

# The Pathway

A NEWSLETTER FOR UNDERGRADUATE CHEMISTRY MAJORS  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AT AMHERST

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## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT MAIL BOXES ASSIGNED

Mail boxes for intradepartment communications have been assigned to undergraduate chemistry majors. The mail slots are located in Goessmann Laboratory opposite room 154. All students, particularly seniors, are encouraged to check their mail boxes frequently. Among other items, notices of two very attractive employment opportunities have been distributed to seniors via the mail boxes. Any undergraduate student who does not have an assigned mail box should report the fact to Prof. Wynne, GSMN 244.

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BULLETIN BOARD

Undergraduate students are strongly encouraged to check the undergraduate student bulletin board frequently. Efforts are made to keep the contents of this bulletin board informative and current. Posted are many nuggets of information, including permanent and summer jobs, research opportunities, meetings of special interest, graduate school announcements, cooperative and work study positions, internships, and course advisories.

The bulletin board is located in Goessmann Laboratory opposite rooms 146 and 147, around the corner from the undergraduate student mail boxes.

## CHEMISTS' SALARIES UP, UNEMPLOYMENT LOW

Chemists' salaries increased 6% from 1987 to 1988. An ACS Salary Survey ("Chemical and Engineering News", July 4, 1988, pp. 39-44), based on data as of March 1, 1988, reports that the median starting salary of bachelors chemists was \$24 K. Ten percent of bachelors chemists started at salaries greater than \$29.6 K. The median salary of bachelors chemists with 10-14 years of experience was \$37.5 K. The petroleum industry and chemical producers offer the highest salaries. Only 1.0% of ACS members looking for work were unemployed.

UMASS SENIORS PARTICIPATE IN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Ellen Goldman and Bruce Lerner, both of the class of '88, presented undergraduate research papers at the Connecticut Valley Section American Chemical Society Symposium. The Symposium was held on Saturday, April 23, 1988, at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain.

DR. BEATRICE BOTCH NAMED DIRECTOR OF CHEMISTRY RESOURCE CENTER

Dr. Beatrice H. Botch has joined the Chemistry Department as Director of the Chemistry Resource Center and Lecturer.

A native of Rock Island, Illinois, Dr. Botch earned a B.A. in Chemistry from Barat College in Lake Forest, Illinois, in 1975. In 1981, she received a Ph.D. in theoretical physical chemistry from Michigan State University, where she was named a Merit Level Teaching Assistant. During her tenure at MSU, she was awarded a three year fellowship at the Argonne National Laboratory in Chicago, where she completed her Ph.D. research.



In 1981-82, Dr. Botch held a post-doctoral appointment in theoretical physical chemistry at the California Institute of Technology. Subsequently, she joined the faculty of Southwest State University in Marshall, Minnesota, from 1982 to 1984. At SSU she taught general chemistry, nursing chemistry, and consumer chemistry. In 1984, Dr. Botch moved to Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, where she was a member of the faculty until 1988. Her activities included teaching general chemistry, consumer chemistry, and physical chemistry, as well as the coordination of the placement of undergraduate chemistry majors in summer research positions. At Wittenberg, she was named a Merit Level Teacher.

At UMass, Dr. Botch will not only serve as Director of the Chemistry Resource Center, she will also teach CHEM 111 and 112. She looks forward to participating in her three favorite extracurricular activities, bicycling, birding, and hiking.

### ALUMNI CAREER FORUM A GREAT SUCCESS

The first Rossmann Chemistry Alumni Career Forum, sponsored by CUSA and held on April 20, 1988, was deemed a great success by the undergraduate students who attended. Donald Donovan '89 was the event chairperson. The Forum, which started at 8:00 PM, had to be terminated by executive decree at 11:00 PM, at which time the panelists and students were still in active discussion.

The panel included UMass graduates Kirk Grim '75, Product Manager, Bio-Rad Digilab Division, Cambridge, MA, Eric Gundersen '86, Research Assistant, Wyeth Ayerst Research, Princeton, NJ, and Dr. Frank Plankey '71, Chief Engineer for Analytical Instrumentation, Baird Corp., Bedford, MA. Dr. Plankey commented not only on his current activities but also on his earlier experiences as a chemistry professor at the University of Pittsburgh.

Most of the funding required for the Career Forum was provided by the Alumni Association and administered by the University Career Center. Part of the cost was borne by the Chemistry Department.

A Career Forum during the current academic year was planned and, indeed, two panelists have already been signed up. Alas, it was recently learned that the Alumni Association's budget does not allow it to fund a Career Forum in a single department in two consecutive years. So, like many sports fans, the watchword is "Wait 'till next year!"

### NUMBER OF CHEMISTRY BACHELORS GRADUATES SHOWS DECREASE

The number of bachelors chemistry graduates in 1987, the last year for which data are available, decreased 4.9% from the number of 1986 graduates. The 1897 annual report of the ACS Committee on Professional Training (CPT) ("Chemical and Engineering News", July 4, 1988, pp. 49-58) notes that the 582 schools reporting in 1987 graduated 8,838 bachelors chemists, 3,257 women and 5,581 men. 41% of the baccalaureate graduates received ACS certification. To be certified, a graduate must have completed the curriculum specified by the CPT. Certified graduates are eligible for full ACS membership. Noncertified graduates may become associate members of the ACS and full members after three years experience or upon receipt of a higher degree in a chemical science.

In 1987, UMass/Amherst awarded bachelors degrees in chemistry to 22 graduates, 15 of whom were certified. As a matter of interest, MIT graduated 39 bachelors chemists, all of whom were certified; Harvard graduated 22, none of whom were certified. Indiana University, with 128 graduates (23 certified), boasted the highest number.

#### PROCTER & GAMBLE TO OFFER SHORT COURSE AT FACSS MEETING

The Procter & Gamble Company has announced that it will present its short course "Industrial Analytical Chemistry" on November 1 at the Boston meeting of the Federation of Analytical Chemistry and Spectroscopy Societies (FACSS). The meeting will be held at the Hynes Convention Center from October 30 to November 4. The course will run from 9:00 AM to about 4:00 PM on Tuesday. There is no fee for the course and undergraduate students do not have to register for the meeting.

The course attempts to give a realistic picture of what is done in industry. It also addresses issues such as salaries, degree level, demand for analytical chemists, etc. Its primary emphasis is "The analytical chemist is a problem solver". The course has been given more than 30 times and has always received favorable to rave reviews by the undergraduate student participants.

Undergraduate students who are the least bit interested are asked to read the publicity on the undergraduate student bulletin board. Students who wish to participate are asked to contact either Prof. Voigtman, GSMN 133 (5-0293), or Prof. Wynne, GSMN 244 (5-2585).

#### CUSA NOTES AND ACTIVITIES

The 1988-89 CUSA officers are President Andrew Gelasco '90. Vice President Bob Gillis '89, Treasurer Paul West '89, and Secretary Sepideh Khorasanizadeh '90.

The first CUSA meeting of the 1988-89 academic year was held on Wednesday, September 14. This was an organizational meeting.

On October 6, Ms. Ginger Goldsbury of the University Career Center visited CUSA to discuss career options, resume preparation, job searching, and other undergraduate student career services provided by the UMass Career Center. The title of her presentation was "How the University Placement Office Can Help in Your Job Search".

A field trip to Poly Plating in Chicopee is in the planning stage. Alternatively, a presentation at UMass by the President and founder of Poly Plating may be arranged. Watch the bulletin board for further details.

RESOURCE CENTER TO INCLUDE LITERATURE OF INTEREST

Starting in the current semester, literature of interest to undergraduate students will be included in the Chemistry Resource Center. Available as of now are:

current issues of Chemical and Engineering News  
current issues of the Journal of Chemical Education  
graduate school brochures  
industrial information

Items of interest will be added to the collection as they are received.

The Resource Center will be open to students who wish to use the collection on:

Monday	1:00 PM - 9:30 PM
Tuesday	1:00 PM - 9:30 PM
Wednesday	1:00 PM - 9:30 PM
Thursday	1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

RESOURCE CENTER SEEKS STUDENT STAFF

The Chemistry Resource Center needs students to help with a variety of tasks from tutoring to keyboarding. Resource Center activity offers the student a tremendous opportunity to strengthen his/her background, as well as a chance to "earn while you learn". The pay scale is between \$5 and \$6 per hour. Interested students should contact either Dr. Beatrice Botch, GSMN 149F (5-4257) or Dr. Dorothy Barnes, GSMN 149E (5-2159).

CIRCULATION NOTE

"The Pathway" is distributed to all chemistry undergraduate students, faculty, and staff members. This issue has been distributed to chemistry graduate students, as well. Graduate students who wish to receive future issues must notify Kristina Schmid, GSMN 150.

A University Placement Service brochure entitled "Where in the World do You Want to Land After Graduation?" is attached to all copies of this issue of "The Pathway" distributed to undergraduate students.