

CHEMISTRY@KU

An email newsletter brought to you by the Chemistry Department at the University of Kansas

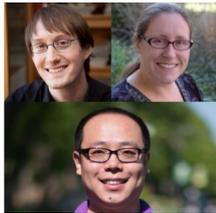
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Top stories in this newsletter



Dr. Bowman-James featured in C&EN



New faces of KU Chemistry

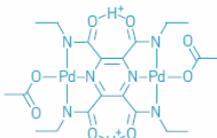


Alumni News: AAPS President-elect



REU: 30 years of continued success

Anion recognition by Bowman-James group featured in C&EN



[Kristin Bowman-James](#), distinguished professor of chemistry, was featured in the October 24, 2016 edition of Chemical & Engineering News (C&EN) publication in the article [Extracting inorganic ions, organically](#) for her research group's anion recognition. Using organic molecules to extract inorganic ions is an area of vital research with many different applications, for example including in nuclear waste treatment, petroleum refining, and contaminated water treatment.

It was by accident a number of years ago that the group discovered that the macrocycle sequestered nitrate when they were trying to make a macrocyclic uranyl complex. This finding led to anion recognition and extraction research funded by the Department of Energy's Basic Energy Sciences Program, and has led to collaborations with [Jonathan L. Sessler](#), a chemistry professor at the University of Texas, Austin, and [Bruce A. Moyer](#), leader of the chemical separations group at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

A few new faces of KU Chemistry

James Blakemore began his appointment as an assistant professor with chemistry in spring 2016. Blakemore's research focuses on developing sustainable catalytic technologies for producing fuels and useful chemicals from renewable feedstocks.

Shuai Sun joined chemistry in fall 2016 as a teaching specialist, a newly created position focused on instructing general chemistry. Sun earned his doctorate from the University of Alberta in theoretical & computational chemistry.

Lisa Sharpe Elles started her joint appointment with chemistry and molecular biosciences in fall 2016 as a lecturer and lab coordinator. Sharpe Elles earned her doctorate from Northwestern University and was previously an assistant professor at Washburn University.



James Blakemore



Shuai Sun



Lisa Sharpe Elles

Alumnus Binodh DeSilva current president-elect of AAPS



Elected in 2015 to a three-year term, Dr. Binodh DeSilva is the first Sri Lankan native to serve as the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) president-elect. Dr. DeSilva is currently at Bristol-Myers Squibb Company leading the development group for immunochemistry and biomarkers. DeSilva received her Ph.D. in Chemistry from KU in 1994 with Emeritus Professor George Wilson.

Dr. DeSilva is one of many students Prof. Wilson recruited from Sri Lanka based on his visits to South Asian universities starting over 30 years ago. DeSilva is one of many KU alumni success stories based on the recruitment efforts with Sri Lanka and South Asia.

[Click here](#) for more about Dr. DeSilva's AAPS appointment.

REU program to mark 30th year



The National Science Foundation supported Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) will celebrate its 30th year in summer 2017 for the Univ. of Kansas Chemistry Dept.

Hosting 10-12 undergraduate students from universities across the nation each summer, the KU Chemistry program is one of the longest running REU programs in the nation.

Applications for summer 2017 are due March 3, 2017. [Click here](#) for more information.

Mark your calendars:

- ◆ [Carnival of Chemistry: Nov. 20, 2016](#) at Malott Hall, Lawrence, KS
- ◆ [Midwest ACS meeting: Oct. 18-20, 2017](#) at the Kansas Memorial Union, Lawrence, KS

[KU Chemistry Department](#)
chemistry@ku.edu

1251 Wescoe Hall Drive
Room 2010 Malott Hall
(785) 864-4670