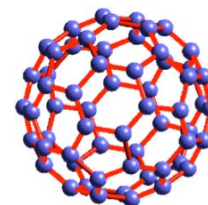




BARNARD COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

MEMORANDUM



To: Current and Prospective Chemistry and Biochemistry Majors

From: Christian Rojas, Chair

Re: Welcome Back for Spring Semester 2012

Date: January 17, 2012

Welcome Back. With our students back on campus, we look forward to a semester-full of chemistry!

New Assistant Professor of Chemistry Hire. Following an intensive search during the fall semester and visits to the department by five finalists, we are delighted to announce that we have hired **Dr. Andrew C. Crowther**, currently a postdoctoral fellow in the Columbia University chemistry department. Andrew will start as Assistant Professor at Barnard in July 2012. He is a physical chemist whose research interests include the chemistry of graphene, the two-dimensional, all-carbon structure. Andrew obtained his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin, where he worked with Professor F. Fleming Crim doing detailed spectroscopic studies on CN radicals. As a postdoc, Andrew is working with Professor Louis Brus at Columbia to characterize the effect of halogens and nitrogen dioxide on the structure and activity of graphene layers. Andrew also spent time in Washington D.C. as a science and technology policy fellow at the National Academies. At Barnard, Andrew plans to use spectroscopy to study how the chemical modification of graphene affects its properties. This work could result in graphene derivatives having unique attributes for applications in areas such as molecular electronics. Besides getting his research effort underway, Andrew will be teaching Quantum Chemistry and the Integrated I Laboratory in Fall 2012. Because he is currently at Columbia, you may see Andrew around the department from time to time this spring. Please join me in welcoming him to Barnard.

A special thank you to all students who participated in our search last semester by attending talks and meeting with the candidates. Your feedback was extremely useful and carefully considered. We deeply appreciate your willingness to participate in this crucial aspect of department life.

New Laboratory Associate. We are very happy to have **Christine Musich (BC '02)** back in the department this spring as a Lab Associate in the Organic Chemistry Laboratory. Christine earned a Master's in organic chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley and then worked in the pharmaceutical industry at Pfizer. She has also taught in Rome, Italy. We are fortunate to have her teaching in the organic lab this spring. Welcome back to Barnard, Christine.

Major Declaration. Spring is the traditional time to declare a major if you are a sophomore. The schedule for declaring a major has been moved earlier in the semester; the last day to declare is March 1. We are hoping that those of you who have been prospective majors thus far will decide to join the department. If you have any questions at all about majoring in chemistry or biochemistry, please talk to any member of the department.

Summer Research. The season for making summer research plans is here. There are summer research opportunities for undergraduates at Barnard, at Columbia, and at just about every university in the country. At Barnard, faculty will give brief talks on their research on Friday, February 3, 2:00–4:00 PM in Altschul 805 (refreshments will be served). Interested students can then apply to do summer research here. Look for further information in announcements to be

posted soon around the department and on the department website. The department website also has links to some of the many, many summer undergraduate research programs available throughout the United States and even abroad (<http://chemistry.barnard.edu/research>). Another web resource is <http://barnard.edu/hssp/barnard-student/internship-opportunities/summer>, a site maintained through Barnard's Howard Hughes Science Pipeline Project. If you are interested in summer research, apply to a variety of programs, because, unfortunately, we are not always able to accommodate all students who want to do summer research at Barnard. Note that application deadlines come up fast (late January and early February even), and programs often require letters of recommendation. Summer research programs typically offer a decent stipend (around \$4,200 for a ten-week program), and housing and travel expenses are often covered.

Spring Luncheon. Please mark your calendars for the chemistry department spring program planning meeting and luncheon, Friday April 6, from 12:00–2:00 PM in Sulzberger Parlor on the 3rd floor of Barnard Hall. For students considering a biochemistry or chemistry major, the luncheon is an excellent opportunity to meet current majors in the department and to ask questions of fellow students and faculty. We are tentatively planning to have **Dr. Laure Bouchez** from the Novartis Institute for Biomedical Research (NIBR) in Basel, Switzerland as our speaker. Dr. Bouchez's Ph.D. training was as a synthetic organic chemist, and she did postdoctoral studies on natural product total synthesis with Alois Fürstner at the Max-Planck Institute in Mülheim, Germany. Before joining Novartis, Dr. Bouchez also did research on the biochemistry of regenerative medicine in Peter Schultz's group at The Scripps Research Institute in San Diego.

Seminar/Study Room. Room 806 is available as a study room when not otherwise in use. If you wish to reserve Altschul 806, check the schedule posted on the door and contact the Chemistry Department Administrator, **Sarah Meadows** (smeadows@barnard.edu, Altschul 608).

Computer Room. We welcome you to use the chemistry computer room, 603 Altschul. Students doing chemistry work always have priority, but you may also use the computers for other work. On occasion, a class may reserve all the machines. Do not install any software without permission of a faculty member. Never open attachments unless you are absolutely sure they are legitimate. You can save files into a folder with your name in the "Student Documents" folder; files left anywhere else will be deleted without warning. As always, it is a good idea to back up all work. Food and drink are prohibited in this room; violators will be denied access. If a computer or printer is not working properly, please tell a faculty member or Sarah Meadows. Please do not print lengthy documents unrelated to chemistry. Please clean up your workspace as you leave. Unless someone is waiting, close with **hibernate** and turn off the monitor.

Graduate and Professional School. We receive many posters and pamphlets about graduate and professional study. Many are posted around the department. The American Chemical Society's *Directory of Graduate Research* is very useful for comparing graduate programs and finding information on individual faculty. The 2011 edition of the *Directory* is available in hard copy in the computer room, Altschul 603, and online at <http://dgr.rints.com/>. Barnard chemistry faculty are also happy to speak with you and offer advice on your graduate school plans.

Jobs. If you have a work-study or Barnard job grant and are looking for placement, please speak to me or to other faculty and staff in the department; we may have job opportunities available. If you have been hired to work in the department, be sure to fill out the proper paperwork with the Office of Career Development. The forms are now filled in online. Chemistry Administrative Assistant **Molly Gill** (mgill@barnard.edu, 504A Altschul) can help answer questions about hiring logistics.

Majors' Contact Information. We need to be able to keep in touch with you. Chemistry and biochemistry majors, please e-mail Molly Gill (mgill@barnard.edu) or stop by her office (504A Altschul) to check that we have your correct (1) student mailbox number, (2) phone number, and (3) e-mail address. This is especially important if you are not listed in Barnard's on-line directory.

Pictures. We would like to have pictures of majors for our 8th floor bulletin board. If your picture is missing or if you want a new one, please stop by Molly Gill's office (504A Altschul) or e-mail her a new photo.

Tutors. Sometimes we receive phone calls and e-mail from parents seeking chemistry tutors for their high school children. Students in general chemistry and organic chemistry also often request tutors. Tutoring can be an interesting challenge and excellent review, not to mention a good source of income. If you would like me to refer your name, please let me know.

Final Notes. As always, we value your comments and advice. We are also here to try to answer your questions about classes, the major, and summer research. Please feel free to come to me or anyone else in the department. We look forward to a successful spring semester.