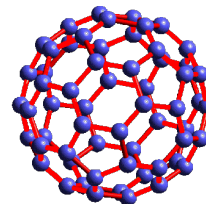




**BARNARD COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
MEMORANDUM**



To: Chemistry and Biochemistry Majors and Interested Students
From: Rachel Narehood Austin, Chair
Re: The 2020-21 Academic Year
Date: September 1, 2020

Welcome. Welcome to the fall 2020 semester. We are disappointed that the public health situation dictates that we continue to work remotely. But we respect the wisdom of a decision that prioritizes the care of others, including those in the community in which Barnard is situated, over the desire to be back on campus together. We are determined to make the best of the fall semester and are eager to work together to have a successful fall. We know that the last five months have been challenging for many people and we want to support you in any way that we can. We are looking forward to working closely with the Barnard Chemical Society this fall to foster a sense of community. See below for information about how to connect with them.

1. If you are not on the **BCS mailing list** yet, please join [here](#) to be notified of our upcoming events and ways to get involved with the group! Be on the lookout for community building opportunities and professor talks.
2. We know that this year will look different, but we think that now is an opportune time to strengthen our community of chemists and biochemists. Find us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), and most of all, please join our brand new [Facebook Group](#) for a place to converse and ~bond~ over classes and research, as well as just get to know each other through chemistry news and memes.
3. Lastly, we will be hosting our first welcome back event on **September 14th at 5pm EST**. We want to meet you, catch up about summer adventures, and look forward to the crazy new semester together. (Zoom link will be sent to the BCS email list, so make sure you are signed up!)

The BCS E-Board is made up of Mehrose Ahmad and Erika Amemiya (Co-Presidents), Michelle Lin (VP), Emily Orman (Treasurer), Nicole Townsend (Secretary), Elifsu Gencer (Social Media), Tasneem Elkoush (Prof Liaison), and Juliet Lee (Comms). They are happy to hear from you directly.

There have not been any changes in our departmental staff - we're all here. In the fall, many people will be teaching and working remotely but we're all still available by email so please reach out and be in touch.

Biochemistry search. We are not sure if we will continue our search for a biochemist this fall. There is a hiring freeze. We've requested an exemption. If we are able to search, we will hold the search remotely and will be particularly eager for student involvement. We'll reach out with more information as we get it.

Antiracism and chemistry. We have been saddened and angered by the continuing violence against black Americans and the visible signs that our society remains plagued by racism. We will work this fall to develop additional policies and programs to dismantle racism in our department and we will reach out to students to help with this work. Stay tuned for more information.

Bulletin boards. We will use the department web page chemistry.barnard.edu to post information that might previously been posted on our bulletin boards. We also send regular emails to our majors.

Graduate and professional school. Fall is the season for applying to graduate schools. We will distribute notices that we get from graduate schools. Note that many graduate programs have waived GREs for this year so please reach out for advice from us if you have questions about the application program. External fellowship and scholarship opportunities for students applying to graduate school can be found on the department website: [Student Resources](#). We also have new pathways for 4 + 1 engineering pathways that allow Barnard students to complete their undergraduate degree at Barnard and then continue onto Columbia for a 1 year masters degree program in chemical engineering. There is a similar pathway for students interested in biomedical engineering. See our web site for more <https://gradengineering.columbia.edu/graduate-admissions/apply> Beyond Barnard is also now available to help students with life outside of Barnard. If you have not yet visited the center, please find time to go over and connect with them. Professor Austin is also happy to host one or two statement writing workshops where seniors applying to graduate school can share their statements and get feedback from peers on them if there is sufficient interest. Just let me know.

Summer 2021. We are not sure what summer 2021 will bring. We are all hoping that the virus will have diminished and that there will be an effective vaccine and in person activities, including SRI and other summer research programs, will resume.

Jobs. All Barnard jobs are now posted on [Student Employment](#). If you have been hired to work in the department, you will first need to fill out I-9 and W-4 forms with the Office of Career Development (OCD) if you have not done so previously. After that, please give our Department Assistant, **Joanna Chisolm** (jchisolm@barnard.edu, Altschul 504A), the following information: your name, the job position, your primary supervisor, and the approximate number of hours/week that you will be working (not to exceed 15 hours/week). Note that there have been some new jobs created recently that can help people, especially those on work study, find jobs for the fall.

Student contact information. We pride ourselves on keeping in touch with our majors. Please e-mail Joanna Chisolm (jchisolm@barnard.edu) to check that we have your correct (1) phone number, and (2) e-mail address. This is especially important if you are not listed in Barnard's on-line directory.

Tutors. We are always looking for students who are interested in tutoring for general chemistry and organic chemistry. Tutoring is a great way to help support Barnard students interested in chemistry and an excellent way to refresh and deepen your own knowledge of chemistry. Tutoring is done for 1 hour per week for groups of 2 or 3 students. As a tutor, you can set hours that work for you and get paid. If you are interested, please apply on the Dean of Studies website.

Access Barnard The college has just rolled out a new office called [Access Barnard](#) to provide a single stop for students to get the support they need from the college. We encourage those of you who need help making this fall work to use them. Having stable internet and a quiet place in which to work can be hard things to get but really important. Please ask for the things you need to make remote learning work.

Last but not least. We, the chemistry faculty, are happy to help you if you have any questions or problems. Although we cannot always solve every problem, we will do our best. Particularly as department chair, I am here to hear about any concerns you may have. I am available to meet privately; please do not hesitate to make an appointment with me. We all are proud of our department – faculty, staff, and students – and look forward to a successful and enjoyable year together.