Dr. Richard Stockel, recipient of the department’s first PhD and one of the first two PhD’s granted at Clemson, was inducted into the Thomas Green Clemson Academy of Scientists and Engineers in March 2010. After receiving his PhD in 1962 working under the direction of Professor Emeritus John Huffman, Dr. Stockel began a very successful 46-year industrial career which continues to this day as Vice President of Technology at Novaflux Technologies. He is a 50-year-plus member of the American Chemical Society where he was very active in the Division of Business Development and Management, and he is a member of The Society of Plastics Engineers, Licensing Executive Society, and Commercial Development Association. Dr. Stockel is a recipient of the American Chemical Society Distinguished Service Award and the Small Business Administration Innovator Award. We are very proud that “one of our own” has gone on to such a distinguished career. Congratulations Richard!

Greetings, Clemson chemistry friends, alumni and supporters!

As the picture at right indicates, we have just completed another academic year in the Clemson chemistry department, and sent another group of graduates out into the world. This past May we celebrated graduation of sixteen undergraduate students (eleven BS and five BA) and three graduate students (one MS and two PhD); see inside for names and details. We offer each and every one of these graduates our sincerest congratulations and best wishes in your post-graduation plans.

Summer is a time of change and we have our share of change coming. Two of our tenured faculty and one of our lecturers have decided to leave Clemson for other universities. Dennis Smith left us in May to accept a position as Welch Chair at the University of Texas Dallas. Dennis had been at Clemson since 1998, and was a full professor. Luis Echegoyen, also a full professor and currently serving as chemistry division director at NSF, will also be leaving, also to Texas, this time in El Paso, also to accept a Welch chair. Finally, Lourdes Echegoyen, a lecturer in our department but more recently a staff member with the American Chemical Society in Washington DC, will also be accepting a position at UTEP. We wish all these individuals well as they pursue these new career opportunities.

We also have had some new additions! We welcome Jessica Holbrooks who in March replaced Bridgette Sloan for handling our department accounting. Already our finances are in much better shape! We also welcome Dr. Andrew Tennyson (pictured at left) who will be joining us as an assistant professor this summer. Andy earned his BS degree from the University of Chicago and his PhD from MIT, and he worked for two years as a postdoctoral scientist at Texas Austin before coming to Clemson. Andy’s research is in the general area of organometallic chemistry. We are pleased to have him joining us, and will all do our best to make him welcome, principally by throwing him into the fray immediately!

Chemistry has been fortunate to come through this past year in relatively solid shape, in part because of the large, nearly unprecedented enrollment increases we’ve seen over the past two years. This past fall we taught 17 sections and approximately 1600 students in our general chemistry lecture classes (up from 1400 in fall 2008!), and as of the day I write this column we have no fewer than sixty-nine incoming freshmen for fall 2010 who indicate that they intend to major in chemistry. I’m delighted by this interest in our programs, but simultaneously I am baffled as to how we will handle such a large group. Please wish us well!

Many other things are happening including our annual Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP), several new instrument acquisitions / upgrades, and some building renovations including a new instrument room and new paint / flooring / furniture for the front offices. Please, if you are in Clemson, feel free to stop by. We’d love to have you visit.

I wish you all a productive and hopefully restful summer!

Steve Creager
SACNAS Students Honored

The SACNAS Chapter at Clemson (SACNAS = Society for Advancing Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science) earned an award as Role Model Chapter of the year 2009 at the recent National Conference of the SACNAS in Dallas, Texas. The award was for the work of the Chapter enhancing the professional development of its members, fundraising activities and outreach activities in Clemson, Walhalla and Greenville mentoring Hispanic students in local Elementary, Middle and High Schools. The award was also for the research presentations at the conference by six graduate students from Civil Engineering, Chemical Engineering and Chemistry. At this conference 4 students from the Chemistry Department presented their latest research results.

In the picture below are members holding the award during the recognition session: two in the left, Rodolfo Valdes (Civil Engineering) and Sara Mena (Chemical Engineering). Students from the Chemistry Department: center to the right, Alfredo Picado (Organic Chemistry), Angy Ortiz (Organic/Inorganic Chemistry), Adrian Villalta (Organic/Inorganic Chemistry), Manuel Chaurr (P.Chem., not pictured).

SCENES FROM GRADUATION

Nineteen students graduated with degrees in chemistry on May 7, 2010. We extend our sincerest congratulations and wish them well as they embark on the next leg of their careers in chemistry.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
Benjamin F. Bergmann
Jessica Marie Hanley
Adrian Mark Schrell
David L. Hyde-Volpe
Mark Larston Sleeper
Sara Katherine Comer
Jarryd Noah Ashby
Matthew Dane Difulio
Taku Adam Cowger
Matthew A. Bloodgood
Juliana Joy Coleman

BACHELOR OF ARTS
Michelle Fran Caskey
Lauren L. English
Brian M. Godshaw
Dallas James Kunkel
Katherine E. Lanni

MASTERS
Mary Alice Salazar

PhD
Brad Perry Morgan
Joaudimir (Joy) Castro Georgi

NSF CAREER AWARD FOR BRIAN DOMINY

Professor Brian Dominy has won a five year $588,000 National Science Foundation CAREER award for “Computational Modeling of Protein Evolvability.” The CAREER is one of NSF’s most prestigious awards and is made, “In support of junior faculty who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding research, excellent education and the integration of education and research.” Dominy’s research employs computational methods to discover which mutation pathways are most likely taken in evolution of enzymes. Understanding these rules could have broad applications ranging from the molecular engineering of new protein catalysts for use in harsh industrial syntheses inaccessible to natural enzymes, to aiding in the development of new drugs that are able to successfully evade or inhibit the natural evolution of their protein target (i.e. avoiding drug resistance). The funds will support supercomputer time, graduate students, and development of a new publically distributed interactive software package to teach students the value of applying quantitative thinking to biological questions. Dominy is the seventh faculty member in the department to win a CAREER in the past ten years. Congratulations Brian!
HONORS AND AWARDS DAY APRIL 10, 2010

The Department of Chemistry Honors and Awards Day Luncheon was held on April 10, 2010 at the Madren Center. The following awards were presented at that time:

Senior Research Award - Alyssa D. Rabon
Chemistry Faculty Award - Anthony T. Choi
American Chemical Society Award - Jared T. Stritzinger
American Institute of Chemists Award - Katherine E. Lanni & Lauren L. English
Merck Index Award - Adrian M. Schrell
Houghton Mifflin/ICUC First Year Chemistry Award - Megan M. Sibley
Chemical Rubber Company Award - B. Keith Johnson
Outstanding Student in General Chemistry - William Tyler Smith
Outstanding Student in Introductory Chemistry - April L. Thomas
Outstanding Student in Organic Chemistry - Stephen J. Bolus
Outstanding Sophomore Chemistry Major - Cameron J. Bloomquist
Undergraduate Award in Analytical Chemistry - David E. Longfield
Western Carolinas Section ACS Award for Outstanding Chemistry Senior James M. Hodges
Graduate Teaching Assistant Award - Kyle D. Dukes
Outstanding Graduate Researcher Award - Andrea M. Verdan & Sunil Kumar
Mark Bernhard Hardin Prize in Chemistry - Juliana J. Coleman
Warwick Chemical Foundation Prize in Chemistry - David Hyde-Volpe

BILL PENNINGTON WINS THE PRINCE AWARD

William Pennington, Jr. was awarded the Philip H. Prince Award for Innovative Teaching, 2009. The annual award is named for Clemson President Emeritus Philip H. Prince and recognizes outstanding teachers who demonstrate creative and novel teaching methods in the classroom.

CGSO News

At the end of the spring semester the Chemistry Graduate Student Organization (CGSO) sponsored an end-of-the-year banquet for the chemistry graduate students, faculty and staff. The banquet was held at 356 Restaurant in downtown Clemson and was a rousing success. The CGSO works hard all year to raise money for events such as this one. The department would like to thank the outgoing officers for a successful banquet and all of their hard work this past year. The 2009-2010 officers were: Chris Underwood (President), Kyle Dukes (Vice President), Matt Zimmerman (Treasurer) and Cheryl Moore (Secretary). Also, we would like to thank Jennifer Pittman and John Heckel for representing the Department of Chemistry in the Graduate Student Government.

We also welcome the new 2010-2011 officers who were announced at the banquet.
President: Zach Koontz
Vice President: Whitney Snyder
Treasurer: Thora Maltais
Secretary: Drea Verdan
GSG Senator: Carolyn Quarles
ACS AFFILIATE NEWS

This past March, four members of Clemson’s Undergraduate Student Affiliate Chapter of the American Chemical Society (SAACS) traveled to the most recent ACS national meeting which was held in San Francisco. Representing the Clemson SAACS Chapter were Jared Stritzinger, Sara Comer, Mark Sleeper and Tony Choi. They accepted two awards given to the chapter for achievements in the ’08/’09 academic year. The first was a Commendable Chapter Award for recognition of the programs and activities in which the chapter participated that year. The second award was the Student Chapter Green Chemistry Award, given for involvement of the Clemson group in at least three activities related to the principles and practices of Green Chemistry. While in San Francisco the students also took the opportunity to attend talks in areas of chemistry that were of interest. Notable talks were heard in the areas of crystallography, the chemistry of controlling wine flavoring agents and the role that copper may play in Alzheimer’s disease.

NEWS FROM SAACS

Clemson’s Undergraduate Student Affiliate Chapter of the American Chemical Society recently elected new officers for the upcoming academic year. The new president is Vincent Kassel, vice-president is Alyssa Rabon, secretary is Heather Brinson, treasurer is Matt Banks and public relations will be handled by Jared Stritzinger, last year’s president. Vincent and Matt are juniors who are doing research in synthetic organic chemistry under the direction of Prof. Rhett Smith. Alyssa is a junior who has interest in the area of bioinorganic chemistry and is working in Prof. Julia Brumaghim’s research group. Heather is a senior chemistry/English double major and is working with Prof. Gautam Bhattacharyya in the area of chemical education. Jared is a senior whose interests lie in crystallography and he is doing research with Prof. Bill Pennington.