



CEEES GRADUATE STUDENT NEWSLETTER

September 2018



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FROM THE EDITORS

The semester is underway! Hopefully summer break was restful yet productive (if that’s possible). With a new year comes new graduate students and we should all make an effort to make them feel comfortable on campus. It’s important to remember that we are a combination of student, researcher, and teacher, which can be a difficult juggling act for grad students who are new to it. In this issue of the graduate student newsletter we have spotlighted all of the new incoming graduate students so we can all recognize them when we see them in the lab, hallway, or office. Let’s make them feel welcome in their new Notre Dame graduate student community and show that we are all a support system for each other. We all know that there are times when we learn more from our fellow grad students than our advisors anyways!

Cheers,

Thomas Sherman, and **Dave Burney**, *Newsletter editors*

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REMINDER

All graduate students have a mailbox in the copy room next to the main office. All of us graduate students share this one basket, so please remember to check it regularly!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Andrew Schranck published a paper in the ACS's Environmental Science and Technology (ES&T) journal in June titled *Effect of Urine Compounds on the Electrochemical Oxidation of Urea Using a Nickel Cobaltite Catalyst: An Electroanalytical and Spectroscopic Investigation*. You can check it out here: <https://cdn-pubs.acs.org/doi/pdf/10.1021/acs.est.8b01743>

Haylie Lobeck completed a 3 month internship funded by the NNSA Actinide Center of Excellence at Sandia National Lab (Albuquerque, NM) working with Dr. Tina Nenoff and Dr. Tim Boyle on uranium metal dissolution and developing spectroscopic and electrochemical techniques to detect uranyl peroxide nanoclusters in solution.

Margaret Butzen presented at Goldschmidt 2018 in Boston, MA on August 13th. Her Oral presentation was titled "Influence of extracellular polymeric substances on the adsorption of Cd onto three bacterial species".

Nikki Moore presented at the ACS National Meeting in Boston, Ma on August 20th. Her oral presentation was titled "Plutonium Redox Interactions in Ternary Iron-EDTA systems". She also presented at 2018 Pu Futures in San Diego, Ca on September 10th which was another oral presentation titled "Pu Redox Chemistry in the Presence of Iron-Bearing Minerals and EDTA".

Members of the **Burns** group presented their research at the XXII Meeting of the International Mineralogical Association in Melbourne, Australia (August 13th - 17th):

Haylie Lobeck (5th year grad student), 1 talk : "Transformation of Sparingly Soluble Uranyl Mineral Phases to Highly Soluble Nanoscale Cage Clusters"

Samuel Perry (3rd year grad student), 3 talks : "Big data network analysis of uranium mineral occurrences and formation mechanisms" ; "Thermodynamics and structural complexity of sodium uranyl sulfate minerals with unusual structural topologies" ; "Intercalation of uranyl peroxide nanoclusters into layered double hydroxides"

Fabrice Dal Bo (Post-doc), 1 talk : "Crystal chemistry of uranium germanates: framework topology and comparison with natural analogues"

Sergey Askenov (post-doc), 1 keynote talk : "New insights into the crystal chemistry of modular structures"



Photo: (Left to right) Fabrice Dal Bo, Samuel Perry, Aaron Lussier (previous Burns Lab post-doc), Peter Burns, Haylie Lobeck, Sergey Askenov

Ethical Leaders In STEM (EL-STEM)

On August 15, three students from the CEEES department (Monica Arul, Tianze Peng, and Andrew Schranck) completed the 15-month EL-STEM program on leadership and ethics training out of the Graduate School. The course was taught by the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. John Lubker. EL-STEM has been recently transformed from a STEM only program into a program available to all graduate students back in May 2018. The new program is called LASER (Leadership Advancing Socially Engaged Research), and is a unique way to supplement graduate research and education and set students apart from their peers after graduation. The 2018-19 cohort has been selected, so look out for the next opportunity to apply in the spring of 2019.

CEEES South Bend Cubs Game

A group of CEEES graduate students attended a South Bend Cubs game with their guests on Friday August 24 thanks to the GO Grant program through Grad Life. As part of the stadium's group ticket promotion, everyone came away with a free SB Cubs baseball cap too. The Cubs squeaked out a 3-2 victory over the Fort Wayne Tin Caps, and everyone got to enjoy a very satisfying fireworks show set to a great playlist of tunes from the comfort of our seats. Surely, a great time was had by all. This was a great opportunity for new students to get to meet some veteran graduate students in the department. Also, it allowed students from our broad disciplines of study to interact and hopefully get a better sense of what goes on in the CEEES department. Some photos of the event...



GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Mariana Alifa
Advisor: Crippa



Stef Bardoel
Advisor: Fernando



Christianos Burlotos
Advisor: Taflanidis



Edgar Gonzales
Advisor: Fernando



Ashley Hastings
Advisor: Hixon



Amy Kryston
Advisor: Muller



Hongji Li
Advisor: Mavroeidis



Yanina Nahum
Advisor: Nerenberg



Anne O'Donnell
Advisor: Thrall



Omer Ozkaya
Advisor: Simonetti



David Pirchio
Advisor: Walsh



Kyson Smith
Advisor: Hixon



Stu Webb
Advisor: Neal



Aliya Whitehill
Advisor: Burns



Zhenya Wu
Advisor: Bibby

Group Spotlight

Whether you are a first year or a fifth year student, knowing your departmental resources will be very valuable to you, and the kind ladies in the CEEES Department office can be a major asset to on a weekly basis. You are encouraged to introduce yourself to Julie, Bonnie, and Mollie and to become acquainted with how they can help you efficiently accomplish all your administrative task related to being a graduate student in the department. Brief descriptions of their responsibilities are proved below. In subsequent months, we will continue to spotlight your research groups in this section, but we know these ladies are a major asset to our department and want to give them a big THANK YOU here as we introduce you to them at the beginning of this academic year.



Julia Hennion- Is the Undergraduate Coordinator and works predominately with Liz Kerr the Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) with undergraduate students and their issues. In addition to fielding all sorts of questions from faculty and students, she also works on the curriculum, schedules classrooms and conference room reservations, hires student and temp workers, and handles the undergraduate graduation, as well as new keys and locks. Julie also coordinates the department's seminar program.



Bonnie Prestin- Is the go to person for anything to do with expense reports and purchasing. If it has to do with finances she is the one to contact. Bonnie also handles facility requisitions for problem areas such as heating and cooling systems, and surplus pick-up. She also handles all of the paperwork for hiring of visitors and new postdocs.



Mollie Dash- Is the Department Administrator and handle salaries (faculty & grad student) departmental budgets, office management, Human Resources as related to our department and a contact for those that would like to meet with the department chair. Mollie is also the graduate program coordinator. Please contact her with any grad related issues.

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL – SCHEDULE OF DEADLINES

| | Fall 2018 | Spring 2019 | Summer 2019 |
|---|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| First class day | Aug. 21 | Jan. 15 | Jun. 17 |
| All course changes | Aug. 28 | Jan. 22 | — |
| Fall/Spring break begins | Oct. 15 | Mar. 11 | — |
| Course discontinuance | Oct. 26 | Mar. 22 | — |
| Preliminary theses/dissertations submitted for formatting check* | Nov. 6 | Mar. 5 | Jun. 11 |
| Thanksgiving break begins (Wed. – Sun.) | Nov. 21 | — | — |
| Easter break begins (Fri. – Mon.) | — | Apr. 18 | — |
| Master's comprehensive examinations & PhD dissertation defenses** | Nov. 20 | Apr. 1 | Jul. 2 |
| Final theses/dissertations submitted to Graduate School | Nov. 26 | Apr. 9 | Jul. 9 |
| All admission to candidacy forms submitted to Graduate School | Dec. 4 | Apr. 12 | Jul. 16 |
| Last class day | Dec. 6 | May 1 | Jul. 26 |
| Final exams begin | Dec. 10 | May 6 | — |
| Graduation date (official degree conferral) | Jan. 6 | May 19 | Aug. 4 |

*Formatting checks should be submitted to the Graduate School when the document is given to readers at least two to four weeks prior to the defense.

**Reader's reports must be submitted to the Graduate School at least two days before the defense takes place.

NEWSLETTER CONTACTS

If you wish to include or contribute news items for the next issue of the newsletter, please contact one of the editorial members below:

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