

THE SEA GULL Chemist

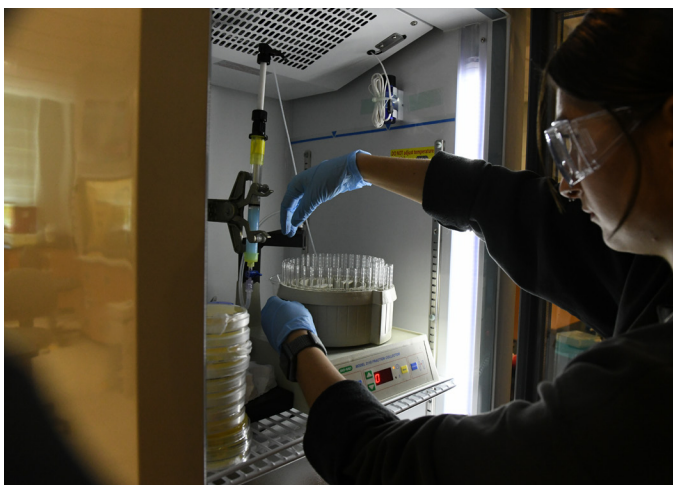
2023-2024

Salisbury
UNIVERSITY

Greetings Sea Gull Chemists!

There are so many exciting things happening in the Salisbury University Department of Chemistry that we decided to put together this newsletter to give you an update. Our students and faculty have been working hard and accomplishing exceptional things in the classroom, in their research labs and in the community. The next few pages will give you a very brief overview of some of these efforts. In particular, we will tell you about:

- **Our Students.** The SU chemistry students continue to do amazing things, including securing grant funding to support their research and traveling to conferences to present the results of their work locally, regionally and nationally.
- **Our Faculty.** We have two new faculty members to introduce. We are excited to have them on board and we look forward to working with them in the years to come.
- **Our Facilities.** The Chemistry Support Center, a dedicated facility for Chem Help Sessions, has moved into Henson Science Hall 150.
- **Our Alumni.** Finally, we would love to hear from you! Send us a note or stop by to let us know how you are doing.



Student Achievements

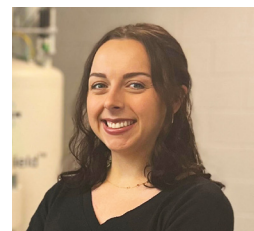
The **Allen R. Dudley Memorial Award in Chemistry** is given each year to a senior chemistry major who has demonstrated consistent academic excellence and who has the potential for an exceptional future in chemistry.

- **Zachary Geesaman** is the 2023 recipient of the Dudley Award. Zach followed the Accelerated Pharmacy Track in chemistry and is currently in his second year at the University of Maryland-Baltimore School of Pharmacy



The **James F. Glenn Chemistry Award** is given to a senior chemistry major with outstanding academics who has made significant contributions to chemistry education.

- **Gabrielle Guy** is the 2023 recipient of the Glenn Award. Gabby graduated with an ACS-certified B.S. in chemistry and is currently in her first year at the University of Maryland-Baltimore School of Pharmacy.



The **Dorothy Ruxton Chemistry Student Research Fund** was established by SU's past president Dr. Charles Wight and his wife Victoria Rasmussen in honor of Dr. Wight's mother. The endowment provides travel grants for students involved in chemistry research to present their work at professional conferences and network with other scientists in the field. Some of the recent Ruxton Award recipients, along with the conferences they attended, include:

- **Wren Adkins**, American Chemical Society Meeting, Fall 2023
- **Casey Finnegan**, American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Annual Meeting, 2022
- **Ben Johnson**, Mid Atlantic Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society, 2022
- **Hsiangkun Shih**, American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Annual Meeting, 2022

Continued

The **Irving and Sylvia Cort Scholarship in Chemistry** was established by Bruce Cort (SU Class of 1971) in honor of his parents, Irving and Sylvia Cort. The award is given to entering first-year chemistry majors based on academic excellence in high school.

The current Cort Scholars are **Hayden Davis** (2024), **Leia Black** (2024), **Megan Spicer** (2024), **John Todd** (2024), **Emma Coldsnow** (2026), **Gabe Miksa** (2026), **Wren Adkins** (2024), **Julia Frankis** (2024), **Andrew Downey** (2024), **Bryce Greenlee** (2027), **Marcus Gjini** (2027), **Emily Hoard** (2027) and **Cassidy Thomas** (2027).

Focus on Faculty

We are thrilled to have two new faculty members join us this year. Dr. Jessica Heimann and Dr. Zulma Jimenez have research interests and areas of expertise in chemistry that will certainly be of interest to students and will also nicely complement the work already being done by the rest of the Department. Welcome to the flock of Sea Gull Chemists Dr. Heimann and Dr. Jimenez!

Dr. Jessica Heimann spent the last few years teaching and doing post-doctoral research at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. She did her undergraduate work in chemistry at Rice University and then earned her M.S. and her Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from Yale University. Dr. Heimann will teach General Education courses, general chemistry and inorganic chemistry.

Research in Dr. Heimann's lab uses a combined experimental and computational approach to understand the complex chemical mixtures and spectroscopic properties of works of art. In one current project, students explore a class of pigments known as lake pigments that consist of coordination compounds made by precipitating organic dye scaffolds with inorganic salts. The aim of this project is to understand the effect of the inorganic salt on the pigment properties. A second project investigates how the addition of a binder or dispersing medium influences the spectroscopic properties and degradation mechanisms of the resulting paint layer. Dr. Heimann's students not only gain hands-on experience using advanced characterization techniques

and high-performance computing, but also delve into the history books to learn the traditional methods of pigment and paint preparation.

"Teaching at SU is wonderful! The students are eager and engaging, and I am truly excited to start researching and working with students to further share the magic of chemistry!" – Dr. Heimann

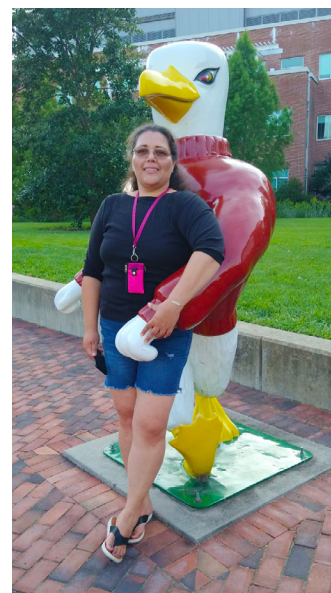


Dr. Zulma Jimenez comes to us from the Notre Dame of Maryland University where she was an assistant professor of chemistry. She received her Bachelor of Science in chemistry from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, in Bogotá, Colombia. She earned a Master of Science in chemistry from the University of Southern Mississippi and her Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Florida State University. Dr. Jimenez will teach General Education courses, general chemistry and physical chemistry.

Research in the Jimenez lab is focused on two projects, one of which aims to establish a minimalist system for the in-situ production of a drug using enzymatic networks coupled with polymeric hydrogels. Dr. Jimenez and her students analyze the effect of different polymer components on the physical and chemical response of the gel to changes in temperature and pH, as well as the catalytic activity of the gel. The second project examines dynamic mechanisms relevant to ventricular fibrillation by working with the Belousov Zhabotinsky (BZ) reaction to help explain how cardiac arrest is spontaneously induced. Running the BZ reaction with obstacles (small pieces of hydrogels containing different concentrations and gradients of the BZ reaction catalyst) in the reaction medium serves to model a scarred heart.

"I really enjoy teaching at SU, I love working with a diverse group of students. I am also very happy to be part of the Department of Chemistry; my colleagues and chemistry majors are very friendly and supportive. I am looking forward to working with chemistry students on research in the area of polymers. I love being a part of SU!" – Dr. Jimenez

Brent Alogna received the 2024 Henson Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching and **Dr. Joshua Sokolowski** received the 2024 Henson Faculty Award for Excellence in Mentoring.



News & Events

The Chemistry Support Center (CSC) was established in fall 2021 as a standalone facility in Blackwell Hall to offer academic support for all students enrolled in chemistry courses at SU, regardless of major. Now located in Henson Science Hall (HS150), the CSC is open Monday through Friday during both spring and fall semesters. Students can simply drop in during open hours to get assistance with their coursework.

Chemistry faculty and student tutors staff the CSC. We provide about 30 hours per week of homework help, study support and tutoring for most chemistry courses, particularly for lower division courses such as CHEM 101, 121, 122, 221 and 222. The CSC complements faculty office hours and helps to lower the barrier for students to get help with their classes. Because of its convenient location and numerous open hours, students can simply show up when they need help or need a place to study.



In addition to help with classes, the center provides a comfortable place for students to study. It is equipped with whiteboards and periodic tables, as well as computing and printing resources. In the evenings and on weekends, the CSC provides space for Chemistry Department social events, including the Cort Scholars Celebration, the Golden Goggles Trivia Competition and movie nights!

Use of the Center has sky rocketed since its opening, with an average of nearly 400 student visits per month. Feedback from both students and faculty has been overwhelmingly positive. Last fall, 55% of enrolled chemistry students stopped by the CSC at least once for support. The largest groups of student users are from the pre-nursing, biology, exercise science and chemistry programs. CHEM 121 and 221 are the most popular courses for which students seek help. With the center open and thriving, we are now beginning to collect data on the impact that the CSC has on student success in chemistry courses. Stay tuned!

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES



We had a busy year in 2024 for chemistry faculty and students with department events including a chili cook-off, a liquid nitrogen ice cream senior send-off party, our annual fall beach bonfire and the sixth annual Golden Goggle Trivia Night. Students also presented their research at our Chemistry Department symposium and the Salisbury University Research Conference.



6TH ANNUAL GOLDEN GOGGLES TRIVIA NIGHT



Alumni Updates

Anita Brown, Class of 1990, is an associate professor of chemistry at Salisbury University. She has served as a department chair and president of the Faculty Senate. Her three children all attended SU: Sam - 2020, Robert - 2021 and Sheyene - 2025.

Amanda Ely, Class of 2005, is an associate professor of pediatric ophthalmology and adult strabismus practicing at Penn State Health in Hershey, PA. In addition to her patient practice, she is also in charge of the ophthalmology teaching for the physician's assistant program. She and her husband Mike have three boys ages 14, 10 and 5.

Brent Alogna, Class of 2008, is a senior lecturer in the Salisbury University Department of Chemistry.

Andrew Stoner, Class of 2018, is working as a patent agent at Raphael Bellum, PLLC.

Julia Miller, Class of 2019, earned her Pharm.D. and is now a PGY1 Acute Care Pharmacy Resident at WVU Medicine - WVU Hospitals.

Andrea Cottingham, Class of 2020, is a Ph.D. candidate in the Pharmaceutical Sciences Department at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

If you are interested in being included, please send a brief email to chemistry@salisbury.edu letting us know the year of your graduation and what you have been up to since then. We really do want to know what you are doing!

Giving Day Is Coming!

If you are able to make a contribution to the Department of Chemistry, please consider doing so on SU's next Giving Day, which will be Tuesday, April 2, 2024. We appreciate your generosity at any time; however, alumni donations made on Giving Day are matched up to \$50 per contribution. Be sure to specify that your donation be directed to one of the following areas:

- Department of Chemistry
- Dorothy Ruxton Chemistry Student Research Fund
- Allen R. Dudley Memorial Award in Chemistry
- Irving and Sylvia Cort Scholarship in Chemistry

Also, let us know if you would be willing to offer our students support through networking, job-seeking advice or general life guidance. We appreciate anything you can do to help our students!

GET CONNECTED

You can stay updated with department news and events by checking our Facebook and Instagram sites:

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 instagram.com/SUChemDept

salisbury.edu/chemistry

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