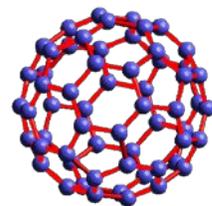




BARNARD COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
MEMORANDUM



To: Current and Prospective Chemistry and Biochemistry Majors

From: Dina Merrer, Chair

Re: Welcome Back for Spring Semester 2016

Date: January 19, 2016

Welcome back. We in the Chemistry Department hope that each of you had an enjoyable and rejuvenating semester break. We look forward to a fun spring semester working together.

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. Michael G. Campbell** to start as Assistant Professor at Barnard in July 2016. Mike is currently a Camille and Henry Dreyfus Environmental Chemistry postdoctoral fellow with Prof. Mircea Dinča at MIT and previously earned his Ph.D. at Harvard, where he worked with Prof. Tobias Ritter. 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. An emphasis will be placed on the creative use of metal-metal or metal-ligand cooperative interactions to achieve new modes of reactivity. Please join me in welcoming Mike 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 and returning faculty this semester. **Dr. Liz Wright** joins our department this spring, teaching Biochemistry Lab Techniques (CHEM BC3355) with Dr. Grace Lee. Dr. Wright is a proud Barnard alumna who graduated summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa in English literature. After pursuing another career, Liz discovered her love of molecular sciences. She completed the post-baccalaureate program at City College and then earning her Ph.D. from CUNY - Hunter College. She has experience teaching general chemistry lectures and biochemistry recitations at Hunter and York Colleges. We are very happy to have Liz join us and she enthusiastically looks forward to being back at Barnard. We heartily welcome back **Dr. Craig Allen** to the Introductory Organic Chemistry Laboratory (CHEM BC3328) this spring. Craig will team with Dr. Meena Rao for the Thursday morning lab section. Liz and Craig will share an office: 1309 Altschul.

Special seminar. On **Friday, January 22, noon-1 p.m., 530 Altschul**, we will have a special seminar, "Exploring the Reactivity of Photochemically Reduced TiO₂ Nanoparticles and the Effects of pH," by **Jennifer Peper (Yale University)**. Jennifer is a Ph.D. student in Prof. James Mayer's group at Yale, exploring electron transfers between TiO₂ nanoparticles and electron-transfer reagents such as nitroxyl radicals and DMSO. Look for signs around the department and please join us. Light refreshments will be provided.

Major declaration. Spring is the time to declare a major if you are a sophomore, traditionally by Spring Break. 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 time to apply for summer research programs is upon us. Two important events will take place soon. First, a college-wide Summer Research Fair will be held on **Friday**,

January 29, 12:00-1:00 p.m. in the James Room (4th floor Barnard Hall). Lunch will be available, and representatives from each of the Barnard science departments will review application procedures for summer research positions and answer any questions you may have. A more detailed session during which Chemistry faculty will give brief talks on their research will be held on **Friday, February 5, 12:00–2:00 p.m. in 903 Altschul** (refreshments = yes!). Please stay tuned for additional information to be distributed via email and posted around Altschul and on the department website. For the third year, the Barnard Summer Research Institute (SRI) will offer activities including safety training, lectures, and social events, for undergraduate summer researchers across the departments and scientific disciplines. The S.R.I. has a website with information about summer science research opportunities at Barnard College: barnard.edu/summer-research-institute.

Summer undergraduate research opportunities exist at Barnard, Columbia, and just about every university in the country and abroad. <https://chemistry.barnard.edu/scholarships> and <http://chemistry.barnard.edu/research>. Barnard's Howard Hughes Science Pipeline Project also keeps a database of web pages listing summer opportunities: <http://barnard.edu/hspp/barnard-student/internship-opportunities>. If you are interested in conducting summer research, we recommend applying to a variety of programs, because, as much as we would like to, we are not always able to accommodate all students who want to do summer research at Barnard. Note that application deadlines approach as soon as late January and early February, and programs often require letters of recommendation. Summer research programs typically offer a decent stipend (around \$4200 to \$4500 for a ten-week program), and can include housing and travel expenses.

Spring luncheon. Please mark your calendars for the Chemistry Department spring program planning meeting and luncheon, **Friday, April 8 at 12:00–2:00 p.m.** in Sulzberger Parlor on the 3rd floor of Barnard Hall. We are still sorting out the details for the Spring 2016 luncheon, but you can expect good food, good company, and good science. Speed advising and poster sessions are likely to make a return!

Start thinking about 2016-17 – Advanced Biochemistry elective course! Building upon the rousing success of recent upper-level electives such as Methods and Applications in Physical Chemistry and Advanced Organic Chemistry, the department is very happy to announce that we will offer a brand new elective course in **Fall 2016: Advanced Biochemistry, taught by Prof. Mary Sever**. Advanced Biochemistry will focus on current research in the broad field of biochemistry, including research in the frontiers of chemical biology, the RNA world, photosynthetic mimics, novel biosynthetic pathways and mechanisms, and metals in disease. The prerequisite for this course is Biological Chemistry (CHEM BC3282). If these topics intrigue you, we encourage you to start planning now to fit this course into your schedule next year.

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, **Amanda Eberhardt** (aerberhar@barnard.edu, 608 Altschul).

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. Please save files into a folder with your name in the "Student Documents" folder. Files left elsewhere else will be deleted. As always, it is a good idea to back up all work. 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 Amanda Eberhardt in 608 Altschul. Printing of documents is restricted to chemistry items. Black and white printing should always be used, except for those pages that must be in color. Documents unrelated to chemistry assignments are not to be printed. Restrictions will be placed on violators of this policy. Please clean up your workspace before you leave. Unless someone is waiting to use the computer, shut it down when you are finished.

Graduate and professional school. We receive many posters and pamphlets about graduate and professional study. Many are posted around the department, particularly on the 7th floor. The

American Chemical Society's *Directory of Graduate Research* is very useful for comparing graduate programs and finding information on individual faculty: <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; job opportunities may be 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 completed online. After that, please give our Administrative 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). Joanna can also help answer questions about hiring logistics.

Student contact information and photos. Keeping in touch with our majors is of utmost importance. Chemistry and biochemistry 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. We'd also like to have photos of majors for our 8th floor bulletin board. Please see Joanna in 504A Altschul or e-mail her a photo.

Tutors. Students in general chemistry and organic chemistry often request tutors. The Dean of Studies Office also organizes various chemistry-related Help Rooms and asks us for suggested Help Room tutors. Finally, we sometimes receive requests from parents seeking chemistry tutors for their high school children. If you are interested in tutoring opportunities, please let me know, specifying the classes or topics for which you are available as a tutor.

Final notes. I proudly say that the best part of being a faculty member at Barnard is the student body. Your collective energy, smarts, and love of learning inspire us as we work together with you every day. The department faculty and staff value your comments and advice. We as a whole and, particularly, I as chair, are/am also here to try to answer your questions about classes, the major, and summer research, and also to hear any concerns you have. Please do not hesitate to come to me or anyone else in the department. I wish everyone a successful and enjoyable spring semester!