

## Chemistry Professional Development Organization (CPDO) Newsletter

### About CPDO

CPDO was founded in May 2009 to enhance the professional development opportunities available to chemistry and chemistry-affiliated graduate students and postdocs from diverse backgrounds. Based on data from the graduate student and postdoc survey in Winter 2009, 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.

### Skill Development Series

#### Recent Events:

- ◆ In March, we collaborated with the CRLT Players to hold an interactive theater event, which focused on improving communication in advisor-advisee relationships and research group dynamics.
- ◆ In April, Drs. Jane Tucker and Barbara Butterfield led a Negotiation Skills Workshop that taught negotiation and conflict-resolution skills. It included an overview of key elements of negotiation, strategies for approaching negotiations, and an assessment of personal conflict resolution style.



#### Previous Events:

- ◆ August 2009: a faculty panel discussed the process of applying for tenure-track academic jobs at Ph.D.-granting institutions like UM.
- ◆ September 2009: two postdocs acted as candidates interviewing for a tenure-track faculty position at a research-intensive university and gave short 'mock' faculty candidate talks.

### 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 May 2010. Check your email for an announcement and info on an upcoming Open House for those interested in learning more.

### New CPDO Website

Check out our new CPDO website: <http://www.umich.edu/~chempdo>. Here you'll find information about us, our upcoming events, and useful departmental, campus, and career resource links.

### Career Exploration Series

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

#### Recent Events:

- ◆ In February, Dr. Paul Rauch (Evan Law Group, Chicago) gave a presentation and answered questions on careers in patent law.
- ◆ The CPDO seminar speakers (see next page) have also discussed academic, industrial, and government sector career options, as well as additional professional activities.

#### Previous Events:

- ◆ July 2009: a panel featuring four department postdocs on the verge of departing for their new faculty jobs at different kinds of universities shared their successful academic job search stories.
- ◆ August 2009: Faculty from schools outside the "Research I" world gave advice on preparing for careers at teaching-focused institutions and shared their insights on teaching, chemical education, research, and community outreach.
- ◆ October 2009: Dr. Debra Rolison (Naval Research Lab) gave a seminar on careers in federal research and discussed the wide variety of career paths in government.
- ◆ November 2009: Four panelists from local companies shared their perspectives on different types 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), continental breakfast (November), and ice cream float social (March). We encourage everyone to attend these events and connect with colleagues you don't often get to see.



### Did you know?

- ◆ Our planned upcoming events include:
  - *May 13th*: CPDO Open House
  - *May 20th*: Seminar visit by Prof. Catalina Achim, Carnegie Mellon
  - *May 24th*: Seminar visit by Prof. Andrea Liu, University of Pennsylvania
  - *June 10th*: Dr. Kate Hughes of the National Academies speaks about science policy
  - *June or July*: Job Panel – get advice on navigating the job market from your fellow colleagues who have recently obtained job offers
  - Other career exploration, skill-building, and networking sessions
- ◆ Check out our new CPDO website: <http://www.umich.edu/~chempdo> ! Here you'll find more information about us, our schedule, and useful departmental, campus, and career resource links.
- ◆ Additionally, 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>).

### 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 speaker, 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.
- ◆ In January, Dr. Kathryn Beers (NIST) discussed careers in the government sector, work-life balance, and opportunities for taking an active role in government policy.
- ◆ In February, Dr. Elsa Reichmanis (Georgia Tech) presented a department seminar and gave insight into and highlighted comparisons between academic and industrial careers from her personal experiences. In addition, she discussed the role of service in any career and opportunities within the American Chemical Society.

### Current CPDO Members

- ◆ Carlos Baiz (graduate student, Kubarych lab)
- ◆ Forest Bohrer (postdoc, Zellers lab)
- ◆ Alana Canfield (graduate student, Brooks lab)
- ◆ Jing Chen (graduate student, McNeil lab)
- ◆ Xiaomu Guan (graduate student, Fierke lab)
- ◆ Corissa Lamphear (graduate student, Fierke lab)
- ◆ Se Ryeon Lee (graduate student, McNeil lab)
- ◆ Xin Liu (graduate student, Fierke lab)
- ◆ Cheryl Moy (graduate student, McNeil lab)
- ◆ Rosalynn Quiñones (postdoc, Matzger lab)
- ◆ Shannon Watt (postdoc, Chen lab)
- ◆ Terry Watt (postdoc, Fierke lab)
- ◆ Wen Zhou (graduate student, Hakansson lab)

### Thanks to CPDO supporters!

CPDO would like to thank all former CPDO members and 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;
- ◆ Agnes Soderbeck and the IT Support office;
- ◆ the Student Services and Administration offices; and
- ◆ Professors Banaszak Holl, Fierke, and McNeil.