“Notes from the Head’s Desk” is a convenient, informal information bulletin to keep people in the School of Chemistry informed of what’s happening on a regular basis. For any information to be included in “Notes from the Head”, please ensure it is received by Glenda Oliver (glenda.oliver@monash.edu) by the last Friday of each month.

This issue of Notes from the Head’s Desk includes a new section profiling some of our new academic and senior research staff. This first issue will introduce Dr C Andy Ohlin, an ARC QEII fellow working at the boundary of inorganic, physical and computational chemistry. Over the course of the following months, we will also develop a section introducing some of our PhD students, their project goals and career aspirations.

From this edition on, we will also send the Notes from the Head’s Desk to a wider distribution list, including alumni on our database. This will keep our alumni informed of our achievements, updates on developments within the School and activities planned. Coinciding with this occasion, the School has dedicated an honour board to recognise continuing (tenured) staff with greater than 20 years service. While the University recognises 25 years service with a medal, I feel it is important for the School to formally recognise its long serving staff and their contribution to the School’s current position. Twenty years seems an appropriate milestone, with currently 63 names listed across academic, administrative and technical staff – half of which come from the latter two categories. Missing at the moment, though not forgotten, are a number of staff that I know that have been here continuously on external research grants who have also contributed to the School’s position. We will be addressing this over time as we delve back into Monash’s HR records.
1. Chemistry People in the News

Congratulations to:

- **Jia Cao**, who has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy for her thesis, *A stereoselective isoprenoid synthetic methodology and the preparation of a mycobacterial antigen*.

- **Pankaj Maharjan**, who has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy for his thesis, *Development of temperature-responsive ion-exchange resins*.

- **Grace Wu**, who has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy for her thesis, *Comprehensive analysis of alkylphenols and their polyethoxylates by using hyphenated chromatographic techniques*.

- **Professor Adam Lee**, who will be taking up the new Chair in Sustainable Chemical Synthesis. His appointment will be joint with Warwick University as part of the Alliance and he will spend 20% of his time at Monash University. Adam’s research interests span heterogeneous catalysis, nanoporous solids, green chemistry and synchrotron science. He is particularly interested in the rational design of functional materials for sustainable chemical processes and renewable energy applications. He has won many awards including most recently the 2012 Beilby Medal and Prize for contributions to green and sustainable chemical technologies.

- **Prof Cameron Jones**, who will be taking up the new Chair in Sustainable Chemical Synthesis. His appointment will be joint with Warwick University as part of the Alliance and he will spend 20% of his time at Monash University. Adam’s research interests span heterogeneous catalysis, nanoporous solids, green chemistry and synchrotron science. He is particularly interested in the rational design of functional materials for sustainable chemical processes and renewable energy applications. He has won many awards including most recently the 2012 Beilby Medal and Prize for contributions to green and sustainable chemical technologies.

- **Adam Kessler**, who has been awarded a James McNeill Scholarship.

- **Dr Bayden Wood**, and Dr Andrew Hudson from University of Leicester, has been successful in obtaining a Royal Society International Exchange grant.

- **Dr Anthony Auxilio**, who has taken on the role of a RACI Ambassador for Monash University.

- **Dr Kei Saito** and family on the birth of their second child, son Zen, who was born on 28 March 2013, weighing a healthy 2.94 kg.
• **Dr Andreas Stasch** and wife Katya on the birth of their first child, a daughter, Juliana, who arrived on 2nd May 2013 weighing in at 3.07 Kg and measuring 50.5 cm. Photo to come later.

**Welcome to the School:**

- **Rebecca Stoios**, Lab Assistant, First Year Chemistry
- **Dr James Burnley**, Research Fellow with A/Prof Andrea Robinson
- **Daniel Barr**, Technical Officer with Prof Milton Hearn
- **Richard Procter**, Occupational Trainee with Dr Alison Funston
- **Sabrina Schaefer**, Occupational Trainee with Dr Andreas Stasch
- **Dr Inam Ul Haque**, Visitor with Emeritus Prof Alan Bond
- **Jamaludin Malik**, Visitor with Prof Leone Spiccia
- **Akihiro Udagawa**, Visitor with Dr Kei Saito
- **Daphne Wong**, Visitor with A/Prof Lisa Martin
- **Pravindya Haputhanthri**, PhD student with Prof Don McNaughton & Dr Bayden Wood
- **Mala Jayamanne**, PhD student with Prof Terry Turney & Prof Phil Marriott
- **Wenming Tong**, PhD student with Dr Alison Funston
- **Chao Fang**, PhD student with A/Prof Mike Grace & Dr Perran Cook

Finally, I am sad to report that **Ben Baxter**, who spent over 20 years at Monash working in the S6 prep room – making slides, models, etc. – passed away in late March, aged 93. Our thoughts are with his family.

**Staff profile – Dr Andy Ohlin**

C. André Ohlin joined the School of Chemistry at the end of June 2011 as an ARC-funded research fellow. Andy received his undergraduate degree from Lund University in Sweden - with time spent at UCSD, Berkeley and the University of Strathclyde - and his PhD from the EPFL in Switzerland. He has carried out postdoctoral research at the Shanghai Jiaotong University in China, and most recently at the University of California at Davis in the US.

Dr Ohlin’s research interests include reaction dynamics, speciation and synthesis of aqueous metal-oxide clusters. He is particularly interested in expanding the chemistry of polyoxoniobates, a sub-class of polyoxometalates (POMs) which hasn’t received as much attention as the more classical group 6 POMs, and in using NMR and mass spectrometry for the investigation of reaction dynamics and speciation.

**2. Events and Outcomes**

- **3 Year HERDC Publication Report** has been produced showing two aspects of publication trends for the School. Evident is the positive growth in publication numbers (total count) for the School since 2010. Aside this is a levelling trend in the weighted publications. This latter measure takes into account all authors on a paper and attributes them with equal weighting, but only attributes a fraction of a point to Monash staff and students (1 paper = 1 point). The
3. Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- **RACI Food Nutrition & Analytical Chemistry Group Networking Event**
  This is the group’s inaugural event and it will be held at Taste Baguette, Menzies Building, Monash University, Clayton Campus on **Thursday May 16th 2013 at 6.00pm**. This will be an excellent opportunity to mix with scientists from industry and academia, post-docs, students and industry executives within the food nutrition and analytical science sectors, all while enjoying delicious canapés and refreshments provided.
  Cost: RACI Member: $10 ($5 student member), Non-RACI member $15 ($10 student non-member)
  Enquiries: Adel Yousif (03) 9727 5172 or adel.yousif@deakin.edu.au

- **RACI Peptide Users Group Winter Symposium**
  To be held on **Wednesday 5 June from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm** at Monash University, Clayton Campus, Lecture Theatre S3, Building 25. Speakers will include: Prof Andrew Abell, A/Prof Mike Lawrence, Dr Bim Graham, Prof Daniel Hoyer, Prof Tony Purcell plus 6 student/postdoctoral talks.
  Cost: $20 for all delegates.
  Enquiries: A/Prof Andrea Robinson at:  [andrea.robinson@monash.edu](mailto:andrea.robinson@monash.edu)

**Early Career Investigator Awards**
Early career investigators are invited to submit an abstract on their research related to synthetic peptides, peptide modification, isolation, biology, biochemistry or other application or study relating to peptides. Early career investigators are seen as those who are currently enrolled as post-graduate students or are less than five years post-doctoral. Six abstracts from those submitted will be selected for oral presentation (15 minutes plus questions) at the PUG winter symposium. An award will be
Abstracts must be submitted by May 17, 2013 to Associate Professor Andrea Robinson, Fax: (03) 9905 4597 or Email: andrea.robinson@monash.edu

- **Dr Phillip Law AC Post-doctoral Award for the Physical Sciences 2013**
  
  Applications are invited for the inaugural Dr Phillip Law AC Postdoctoral Award for the Physical Sciences 2013. This is a new award made possible by the generous bequest from the estate of Phillip Garth Law AC to the Royal Society of Victoria. The award is open to suitably qualified post-doctoral candidates in the area of the Physical Sciences which include Astronomy, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Astrophysics, all branches of Engineering and related sciences.
  
  **Eligibility:** Application is open to candidates within seven years of completion of their doctorate from a University in the State of Victoria, Australia. Applicants must be an Australian citizen or resident (proof required with application).
  
  
  **Applications close on Monday 10th May 2013.**
  
  **Award:** The successful candidate will receive a certificate, a prize of $2000 and will be required to deliver a 45 minute talk on their research to an audience of members of the Royal Society of Victoria and guests on Thursday 24th October 2013 at 7pm at the Society’s Hall. The successful nominee will have the opportunity to provide a brief review of their work for publication in the Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria within 6 months of agreeing to accept the award.
  
  **Enquiries:** Executive Officer, The Royal Society of Victoria, 8 La Trobe Street, Melbourne 3000 Telephone: (03) 96635259

- **Collier Charitable Fund 2013 Round**
  
  Each year the Trustees of the Collier Charitable Fund provide Monash University with funds to support the purchase of items of equipment for research projects. Up to $3,500 will be provided from the Collier Charitable Fund for each item of equipment, but the amount requested from the Collier Charitable Fund must be supported by matching financial contributions.
  
  
  Applicants are requested to send the original application, plus electronic copy (Word version) to the Faculty Research Office by **Friday 31 May 2013** for endorsement and ranking. Kindly note the MRO Cover Sheet is also required.

- **Monash-Warwick Alliance 2013 Seed Funding**
  
  Alliance Seed Funding is currently available to staff for joint research and education collaborations.
  
  **Purpose:** Incubation of new collaborative initiatives with high potential via supported workshops/visits - team based.
  
  **Amount:** AU $22,500 (Monash) plus £15,000 (Warwick)
  
  **Selection Criteria:** Based on technical and strategic merit & joint capacity.
  
  **Submission Dates:** 2 rounds: 15 May 2013 and 31 October 2013.
  
  Further details about the Monash-Warwick funding schemes and submission process can be found at: [http://intranet.monash.edu.au/monash-warwick/funding-schemes/](http://intranet.monash.edu.au/monash-warwick/funding-schemes/)
  
  Please submit draft proposals to Joseph Lawrence ([joseph.lawrence@monash.edu](mailto:joseph.lawrence@monash.edu)).
School Seminars

- Monday 13 May, 12:00 pm Bruce West Seminar Room, Dr Shannon Notley, Swinburne University of Technology, *Production and use of highly concentrated aqueous suspensions of 2D Materials.*

- Monday 27 May, 12:00 pm Bruce West Seminar Room, Dr David M Huang, University of Adelaide, *Modelling Nano-scale Structure and Energy Transfer in Conjugated Polymers*

- Monday 17 June, 12:00 pm Bruce West Seminar Room, Professor G Mugesh, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, title to be advised.

Quote of the month:

*We must plan for the future, because those who stay in the present will remain in the past*

Abraham Lincoln, 1862