For the full announcement, see <http://www.hmc.edu/newsandevents/facultyhonors.html>

Professor Julie T. Millard, in the Department of Chemistry, Colby College (**Alliance #2**), was awarded The Dr. Gerald and Myra Dorros Chair in Life Sciences, established in 1996 by Gerald and Myra Dorros P'93 '96 '98 '01.

Teaching Awards

Professor Laura Wright in the Department of Chemistry at **Furman University (Alliance #1)** received the Alester G. Furman, Jr. and Janie Earle Furman Award for Meritorious Teaching at the 2009 Commencement Exercises in May. For the full announcement see http://www.furman.edu/press/pressarchive.cfm?story=s_274140_2892120_3933377

Professor Laura Wright



Service Awards

Professor Bridget Gourley, chair of the Department of Chemistry at **DePauw University (Alliance #1)** is the recipient of the inaugural G. Bromley Oxnam Award for Service. The award is named in honor of DePauw's 13th president and is a gift to the University from Neal B. Abraham, executive vice president, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty.

Abraham says that he recommended Gourley for the award to recognize, "her career-long support of programs for women in science locally, regionally and nationally and for her career-long support for research at predominantly undergraduate institutions and research with undergraduates." For the full announcement, see

<http://www.depauw.edu/news/?id=23561>

Professor Bridget Gourley with DePauw Dean Abraham and President Casey



Professor Anne Cox in the Department of Physics at Eckerd College (**Alliance #4**) was recognized by the American Association of Physics Teachers with a Distinguished Service Citation at its Summer 2008 meeting at the University of Alberta. Distinguished Service Citations are given to those who have rendered outstanding service to AAPT and the physics education community.

Professor Anne Cox



Leadership Activities

Professor Jill Granger in the Department of Chemistry at Sweet Briar College (**Alliance #3**) is one of the co-organizers of the Eleventh Annual Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference of Undergraduate Scholarship to be held at Sweet Briar College on Saturday, October 10, 2009. The MARCUS Conference is devoted exclusively to the scholarship and research activities of undergraduate students.

Professor Laura Wright in the Department of Chemistry, Furman University (**Alliance #1**) continues to serve as the 2009 Chair of the Western Carolinas Section of the American Chemical Society. **Professor Laura Wright** also is working to raise her institution's awareness of the lack of women science faculty at Furman. An article describing her efforts "Faculty strives to overcome Furman's glass ceiling" is available in the college publication *The Paladin* at <http://www.thefurmanpaladin.com/news/2009/02/06/>.

Professor Miriam Rossi in the Department of Chemistry at Vassar College (**Alliance #1**) was re-elected for a two-year term (2008-2010) on the US National Committee for Crystallography.

Professor Bridget Gourley in the Department of Chemistry, DePauw University (**Alliance #1**) and **Professor Kerry Karukstis** in the Department of Chemistry, Harvey Mudd College (**Alliance #1**) continue to serve as the Secretary and Immediate Past President of the Council on Undergraduate Research.

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

Professor Sunhee Choi in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Middlebury College (Alliance #1) was the invited speaker at several regional, national, and international venues throughout the year. Her presentations included:

- "Stories of Platinum Anticancer Drugs" at the Department of Chemistry, Southwestern University, Georgetown, TX, March 26, 2008.
- "Oxidation of DNA by Pt(IV) Complexes" at the 4th Asian Biological Inorganic Chemistry Conference, Jeju, Korea, November 10-13, 2008.
- "Mechanism and Kinetics of Oxidation of DNA by Pt(IV) Complexes" at the Department of Chemistry, Seoul National University, November 17, 2008.
- "Stories behind the discoveries of an anticancer drug, cisplatin and the structures of DNA" at the Vermont Academy, December 5, 2008.



Choi at the ASBIC IV

Congratulations are also extended to Professor Choi for the receipt of a recent NSF-RUI grant for her project: Oxidation of Purine Derivatives Coordinated to Pt(IV) and Ru(III) Complexes

Keynote Addresses

Professor Nancy Mills in the Department of Chemistry, Trinity University (**Alliance #2**) gave the keynote address at the fall initiation ceremony of the Lanthanum Chapter of Iota Sigma Pi, the national honor society of women in chemistry, on Monday, November 17, 2008 at Sweet Briar College. The ceremony also marked the 10th anniversary of the Lynchburg, Va.-area chapter, which is made up of students from Sweet Briar, Randolph College and Lynchburg College. Sweet Briar College is the home campus of **Dr. Jill Nelson Granger**, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Professor, Department of Chemistry, Sweet Briar College (**Alliance #3**). The full story is available at <http://sbc.edu/news/?id=2790>

Professor Julie Millard in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at **Colby College (Alliance #2)** participated in the keynote address at the Undergraduate Research Symposium at Colby College, April 29-May 1. She discussed her experiences as a teacher-scholar working closely with students in their research.

Professor Kerry Karukstis in the Department of Chemistry at **Harvey Mudd College (Alliance #1)** gave the keynote address for the Harvey Mudd College 2009 Presentation Days. Her talk was entitled: "Taking Undergraduate Research from Good to GREAT: Pivotal Junctures in the Undergraduate Research Enterprise." The abstract is available in the Presentation Days program at <http://www.hmc.edu/files/DoF/PresDays2009Prog6.pdf>.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Professor Carol Ann Miderski in **the Department of Chemistry at Catawba College (Alliance #3)** and her students in her Chemistry in Art class were showcased at a Project Expo in Catawba's Lilly Center. For the complete story see http://www.catawba.edu/news/archive/2008/05/13/chemistry_art.aspx

Professor Jill Granger from the Chemistry Department at **Sweet Briar College** and **Professor Ruth Beeston** from the Chemistry Department at **Davidson College** (both **Alliance #2**) co-taught in the Sweet Briar College Science and Math by Inquiry Program focused on Inquiry Approaches to Math and Science: Grades 3-8. Jill is co-director of this professional development program for third-through-eighth grade math and science teachers. The 10-year-old program is funded by a grant from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. Jill and Ruth co-taught a course entitled “*Chemistry by Inquiry: Art and Science*”. Jill also taught courses on the topics of “*Physical Science by Inquiry: Light and Energy*” and “*Inquiry Methods in Math and Science*”.

Professor Amy Bug in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Swarthmore College (**Alliance #4**) recently presented in the Focus Session: Incorporating Computational Physics into Teaching at the March Meeting of the American Physical Society. Her talk with co-author Jen Trinh was entitled: “Easy Java Simulations (EJS) enhances traditional learning in freshman mechanics”.

Professor Barbara Whitten in the Department of Physics, Colorado College (**Alliance #4**) co-authored the article “The Energy Retrofit of a Building: A Journey Through Bloom’s Learning Domains” in the May 2009 issue of the Journal of College Science Teaching.

Alliance Members Recent Contributions to Women & Science

Professor Amy Bug in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Swarthmore College (**Alliance #4**) was a feature speaker at West Chester University’s Celebration of 40 Years of Women’s Studies on November 5, 2008. She participated in a panel discussion on current and emerging issues in women’s studies that are shaping its future.

Professor Barbara Whitten in the Department of Physics at Colorado College (**Alliance #4**) was a feature speaker at the Annual Conference of the National Women’s Studies Association. She participated in a panel discussion on the topic “Resisting the Hegemony of White Male Science: Gender and Race, Myths and Beliefs in Scientific Research”.

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