

# Department of Chemistry and Physics

## Newsletter

Summer 2018

### Highlights from the Past Year

- Eric Glendening was on sabbatical during the Spring 2018 semester. He spent much of his time at the University of Wisconsin-Madison working with collaborators. Jennifer Inlow was Acting Chair during this time.
- Professors Larry Rosenhein and Valentina French are retiring—see page 3.
- Professors Jennifer Inlow and Ryan Van Hoveln received teaching awards—see page 3.
- Professor Rick Fitch received a research award—see page 2.
- Professor Rob Noll received promotion and tenure—see page 3.
- Students presented their research at chemistry and physics national meetings—see page 2.
- The corridors in the basement of the Science Building—where Chemistry is located—are being renovated this summer to upgrade the lighting, flooring, walls, and artwork. The departmental main office and a student study lounge are also being renovated. Look for pictures in next year's newsletter!
- The Department continues to engage with students and alumni via Facebook.  
<https://www.facebook.com/isu/chemphys/>

### SURE Program Enters Thirteenth Summer with 37 Student Researchers Across Six Disciplines

The 2018 Summer Undergraduate Research Experience, or SURE program, began May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The popular program has now reached its 13<sup>th</sup> year! During the program ISU students participate in an intensive 10-week research experience under the mentorship of a faculty member. Participating students receive a SURE fellowship, and spend their time in the research lab as well as doing library research, and occasionally participating in service projects or social activities. They also present their progress in brief oral presentations at weekly “group meetings” and present a poster at the culminating symposium in early August. This summer 37 students are working with 16 faculty mentors from Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Computer Science, Geology, and

the IU School of Medicine. Fourteen of the students are working with members of the Chemistry and Physics faculty.

2018 SURE Fellows in Chemistry and Physics	Research Advisor
Alexandra Davis	Rick Fitch
Kimberly Gleason	Rick Fitch
Chinonye Olumba	Rick Fitch
Jacqueline Smith	Rick Fitch
Ahmad Ahmad	Eric Glendening
Liam Brown	Eric Glendening
Juan Nysschen	Eric Glendening
Trent Carpenter	Ryan Van Hoveln
Courtney Nuyen	Ryan Van Hoveln
Jarett Posz	Ryan Van Hoveln
Brogan Thomas	Ryan Van Hoveln
Jake Wilkinson	Ryan Van Hoveln
Anthony Froehlich	Guoping Zhang
Tyler Jenkins	Guoping Zhang

### College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Mentors Program Features Chemistry and Physics Alums

This spring the College of Arts and Sciences launched a new **Alumni Mentors Program** in which alumni from the College serve as mentors for current and future ISU students by providing career and degree advice. Short biographies of the alumni mentors and email links for contacting them are provided on the program's website:

[www.indstate.edu/cas/mentors](http://www.indstate.edu/cas/mentors)

Check out the bios of our Chemistry and Physics alumni mentors on the site!

The Chemistry and Physics alumni mentors are:

George Fritch  
Chemistry, 2013

Kevin Waters  
Physics, 2013

Samantha Henry  
Physics, 2010

Amanda (Melberg) Layson  
Chemistry, 2008

Sara (Poehlein) Pliskin  
Chemistry, 1994

## Haley Hall is Department's Outstanding Graduating Senior

**Haley Hall** is the daughter of Pam and Jason Hall. She graduated from Lincoln High School in 2014 as the salutatorian. Haley came to ISU in the fall of 2014 as a member of the Rural Health Program. While here, she has been actively involved in the Pre-Medicine Association as treasurer, Timmy Global Health as a member of the advocacy committee, the American Chemical Society Student Affiliate as treasurer, and Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. As a member of Timmy Global Health she traveled abroad to both Quito and Latacunga, Ecuador, to serve in rural medical clinics. Haley has also been very active in the Department, serving as a supplemental instructor for both general and organic chemistry, and as a laboratory assistant and Science Help Center tutor. She has been recognized for her academic achievement through various scholarships including the Stanley Scholarship, the Academic Distinction Scholarship, and the Brother's Scholarship through Heritage, and she was awarded the 2018 Hines Memorial Medal which is given to students with the highest cumulative grade point average during their pursuit of a bachelor's degree at Indiana State. Haley graduated with honors with a chemistry degree and will be attending Indiana University School of Medicine in August 2018 to pursue a degree focused in rural medicine.

## Other Student Awards

Outstanding Senior Organic

Chemistry Student—

**Bethany McCarty;**

John McCarthy Outstanding Junior

Physics Major Award—

**Tyler Jenkins;**

Undergraduate Award in Physical

Chemistry—**Ahmad Ahmad;**

Outstanding Achievement in

Organic Chemistry—

**Sierra Crowe;**

Outstanding Achievement in

General Chemistry—

**Cynthia Ramazani.**

## Rick Fitch Receives Indiana State's Dreiser Research Award

Three Indiana State University faculty members received the 2018 Theodore Dreiser Distinguished Research and Creativity Award; among them was Richard (Rick) Fitch, Professor of Chemistry. The Dreiser Award was named for the early 20<sup>th</sup> century author who grew up in Terre Haute and recognizes full-time Indiana State faculty members who have made outstanding contributions to their disciplines.

Prof. Fitch's fields of interest include natural product isolation, synthesis, and pharmacology. He received his Ph.D. in synthetic organic chemistry from the University of Louisville and a B.S. in chemistry from Western Kentucky University. He has had numerous publications and patents since joining the faculty at ISU.

"I am very honored to have been selected for the Dreiser Award. In the 15 years since I first arrived at ISU, I have been fortunate to work with a great group of colleagues and I appreciate the support they have given me to pursue my research," he said. "I also am indebted to the many undergraduate students who have come through my lab and do a lot of the work. Our undergraduates are talented and energetic, especially during our Summer Undergraduate Research Experiences (SURE) program."



**Professor  
Fitch**

## Students Present Research at Meetings

Chemistry and physics research students made poster presentations at a number of regional and national meetings this year:

- Eli Lilly Undergraduate Research Symposium (2 students)
- University of Kentucky Undergraduate Research in Chemistry Regional Poster Competition (4 students)
- Ohio Inorganic Weekend (4 students)
- National American Chemical Society Meeting (12 students)
- National American Physical Society Meeting (2 students)
- National Council on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) Meeting (6 students)

## This Year's Graduates

Seventeen students graduated with degrees in chemistry in Dec. '17 or May '18: Kaitlin Applegate, Joshua Coovert, Morgan Eckert, Haley Hall, Aleta Hart, Jason Hughes, Charles Jaeger, Lyndon Keeling, Wendell Kirkman, Donai Long, Bethany McCarty, Caroline Meunier, William Meyer, Alexander Penry, John (Ryan) Sanders, Tayla Tulloch, and Richard (Rick) Wyatt. There were no graduating physics majors this year.



**Prof. Van Hovel and students at National ACS Meeting in New Orleans last March**

## Valentina French and Larry Rosenhein Retiring

**Valentina French** received her B.S. in Physics from the University of Bucharest and her Ph.D. in Physics from Oklahoma State University. She joined Indiana State's physics faculty in 1993. Over the years she taught a wide range of physics courses, from algebra-based and calculus-based general physics, to classical electrodynamics, quantum mechanics and advanced physics laboratory. She received ISU's Caleb Mills Distinguished Teaching Award in 2015. She also served for many years as the academic advisor to all physics majors and was recognized in the Career Center survey of graduating seniors as a faculty member who contributed to student success.



**Professor  
Valentina  
French**

**Larry Rosenhein** joined the faculty at Indiana State in 1986 after completing a Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and post-doctoral work at the Battelle-Kettering laboratory in Ohio. His main teaching assignments over the years have been general chemistry and inorganic chemistry. He initiated a laboratory course in inorganic chemistry and developed a descriptive inorganic lecture course which is now required for all ISU students majoring in chemistry. His research interests are in the field of organometallic chemistry, particularly metal-thiolate and metal-isocyanide compounds. He served as an academic advisor for most of his time at ISU and has held various offices in the Wabash Valley section of the ACS.



**Professor Larry Rosenhein**

Professors French and Rosenhein retired at the conclusion of the Spring 2018 semester, but they are each teaching one last course during the 2018 summer session.

## Jennifer Inlow and Ryan Van Hoveln Receive Teaching Awards

This spring **Jennifer Inlow**, Associate Professor of Chemistry, was honored with the Caleb Mills Distinguished Teaching Award which recognizes ISU's most distinguished teachers. Prof. Inlow earned a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University and bachelor's degree from Jamestown College in North Dakota. She joined the ISU faculty in 2003 as an Instructor and was hired as an Assistant Professor the following year. She teaches biochemistry (CHEM 431) and an elective bioinformatics course. She has designed and published several bioinformatics exercises and biochemistry laboratory experiments for use in undergraduate courses.

**Ryan Van Hoveln**, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, received the 2018 Educational Excellence Award from the College of Arts and Sciences for having "demonstrated commitment to and tangible evidence of excellence and effectiveness in teaching in ways that are organized, creative, challenging, and motivating." Prof. Van Hoveln earned his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and bachelor's degree from Bradley University. He joined the ISU faculty in 2015 and has since been teaching organic chemistry lectures and labs (CHEM 351, 352). He has an active organometallic research program and has mentored multiple students in the SURE program each summer.



**Professor Ryan Van Hoveln**

## Publications, Grants, and Promotions

Members of the Department published in the following journals over the past year:

**R. Fitch:** *Journal of Chemical Education*; *Journal of Natural Products*.

**E. Glendening:** *Journal of Physical Chemistry A*.

**R. Noll:** *Journal of Chemical Education*.

**G. Zhang:** *Journal of Physics: Condensed Matter*; *Physical Review A*; *Physical Review B*.

**Guoping Zhang** also received a Department of Energy grant which will fund his research through 2021.

**Robert Noll** received tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor this spring. He will be on sabbatical during the 2018-19 academic year.



**Professor Jennifer Inlow**

Indiana State University  
Dept. of Chemistry & Physics  
Terre Haute, IN 47809



**ISU Department of  
Chemistry and Physics  
Newsletter**

All our newsletters are available *electronically* at the alumni link on the Department of Chemistry and Physics website:

[http://www.indstate.edu/cas/chem\\_phys/](http://www.indstate.edu/cas/chem_phys/)

**Follow us on Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/isuchemphys/>

**We want to hear from you!**

Please send us your updates for inclusion in the "Alumni Notes" section of the newsletter. Send an email to Jennifer Inlow (jennifer.inlow@indstate.edu) or complete the form on the insert and mail it to the Department.

**Questions or  
comments?**

Contact

Eric Glendening, chairperson, at:  
eric.glendening@indstate.edu or  
812-237-2239.