



WISCI

Wisconsin's Polytechnic University

Spring 2009

UW-STOUT -
Keeping Applied
Science Alumni
Informed

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- New Faculty
- Student Achievements
- Alumni Updates
- Keeping Informed

News from Applied Science

Another successful year comes to an end and as you can see from the picture below, the new building progresses—it's T-90 days and counting until we move in on August, 1, 2009. This is a significant event on campus since this building and the Applied Science Program will be a primary focus of the University in the coming decades. Also new in the fall of 2009 are two new faculty in the biology department, James Burritt by way of Montana State University and Jennifer Grant from UW-Madison. Watch for their profiles in the next couple of issues.

This spring we will graduate 19 students, all headed in a diversity of directions—medical,

pharmacy, graduate school, and industry. They are a very energetic and successful group, all of which I am happy and proud to have met. A sense of community has truly been accomplished with this class, with 19 people participating in the 3rd Annual Pub Crawl, and over 30 faculty, staff and students participating in the 2nd annual Senior Banquet on May 7th. At the banquet we celebrated all of those who graduated as well as their research projects from BIO 470 and BIO 444, covering topics ranging from transfection of ovarian cells to microcystin toxicity of zebrafish (microcystin is the toxin associated with the algae blooms on Lake Menomin) to Memory-

guided Saccade Adaptation. All pretty impressive!

As the program continues to grow and diversify, one thing that we would like to have are active alumni in the program. If you are interested in participating on the advisory board, and in providing insights from the many professions you represent, please do not hesitate to contact me. The quality of the program depends a great deal on active input from the professions and industries we seek to serve. And your feedback on this newsletter or just an update to keep in touch is always welcome.

Have a great summer!

Charles R Boman



New Faculty: Marlann Patterson

Passionate Physics Fanatic

People who know me a little say I'm very laid back and calm about life. People who know me well say that



I'm a bit wired because I'm so enthusiastic about life. I enjoy science with a passion: the scent of discovery, the feel of a pencil in my hand solving a problem.

I am a big fan of dogs and cats. I have one very elderly dog and 5 nimble

cats. Long story, it sounds a bit like the Brady bunch, but with cats. My husband and I are both physics professors. We live in the metro area.

I really enjoy Stout because of its creative vibe and research focus. I love teaching and talking with students. I'm happy to be here! My particular science expertise is in the area of nanomaterials. I make 'em and bake 'em. And then I check them out with an electron microscope. I use plasma processing techniques to create the materials. Its a very cool technique, allowing precise control over crystal structures and other properties, such as magnetic field strength. Plas-

mas in and of themselves are fascinating because they glow. You can manipulate the glow using magnetic fields. Very fun. You can change the color by changing the gas chemistry. Plasmas are used in all sorts of manufacturing processes, from cutting to microchip fabrication to functionalizing medicines to be compatible with the human body. Plasmas are also naturally produced by lightning, fire and stars. I'm particularly interested in the solid-plasma interface.

Life is good. If we haven't met, stop me and say hello! I am a very social creature.

Big Apple Internship at Pfizer HQ

My name is Chris Bastian and I will soon be a graduate of University of Wisconsin-Stout in the Applied Science program with a photography minor. In late April 2008 I was accepted as an intern in the medical department at Pfizer Pharmaceuticals World Headquarters in New York City and was assigned to the team that covers Canada, Latin America, Africa and the Middle East (Can-LA-AfME). My team was made up of Regional Medical Directors of various therapies/duties, and the Vice President of Medical who monitored my day-to-day progress.

I was thrown into each project immediately, with little time to prepare. Before I started, research had been done by the marketing department for a group of new products that were to be investigated for our region. Some of these new products represented new formulations, new combinations, or cross-geographic expansions into other countries. The project was very intense, and involved

compiling information for 18 products. Specifically, I looked for clinical trials that would support a new combination, or co-prescription habits of doctors. Further information was added before the results were presented to management, who would then decide which products to take forward. I worked closely with regulatory, medical, and marketing associates as a core team to move this initiative forward.



Pfizer invested a lot of resources in me. I was trained and certified as a yellow belt, 6 σ (Six Sigma). I participated in almost a dozen continuing educational seminars and lecture series, and was also given the Medical Core Curriculum training, safety training and survival equipment.

Toward the end of my internship I was asked by the Vice President if I would like to stay. After working out the employment details, I was assigned to a new position as a Project Manager/Regulatory Associate for the Can-LA-AfME regional Medical Department. I still have many of the same duties along with increased management and leadership roles. I am working with many people across different levels, disciplines, and countries to try to create a central repository for approximately 350 products; I also have daily contact with a consulting firm to do searches for clinical trials.

This position has given me an opportunity of a lifetime that wouldn't have been possible without the excellent preparation I received through the UW-Stout Applied Science program. My internship has been an invaluable experience. I have made connections with people who I feel will be lifelong contacts, and who have put me in a great position to market myself better in the future.

Anna and Heidi go to Sweden

Heidi: God dag!! (Good day!)

Hej. Jag heter Heidi Zajack. Jag har studerat i Sverige i fyra månader. (Hello. My name is Heidi Zajack. I have studied in Sweden for four months.)

As indicated, my name is Heidi and I am a fourth year graduating senior in the Applied Science program here at Stout. I took the opportunity to study abroad in Sweden this past Fall 2008 semester, from August to December. Beyond having a great interest for other cultures and an urge to travel to other countries, participating in the Sweden program allowed me to maintain a normal college semester without having to “miss out” on key courses needed for



graduation. Once I passed the arduous details for obtaining a U.S. passport and a Swedish residence permit, it was time to lift-off for what could be counted as a full day of traveling.

My hometown, while in Sweden, was Skövde (pronounced Hyvdeh); with a population around 50,000 it surprisingly reminded me of Menomonie. My residence was a former hotel that was renovated to form one bedroom apartments, each with their own bathroom. In all, there were around 60 foreign exchange students living in the complex, mostly comprised of students from countries such as Spain, France, and Germany. Although I did not have many chances to hang out with local Swedish students, I found my stay joyfully spent with my new friends from the various countries.

School was very difficult to adjust to. Teachers, homework, courses, and administrative processes were conducted very differently than here at Stout. Fortunately, the majority of the Swedish population speaks fluent English, and all of the courses I took were taught in English as well. My courses included Protein Biochemistry, Advanced Biotechnology, Swedish for Foreign Students, and Intercultural Studies.

During study breaks, my friend Anna Peterson (another UW-Stout student) and I found time to travel and experience the surrounding countries, including: Denmark, Ireland, England, Scotland, The Netherlands, Germany, Estonia, as well as the northern parts of Sweden. During my travels I have

kissed the Blarney Stone, rode Double Decker busses in London, stood beside the Berlin Wall, taken a dog sled tour, visited royal palaces, taken pictures of castles, and met friends that I will never forget. My time spent in Sweden, as well as Europe in general, has deepened my love for traveling and experiencing new cultural foods and habits. After returning to Stout and the U.S., it is hard not to exchange my experiences and stories with other people. Traveling (and studying) abroad has been an amazing experience that I hope more people can experience.

Anna:

Studying abroad in Sweden was an amazing experience. It allowed me to be able to see a lot of the world in a relatively short amount of time. I met some wonderful people that will be my friends for the rest of my life. Sweden is a beautiful country with some very interesting people. Many of my friends were not Swedish, so I was not able to immerse myself totally in their culture, however, I was able to make many friends from all around Europe and the world. My traveling experiences were fun and interesting. With so much time to travel it was a wonder I got anything done in class! The rigor and discipline of my classes at Stout more than prepared me for the Swedish classes, to the extent that I was able to be a mentor to several classmates. My favorite and probably most challenging class was in learning the Swedish language.



I am fortunate to have had this amazing experience and the opportunity to travel and make friends from other countries. I was able to observe cultures that are different from my own. I left Sweden with a better understanding of myself, my culture, as well as the way Americans are perceived in the world. It was a very eye-opening experience, something that I will carry with me wherever I go.

--Anna Peterson and Heidi Zajack

Some things never change, even after graduating from college! As a 2005 graduate of the Applied Science Program and now a licensed mortician, I've traded "all-nighters" studying for biochemistry for "all-nighters" preparing the dead; a black lab table for a white porcelain preparation table; and Phenolphthalein for Restorative Embalming Fluid. This may sound strange to many reading this, but the reality is I'm practicing the science and skill sets learned during my tenure at UW-Stout; and love it!



After graduating from the Applied Science Program in May of 2005 with a concentration in Sales and Support, I enrolled in the Mortuary Science Program at the University of Minnesota. Having already obtained my first BS degree, I was able to complete this program in 12 months, earning a second BS degree in August 2006. In order to become a licensed funeral director in Wisconsin, he/she must complete the necessary college course work, a one year apprenticeship and pass both state and national examinations.

Following completion of the mortuary science program, I accepted employment with Fuller-Speckien-Hulke Funeral Home in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. I completed the remainder of my apprenticeship, and am currently employed as a licensed funeral director. We are an average sized firm for the Chippewa Valley, serving approximately 200 families per year. My job duties include: a 24 hour on-call schedule; removal of deceased from place of death to our funeral

facility; arrangement meetings with family; coordination of arrangements with clergy, musicians, cemeteries, and military organizations, to name a few; embalming, bathing, dressing, and cosmetizing/reconstruction of deceased; and conducting of funeral services.



As a mortician, every day is different. We meet a diverse array of people and families, all with different histories, stories, and circumstances. We rarely work an 8-5 schedule for obvious reasons, and at the ring of the phone must be prepared to service our next family. Since our funeral home is a small business, I've also had the opportunity to work on other projects including marketing, advertising and landscape design.

My experiences at UW-Stout laid a solid foundation for me academically, professionally and personally. I learned to never underestimate my potential, to remain persistent, to ask questions, to seek out answers, to think outside the box, to work hard, and of course, to play just as hard!

In my free time I enjoy traveling, boating, exercising and spending time with my new Rottweiler puppy, Jake.

If anyone has any questions, feel free to contact me through our funeral home website at www.fullerspeckien.com or personally at micke127@gmail.com

Brooke Miller-CSI

I graduated Stout in December 2005 with an Applied Science degree. Following graduation, I began work at the Commercial Testing Lab in Colfax, WI.

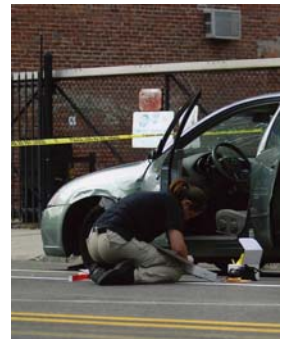


At CTL I conducted lab experiments on different water matrices to determine the concentrations of various heavy metals. Within a few months, I was accepted into the graduate degree program at the University of New Haven, in West Haven CT. Two years later I

received a master's degree in Forensic Science. My time at UNH gave me many amazing opportunities, including working on cases with one of the world's greatest forensic scientist, Dr. Henry Lee. I applied for many different jobs in the field of forensics and investigation and was finally of-

fered a job with the Cambridge Police Department in Massachusetts. My job consists of processing a variety of crime scenes. These scenes could be a simple house break to as complex as a homicide. My work at the scene includes documentation and evidence collection.

A big part of my job also revolves around processing evidence for fingerprints. I do this at scenes and also in our laboratory. I will eventually be trained in print identification; meaning I will be able to compare prints found on evidence at a scene with suspects prints. My job may not be as glamorous as TV's CSI, but I enjoy every minute of it.



My science classes at Stout gave me the knowledge and confidence to work in many different lab settings.

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The goal of this newsletter is to keep alumni in touch with the Applied Science program. Please update your contact information so that we can keep in touch with you in upcoming newsletters. Share this with your other Applied Science alumni that you are in contact with, we would love to keep them informed also. Please mail these contacts to the address on the below or send your updated information at apsc@uwstout.edu. We would love to hear from you!

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Comments:



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