Welcome back. I hope you all had enjoyable, interesting, and restorative summers. On behalf of the Chemistry faculty and staff, I welcome you back for the new academic year. We had a productive and fun research-filled summer and are looking forward to another exciting year with you all. Follow us on Twitter: @Barnard_Chem!

New faces in the Chemistry Department. We happily welcome to the Chemistry Department Prof. Michael Campbell, Dr. Richard Denton, and Ms. Sohee Ki. Mike is a synthetic organometallic/materials chemist who was a Camille and Henry Dreyfus Environmental Chemistry postdoctoral fellow at MIT. He earned his Ph.D. at Harvard and B.S. at Loyola Univ. (MD). Mike’s research utilizes the tools of structural organometallic and materials chemistry to tackle diverse problems in energy, materials, life sciences, and organic synthesis. At Barnard, the Campbell group will synthesize and study new transition metal-based complexes and materials for applications including small molecule activation, catalysis for functionalization of organic substrates, and sensing. Mike’s office and research lab are 601 and 602 Altschul, respectively. Dr. Richard Denton joins the department as a Laboratory Instructional specialist. Richard most recently has taught and served as chemical hygiene officer at Hofstra University, with other teaching experience at Hunter and Medgar Evers Colleges in the CUNY system. Richard's B.Sc. is from the University of the West Indies, Ph.D. in organic chemistry from CUNY, and postdoctoral research on amidoglycosides (!) in Prof. Kathlyn Parker's lab at Stony Brook. Richard will share office space with Grace Lee in 811 Altschul. Ms. Sohee Ki is working in Prof. Rachel Austin’s group as a laboratory. Sohee is a 2016 graduate of Bates, having majored in chemistry and music (viola, voice).

We are also happy to welcome back Chemistry Department Administrator Ms. Laura Hendrickson. Laura spent the past year as a Fulbright Scholar, teaching English in Kyrgyzstan, braving the Kyrgyz winter (wha!), and vacationing in a yurt, among many other adventures. Laura’s office is 608 Altschul. We also wish her the best as she begins Columbia's M.A. program in Russian/Eurasian Studies at the Harriman Institute this fall.

Please take time to (re)introduce yourselves to our new faculty and staff members. They are excited to meet you!

Important early dates. Our own Prof. Marisa Buzzeo will be giving the weekly seminar in the Columbia Chemistry Department on Thursday, September 15, at 4:30 p.m. in 209 Havemeyer (CU campus). Marisa will be speaking about work done at Barnard by alumnae and current students in her group: “Probing Biological Redox Processes with Modified Electrode Surfaces.” Coffee/tea/cookies are available in the Miller Seminar Room (ground floor of Havemeyer) starting at 4:00 p.m. prior to Marisa’s seminar. Your attendance at the talk (and also for treats) is enthusiastically encouraged.

As last year, we will hold our annual Summer Science Symposium, complete with pizza and beverages, during an evening later this month. Prof. Christian Rojas is coordinating “What You Did (In Research) Last Summer.” He will be in touch with students soon, so please stay tuned for...
additional information. If you already know that you would like to tell your fellow students and faculty about your research experience this past summer, please contact Prof. Rojas by email: crojas@barnard.edu. Additionally, if you had an off-campus internship or related research experience this summer (regardless of whether you think you’ll participate in the symposium), please tell me about it (dmerrer@barnard.edu): funding agencies want to know how many of our majors have summer research experience, and we try to keep accurate, complete records.

Fall luncheon. Our fall luncheon will be on Friday, October 28, 12–2 p.m., in Sulzberger Parlor (3rd floor Barnard Hall). The department luncheon is a good opportunity for majors and prospective majors (and other chemophiles) to mingle with faculty and each other. In addition to lunch and speed-advising, recently, we’ve also had a research student poster session. We will provide additional information later in the semester.

Seminar/study room. Room 806 is available as a study room. Although it is often reserved for classes, office hours, and help sessions, there are free times during the week when it can be used by individual students and/or groups of students. A weekly schedule for the room is posted on the door. If you would like to reserve 806 Altschul, consult the weekly schedule and contact Department Administrator Laura Hendrickson (lhendric@barnard.edu, Altschul 608).

Computer room. 603 Altschul is your stop for computer work. We have many workstations, including several Macs. In terms of priority, sometimes several or all computers may be reserved for a course. Additionally, students working on chemistry-related projects take precedence. However, when available, you are welcome to use the computers for other work. Remember that the health of these computers depends on the vigilance of the users: never open attachments unless you know them to be legitimate. Please save files in a folder with your name in the “Student Documents” folder. Files left elsewhere will be deleted. It’s always a good idea to back up your work. Remember also that food and drink are expressly prohibited in this room. Anyone who violates this policy will be denied access. If a computer or printer is not working properly, please tell Laura Hendrickson in 608 Altschul (lhendric@barnard.edu). Please do not print lengthy documents unrelated to chemistry. Leave your workspace clean and tidy when you leave. When you are finished, shut down the computer.

Bulletin boards. Notices for seminars, graduate schools, and job opportunities (summer and permanent) are posted on the bulletin boards in the department. Seminar notices and notices for full- and part-time jobs and summer opportunities are posted on the 8th floor. The 7th-floor boards display selected graduate and professional school posters. In addition, other notices of interest to majors may also be posted on the chemistry department board in Altschul lobby opposite the elevators. Also check the department web page chemistry.barnard.edu.

Graduate and professional school. Fall is the season for applying to graduate schools. Many posters for graduate and professional programs are posted on the 7th floor. Perhaps even more useful for comparing graduate programs and finding information on individual faculty is the American Chemical Society’s Directory of Graduate Research: http://dgr.rints.com/. External fellowship and scholarship opportunities for students applying to graduate school can be found on the department website: http://chemistry.barnard.edu/scholarships.

Summer internships for 2017. It is not too early to start thinking about Summer 2017 opportunities, at Barnard and elsewhere. Many colleges and universities have REU (Research Experiences for Undergraduates) programs, sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF). We maintain a list of summer internship programs on the department website: https://chemistry.barnard.edu/scholarships. Barnard’s Howard Hughes program also keeps a database of web pages listing summer opportunities: http://hspp.barnard.edu/barnard-student/internship-opportunities. Also check the chemistry department bulletin board on the 8th floor. Notices start to arrive in the fall and continue to arrive throughout the year. Application deadlines
vary, so check the websites and bulletin board frequently. The Barnard chemistry summer research program will announce opportunities early in the spring semester.

**Jobs.** Please speak with me if you have a work-study or Barnard job grant and are looking for placement, as there may be some job opportunities in the department. 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).

**Student contact information.** We pride ourselves on keeping in touch with our majors. Please e-mail Joanna Chisolm (jchisolm@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 like to have photos of majors on the 8th floor bulletin board. If yours is missing (or if you’re dissatisfied with the current one), please see Joanna Chisolm in 504A Altschul or e-mail her a new photo.

**Tutors.** I occasionally receive requests from parents in search of chemistry tutors for their high school children. Additionally, General Chemistry and Organic Chemistry students often request tutors. Tutoring can be both very rewarding and a good review … and also a decent source of income. Please let me know if you would like me to refer your name.

**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.