

What's happening in the CSN?

March 29, 2016 Edition

Celebrations

Welcome to New CSN Members

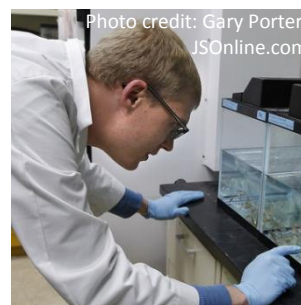
The CSN welcomes **Dr. Joe Bennett**, who will join **Sara Mason's** group as a postdoc/research specialist in April. Joe got his PhD with Prof. Andrew Rappe (Chemistry, Penn) in 2009. That's right; Joe was actually Sara's lab mate and graduated just two years after her! His PhD was co-advised by Peter Davies (Materials Science, Penn). Since then, he has gained significant experience as a postdoc with Karin Rabe (Rutgers), where he also collaborates with David Vanderbilt. Joe has some industry experience, too, having worked on Zn-based aqueous batteries at Eos Energy Storage in Edison, NJ, and more recently, wastewater treatment at Aqua Vectors, Inc. in Long Island, NY. Joe has developed research expertise using a combination of theoretical modeling methods, such as high-throughput DFT and database mining, to search for "next generation" materials for applications such as energy storage. He leans more towards the physics/materials end, which is a great complement to Sara's surface/environmental direction! Welcome Joe!



The CSN also welcomes **Joseph Da**, an undergraduate researcher who will be doing CSN work in the **Fairbrother** group. Joseph will be working with **Ben Frank** and **Miranda Gallagher**.

Milestones and Awards

Congratulations to **Nicolas Niemuth** (Klaper group), who has won a University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Distinguished Graduate Student Fellowship for the 2016-17 academic year! The fellowship includes a stipend, tuition reimbursement, and a travel award.



Emily Caudill (Pedersen group) won the award for best poster at the 24th Annual Midwest Chapter meeting for the Society for Environmental Toxicology (SETAC), which was held in Madison, WI on March 14-16. Her poster was entitled "Interaction of nanoparticles with Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacterial surfaces," and she presented results from initial experiments examining cationic nanodiamond particles with isolated Gram-positive cell walls (peptidoglycan + wall teichoic acids) and with lipopolysaccharides from two strains of *Escherichia coli*. The award is sponsored by 3M and includes a travel grant to attend a national SETAC meeting! Congratulations Emily!

Congratulations to **Alicia McGeachy (Geiger group)**, who was elected to succeed **Eric Melby (Pedersen and Orr groups)** as the new Student Board/Executive Committee Liaison! The term is for 6 months, beginning at the April All-Hands meeting.



Meet the Students/Postdocs

In order to help CSN members get to know one another, we are doing short “get acquainted” write-ups of CSN students/postdoc participants, with the aim of introducing all CSN participants. Students or postdocs from CSN groups will be randomly selected and asked to write a short paragraph about themselves. Participation is totally voluntary.

Sunipa Pramanik (Haynes group). I am from India, and grew up in the eastern city of Kolkata. My early interest in science and especially chemistry was nurtured by my father, who teaches chemistry in an undergraduate college. I received my B.S. (honors) in chemistry from Presidency College in Kolkata and my M.S. from Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. My M.S. research work was focused mostly on inorganic chemistry, where I worked to synthesize a novel fluorescent organometallic ligand and its subsequent incorporation into metal organic frameworks. I joined the chemistry graduate program at the University of Minnesota in 2013. I am working with Prof. **Christy Haynes** on the nanotoxicity project. Within the CSN, my interest is to track and quantitatively assess the association of fluorescent silica nanoparticles functionalized with ligands having varied surface chemistry on supported lipid bilayers. I recently visited Prof. **Joel Pedersen’s** lab at UW-Madison to learn all about assembling and characterizing lipid bilayers. I am also involved in the University of Minnesota MRSEC project, which involves investigating the toxicity of various industrially relevant nanoparticles on bacteria models.



In my spare time, I like to participate in outreach activities at the University and have volunteered in many educational events. I am a major movie buff and I like reading books. Currently I have decided to tackle the colossal *War and Peace*, which will surely take me months to read. I also like to cook and do a bit of amateur photography on my phone camera.

Dan Hofmann (Murphy group). I grew up in southeastern Pennsylvania near the city of Reading, which is where the Reading Railroad on the Monopoly board game operated. I got my undergraduate degree in chemistry at Millersville University near Lancaster, PA. I am currently a first year chemistry graduate student in **Cathy Murphy’s** group at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I’m interested in researching the characteristics of alloy nanoparticles and looking into their impact on biological organisms/cells.



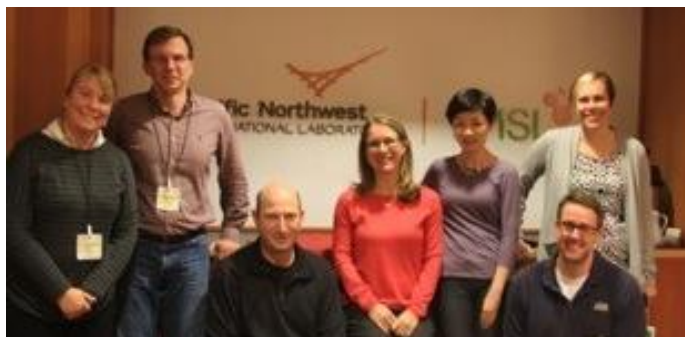
Dan snorkeling with sea turtles in St. Croix, USVI

Outside of lab, I tend to enjoy many outdoor activities. Growing up my family would go camping a lot and I was also a boy scout. This fostered a great fondness for the outdoors in me. I enjoy biking, hiking, and I especially like the ocean. I really enjoy snorkeling and exploring the all the life in the ocean. Unfortunately, Illinois is rather far from the ocean. I also find reading and writing for pleasure to be very enjoyable and rewarding.

I am not too certain of my goals after my Ph.D. but I believe I am leaning towards going into academia. I enjoy teaching, which is why I started out my college career as a chemistry/education major before changing to just chemistry. I find a career that involves exploring the new possibilities of chemistry through research with the add-on of teaching to be highly attractive.

Lab Exchanges

Rebeca Klaper, Joel Pedersen, Zeev Rosenzweig, Christy Haynes, Vivian Feng, Erin Carlson, Mike Schwartz, and Galya Orr (taking the photo) gathered at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, where they talked about nanomaterials, biology and wine, toured PNNL facilities, and observed **Eric Melby** in his native habitat (along with **Arielle Mensch**, who is visiting from the **Hamers Group**).



CSN Talks and Presentations

Bob Hamers was a guest on the Larry Meiller Show on Wisconsin Public Radio on March 28. Bob and John Greenler (UW-Madison) talked about "[Materials Research For Renewable Energy](#)". You can listen to the full broadcast [here](#)!





Last week **Sunipa Pramanik** (Haynes group, with Hyunho Kang and Amani Lee) did an outreach event at the Hmong International Academy Family Fun Night. They did an interactive demonstration on density.

Opportunities

ACS Chemistry Ambassadors Game. ACS is beta testing their new [Ambassador Challenge game](#) (requires registration), where you can earn points, badges, etc. for doing outreach activities such as "share an ACS Reactions video," "volunteer for National Chemistry Week," or "speak simply about chemistry in a one-on-one with a nonscientist."

New ACS Career Planning Tool. ACS has launched a new online tool for "[individual development planning](#)" (right). They advertise that it can help "know your career options, develop strategies to strengthen your skills, [and] map a plan to achieve your career goals."



Looking Ahead

Professional Development Activity

All students, faculty, and staff are invited to attend our next professional development activity, "Advancing Chemical Innovation Through Diversity, presented by **Rigoberto Hernandez** on **Monday, April 4 at 10:30 Central**. This webinar will be shared across all nine CCIs, and we will set up a special Youtube link with live chat for viewing. Stay tuned for more details!

All-Hands meeting dates and deadlines

Posters. Poster title, authors list, and affiliations submitted via [Google Form](#) by **Friday, April 1**. Posters in final format due **Wednesday, April 6**. Please send your posters to Mike (mpschwartz@wisc.edu) for approval before printing.

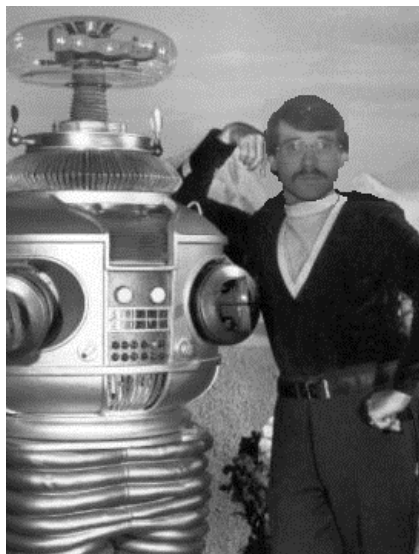
Game night. We will be having a Game Night in Baltimore on **Sunday, April 17**. Do you have a game you can bring? Please sign up [here](#) so we don't all pack the same thing!

The dress code for the All-Hands meeting is business casual. Please do not wear items that would not be appropriate in a business setting, including athletic shoes, jeans, hats (even if they are stylish), or spandex. Novelty tuxedo t-shirts, floppy clown shoes, and anything from the 70s are strictly prohibited.

Please do not use your phones or laptops during presentations (i.e., please avoid checking emails, listening to music, twitterbooking, facechatting, or otherwise focusing your attention away from the presenter).



No hats during the All-Hands meeting.



Lost in Cyber-Space?

Links to frequently requested CSN documents and information sources

HOME ABOUT US OUR TEAM NEWS EDUCATION & OUTREACH WORKING WITH THE CSN PUBLICATIONS RESEARCH  MEMBERS

For these documents and more, visit the [center resources page](#) on the [CSN website](#) (requires Member login, contact [Miriam](#) if you need help).

CSN Documents and Downloads

- Center-wide calendar (RFA, All-hands, professional development): <http://tinyurl.com/zeukpus>
- CSN Operations Guide: <http://tinyurl.com/zyw9k4h>
- CSN participants list (Names, group, and email addresses): <http://tinyurl.com/jrrkp4b>
- List of all CSN researchers and project names (google-sheet): <http://tinyurl.com/hxfazkl>
- Approved projects for all students/postdocs: <http://tinyurl.com/hnp3whg>
- Download the Webex player: <https://www.webex.com/play-webex-recording.html>.

Request Forms

- Requests for the Executive Committee: <http://tinyurl.com/z9eftvh>
- Report lab exchange activities: <http://tinyurl.com/jxw5jh9>
- Nanoparticle availability (Listing of NPs available center-wide): <http://tinyurl.com/goathu7>
- Suggestion-ox (All comments are completely anonymous):
<https://www.suggestionox.com/response/BeNBi6>
- Newsletter topics (To suggest a topic or to add information to be included in the next newsletter; e.g., an award, highlight, etc.): <http://goo.gl/forms/Rz8FIIXnGy>