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CONTENTS

ASST SECRETARY OF THE US NAVY VISIT *Page 1*

PHA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECEPTION *Page 2*

COST DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS *Page 2*

OPEN HOUSE *Page 3*

NSTI PROGRAM WOMEN IN AVIATION *Page 4*

TMCF LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE *Page 4*

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT *Page 5*

STAFF SPOTLIGHT STUDENT SPOTLIGHT *Page 6*

ALUMNI RAVES *Page 6*

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS *Page 7*

SCHOLARLY AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES *Page 8*

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Assistant Secretary of the US Navy Visit to TSU Campus

Assistant Secretary of the Navy Juan Garcia III recently visited the Texas Southern University campus. The Asst. Secretary acts on matters pertaining to manpower and personnel policy within the Department of the Navy including issues affecting active duty and Reserve Sailors, Marines, and Department of the Navy civilians. The visit with TSU President Dr. John Rudley was initiated by Asst. Secretary Garcia to discuss ways TSU can assist the Department of the Navy in recruiting minority candidates both for military and civilian positions.

During the visit, the Asst. Secretary toured the Science Center, Aviation Center and Sterling Student Center. The highlight of the visit was a luncheon hosted by Dr. Rudley that included a presentation on the Maritime Transportation Management and Security program by College of Science and Technology Dean Lei Yu and presentations by Maritime students Schineatha Rodriguez, Alfonso Arteaga, Dommonic Nelson, and Jessica Brown. TSU Maritime students and Navy ROTC students were guests at the luncheon.

Assistant Secretary Garcia is an attorney, a former Texas state representative, and a second-generation naval aviator. Garcia, whose family hails from South Texas, graduated from UCLA in 1988. He earned a Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School and a Master of Arts from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government in 1992. After graduation, Garcia reported to Aviation Officer Candidate School and flight training, earning his "Wings of Gold" at Naval Air Station (NAS) Corpus Christi, Texas.

Established in Fall 2010, the Department of Transportation Studies in partnership with the Port of Houston Authority offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Maritime Transportation Management and Security.

Port of Houston Authority Executive Director Honored by College of Science and Technology

Col. Leonard Waterworth, Executive Director of the Port of Houston Authority (PHA), visited the College of Science and Technology and its Maritime Transportation Management and Security Program on Wednesday, October 31, 2012. He met with students, faculty, administrators and the President. Students in the Maritime Transportation Management and Security Program discussed their impressions and experiences with the maritime program and their internships in industry with Col. Waterworth. Dean Yu described the development and history of the program. President John M. Rudley and Dean Lei Yu held a reception for Col. Waterworth inviting all students, industry advisory board members, visitors, and friends of the Maritime Program.

Col. Waterworth was appointed Executive Director of the Port of Houston Authority on April 24, 2012 by the Port Commission. Over a 33-year career, Col. Waterworth has held multiple executive leadership positions in engineering and construction organizations in both the private and public sectors. Immediately prior to his appointment at the Port of Houston Authority, Col. Waterworth was President/ Chief Executive Officer of Dannenbaum Engineering Corporation. In the public sector, Col. Waterworth served in various capacities in the U.S. Army and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The PHA is a founding partner and financial sponsor of the TSU Maritime Transportation Management and Security Program, which was developed in a significant effort to increase the workforce in the maritime industry. In an era where the workforce is aging and the requirements for contemporary management

and security are demanding more highly educated people, the PHS-TSU partnership will supply many highly skilled people to the maritime industry, who will help ensure the continued operations of the maritime transportation infrastructure.

COST Distinguished Alumni Awards

College of Science and Technology recognized its alumni with Distinguished Alumni Awards at the 4th Annual Open House-Alumni and Partnership Luncheon. The awardees for 2012 are: Ms. Athena Perkins from the Department of Aviation Science and Technology. Ms. Perkins is the Acting Federal Security Director at William P. Hobby Airport. Dr. Sheri Mitchell, a practicing

the Department of Biology; Ms. Christian Zeigler from the Department of Chemistry, a teacher at The Kincaid School; Ms. LaKeisha Melton from the Department of Computer Science, a systems analyst for Cameron International in Houston; Ms. Stephanie C. Osuji from the Department of Engineering Technology, an Air Transportation Systems Specialist for the Federal Aviation Administration;

Dr. Renard Thomas from the Department of Environmental Science and Technology, a scientific researcher on the toxicity of environmental pollutants and TSU professor; Mr. Christopher McDaniels from the Department of Industrial Technology, proprietor of CMH Consultants, a design, construction, and project management firm; Dr. Alicia Martin, from the Department of

Mathematics, Asst. Principal of Channelview High School; Mr. John Metyko, from the Department of Physics, a radiation specialist from the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center; and Mr. Donald Perkins, from the Department of Transportation Studies, agenda director for Houston City Council Member Larry Green and supervisor of District K council office.

4th Annual Open House-Alumni and Partnership Luncheon

The 4th annual Open House-Alumni and Partnership Luncheon of the College of Science and Technology of Texas Southern University was held on November 8th. It was an occasion for alumni and partners to get to know each other and be informed about the College's activities. Each year we highlight one of our partners for their contribution to the programs of the College, and point to alumni who are achieving success in their professions. This year's theme for consideration is "Science and Technology drives the Economy." The Open House was a showcase for the cutting edge programs in COST that prepare students for the contemporary workforce. Among the exemplary programs of the college are the tracts in computer science that have been constructed to meet the demand for qualified personnel. Dr. Aladdin Sleem gave the Faculty Presentation, which focused on programs and research in computer networking and communications. Dr. Sleem is the Chair of the University Curriculum Council and is deeply involved in curriculum matters in the University. Dr. Sleem also shared a letter from a student who expressed his gratitude for the advisement and mentoring he received in the College, which led him to achieve more than he expected.

The keynote speakers Port Commissioner Jimmy A. Burke and Gilda Ramirez noting that the Commissioner was present at the inception of the maritime program. Commissioner Burke delivered a stirring address that highlighted the development of the port alongside the city of Houston, and the exciting future the port has as Houston moves toward becoming the leading port in the nation. The commissioner highlighted the volume of shipping and the number of vessels that utilize the facilities of the port each year. He described the economic impact of the Port on employment throughout Texas that is the result of activities at the Port.

Ms. Gilda Ramirez is the co-chair of the industry advisory board of our Maritime Transportation Management and Security program. She has been the key person in the past three years who drove the development of our maritime program from concept to its now realized success. Ms. Ramirez joined the Port of Houston Authority in 2002 as manager of Small Business Development. She became the director in March 2004 and was promoted to Vice President of Small Business in 2009.

NSTI Student Research Activity at Texas Southern University

Ten NASA Science and Technology Institute (NSTI) student interns from TSU and PVAMU were engaged in important summer projects at NASA Johnson Space Center related to the project titled "Development of technologies for the mitigation of bone loss in microgravity, osteoporosis and inflammatory disease." The project PIs are Dr. Sundaresan from TSU and Dr. Aghara from PVAMU. Eight other students were supported at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama on the project titled "Evaluation of the Behavior of Optical Fibers for Structural Health Monitoring of Composite Pressure Vessel." The project PIs are Dr. Olowokere from TSU and Dr. Gonzales from UT El Paso.

The College of Science and Technology received a research grant for $300,000 from the NSTI Research Program awarded by

UNCFSP in September 2011. The COST recipients are Dr. David Olowokere (Engineering Technology), and Dr. Alamelu Sundaresan (Biology). The purpose of the NSTI is to create a consortium of minority institutions that participate in cutting-edge research in collaboration with NASA.

TSU was also the proud host of the NSTI 2012 Investigators Working Group meeting from October 9-11, 2012. The result was a thriving research conference with research reports and networking between students and principal investigators of the different NSTI clusters.

TSU "Maroon Tails" - Women in Aviation Chapter Established at TSU

In March 2012 a group of aviation students attended the Women in Aviation, International Conference in Dallas, Texas. While attending the conference, their chaperone Ms. Sharon Hudson, Doctoral Graduate Assistant in the Department of Aviation Science and Technology, and a few of the female students attended the workshop to gain knowledge of how to start a student chapter at their university. Ms. Hudson has worked passionately to create and organize the first chapter of Women in Aviation, International at Texas Southern University. With much perseverance, Ms. Hudson worked to build the membership base in order to fulfill the requirements of becoming a chapter in this prestigious organization. On November 7, 2012, TSU was granted its Provisional Status as a chapter known as the TSU "Maroon Tails." As part of this worldwide organization the intent of the chapter is to provide an opportunity for like minded women and (men) to network on a regular basis. The chapter is set to conduct local annual conferences as well as social events and visits throughout the year.

Our goal is for membership to flourish with constituents from every aspect of aviation to include commercial to private pilots, flight instructors, finance directors, lawyers, entrepreneurs through students; plus those who are just passionate about being involved with aviation. Women in Aviation, International is a nonprofit 501(C)(3) organization dedicated to providing networking, education, mentoring and scholarship opportunities for women (and men) who are striving for challenging and fulfilling careers in the aviation and aerospace industries.

12th Annual TMCF Leadership Conference

Two students from the College of Science and Technology, Alfonso Arteaga, Maritime Transportation, and Shartajeye Wright, Biology, were part of a group of 10 students representing Texas Southern University who attended the prestigious Thurgood Marshall College Fund Leadership Conference, New York city, October 26-30 and received the opportunity to speak directly with, and were interviewed by recruiters for businesses such as Walmart, the CIA, the Department of Defense, Wells Fargo, and Microsoft.

Our student Ambassadors spent 5 days in the Big Apple with hotel accommodations and meals sponsored by the TMCF, which brought together the top 500 HBCU students from across the nation for a weekend of leadership interaction, financial education, and an opportunity to interact with businesses that were ready to hire them.

COST student Alfonso Arteaga won a $200 American Express gift card that was raffled by Wells Fargo during the first day of the conference, and Shartajeye Wright lit up the crowd with her skills during a Gallup luncheon plenary.

In an unfortunate turn of events, Hurricane Sandy closed down the ground transportation and airports of New York city. In spite of the superstorm, networking and learning continued. "This conference gave me an opportunity to interact directly with the

hiring personnel of different companies, allowing them to get to know me personally," said Alfonso Arteaga of the experience.

The COST encourages all students to apply and be part of the Leadership Conference in Washington DC in 2013.

Faculty Spotlight Carol Lewis

Dr. Carol Lewis

Carol A. Lewis, Ph.D. joined the TSU faculty as an assistant professor in 1992, after serving as an adjunct faculty for four years. When Dr. Naomi W. Ledé retired, Lewis took over as Director of the Center for Transportation Training and Research (CTTR), a companion to the Department of Transportation Studies.

Dr. Lewis conducts research for federal, state and local transportation departments. Lewis has conducted research for the Texas Department of Transportation regarding Regionalizing Public Transit, Smart Growth, Land Use and Development, Strategic Planning, and Land Value Effects of Elevated and Depressed Freeways. Her current research projects with TxDOT are on public involvement and the concept of the Texas megaregion. Since March 2008, Lewis has served as principal investigator for the Petrochemical Transportation Security Center of Excellence.

Dr. Lewis has supervised the Federal Highway Administration's Noise Compatible Land Use Brochure and workshop series. She is also the principal TSU researcher in the DHS Coastal Hazards Center at the University of North Carolina focusing on evacuation modeling.

Passionate about preparing students for their careers and to be competitive, in her dual role as researcher and instructor, Dr. Lewis is responsible for educating students in the fundamentals of transportation and urban transportation issues, as well as conducting operational and policy related transportation research. Prior to joining TSU, Lewis spent 15 years at the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County. Lewis belongs to a number of professional organizations including the Red Cross Transportation Advisory Committee and has served for more than 10 years on the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee of the local metropolitan planning organization. Houston's Mayor Annise Parker appointed Lewis to the Gulf Coast Rail District Board in June 2010 and in 2012 asked Lewis to review the proposal to expand international air service from the city's Hobby Airport. From 2004 to 2009, she served as transportation advisor to Houston Mayor Bill White and as Chair of the City's Planning Commission. She was appointed by Governor Rick Perry to the Governor's Task Force on Emergency Evacuation following the 2005 hurricane season. Lewis served two years on the board of the Metropolitan Transit Authority as an appointee of, then, Houston Mayor Lee Brown and six years as the national academic advisor for the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials. Lewis holds a Ph.D. from the University of Houston in Political Science and M.A. and B.A. degrees from the University of Iowa. In September of 2012, Dr. Carol A. Lewis, was promoted to Professor of Transportation Studies at TSU.

Program Spotlight High Performance Computing Center (HPCC)

Texas Southern University's High Performance Computing Center (TSU-HPCC) was established in 2008 to promote research and teaching on campus through integrating leading-edge high performance computing and visualization for the faculty, staff and students of TSU.

TSU-HPCC has been awarded a grant of $220,000 by the National Science Foundation for expanding its research capabilities. The funding secured allowed a doubling of the present computational resources, lifting TSU to a competitive position in terms of its capabilities, similar to those offered by Rice University and surpassing the University of Houston.

The TSU-HPCC's goal is to enhance learning and improve student achievement at TSU by integrating state-of-art technology into the classroom. Computational Sciences and High Performance Computing are rapidly becoming more and more relevant in many industries, and through TSU-HPCC students will get first-hand training in modern computational techniques, giving them a strategic advantage in the labor market. HPCC has been supporting a growing community of researchers who apply the intensive computational techniques to solve complex problems in Physics, Chemistry, Computer Science, Biology and Engineering. TSU-HPCC is under the direction of Dr. Christopher J. Tymczak (Physics), Dr. Daniel Vrinceanu (Physics) and Dr. Farrukh Khan (Computer Science).

Staff Spotlight Delois Smith-Johnson

Ms. Delois Smith - Johnson, a native of Selma, Alabama, relocated to Houston, TX, in 1988 from New Orleans, Louisiana. She holds an Associate's Degree from Selma University and is a proud member of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

In 1995, she began her career with Texas Southern University as a Data Entry Clerk in the Office of Registrar. Since that time, she has held several administrative positions across the campus including the Graduate School and the Office of the Provost. At the current time, she is the Administrative Assistant for the Department of Chemistry.

In her time away from the office, Delois enjoys, traveling, sewing and bowling. When asked about her greatest joy as an employee of TSU, she states, "The interaction with students" and she often reminds them that, "Everyday is not a sun shining day."

If you take a look on her desk, you will see her 'Wall of the Future'; she has a collage of children whose parents she has been able to influence as they matriculated through their studies. Each picture has a special story, just as her story!

Student Spotlight Ray Mbonu

Ray Mbonu graduated from Westbury High School at the top 5% of his class, in May 2011. He is a sophomore Chemistry major in both the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College and Louis Strokes Alliance for Minority Participation Scholars. He aspires to attend medical school to become a physician.

Before his first summer at TSU, Ray was awarded an 11 week internship in Gaithersburg, Maryland, under the Science and Engineering Alliance, with the National Institute of Standards and Technology's SURF summer program hosted for college students from all over the world. He was mentored by scientists, hired by the U.S Department of Commerce, from all over the world who are collectively trying to conduct research in various fields of science widely ranging from Aquatics to Fire Research. He presented research on how different concentrations and recipe clay coatings affected the spread of flame on polyurethane foams titled "Fire Proof Foams" to the NIST scientists.

Ray currently serves as a student worker in the office of the Dean of the COST at TSU where he is also a student Ambassador.

As a member of the community, Ray volunteered with both the Martin Luther King Jr. and People's Clinics in Houston, Texas where he was able to gain first hand experience with patients and the hospital-life, with the help of the nurses. Ray is a member of the choir, lectors, and ushers organization at his church where he and his peers help oversee the well-being of the congregation.

Alumni Raves Shaunté Abdin

Shaunté Abdin is a Biology Adjunct Faculty member with the Lone Star College System and a PhD Candidate in Environmental Toxicology in the COST. She is a two-time graduate of TSU, having obtained both her Bachelor with honors and Master of Science degrees in Biology. She is a NASA Center for Bio-Nanotechnology and Environmental Research Cohort 1 Fellow. In 2011, she was recognized as the Department of Env. Science and Technology Student of the year and the recipient of the COST Faculty and Staff Scholarship. She is currently working on her dissertation involving the effects of radiation on gene expression of vertebrates. Ms. Abdin holds memberships with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Beta Beta Beta National Biological Honor Society, Beta Kappa Chi National Scientific Honor Society, Golden Key International Honor Society and the TSU Alumni Association. Shaunté currently serves as secretary for the COST Alumni Association Chapter for which she recently received the TSU National Alumni Association Distinguished Chapter Alumni Recipient award for her notable work.

Upon the successful completion of her PhD, she plans to continue her career in academia aspiring for an administrative position.

Student Accomplishments

Chelse Hoover Named Outstanding Master's Student of the Year by SWUTC

The Southwest Region University Transportation Center (SWUTC) has named Chelse Hoover, Texas Southern University's graduate student, the recipient of the Naomi W. Ledé Outstanding Master's Student of the Year Award for 2012. Chelse received a $1,000 cash award and a plaque.

Annually, the SWUTC presents the Naomi W. Ledé Outstanding Master's Student of the Year Award, honoring the most accomplished master's student from among three universities, Texas A&M University, University of Texas at Austin, and Texas Southern University.

Chelse Hoover possesses stellar professional leadership. She has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering Technology and is pursuing a Master of Science in Transportation Planning and Management. She is an active member of many organizations, served as an officer in the student chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, and the vice president of TSU student chapter of Intelligent Transportation Society, while excelling in her graduate studies. Ms Hoover is currently conducting research with Dr. Lei Yu in analyzing the vehicle specific power characteristics in the Houston, Galveston and Brazoria area. She is also the recipient of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Fellowship for FY 2012, chosen as a Transportation Research Board (TRB) Minority Fellow.

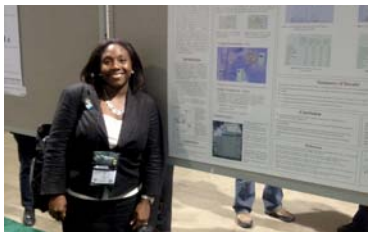
Research Enhancement Scholars in Mathematics

During the Fall Semester of 2012, two mathematics majors, Jose Cabrera and Jazmine Irving performed research under the supervision of Professors R.M. Nehs and W.E. Taylor.

Professor Nehs and Jose Cabrera have been studying the behavior of "Solutions to various maxi-linear difference equations of the second order." Jose Cabrera, a CREST Scholar, is a participant in the L.L. Clarkson Mathematical Research Experience. Jazmine Irving, also a CREST scholar and a recipient of the COST Research Enhancement Scholarship is being supervised by Professor Taylor. Their research is in Discrete Dynamical Systems with a focus on Asymmetric Tent-Maps. Miss Irving also began her research during the L.L. Clarkson Mathematical Experience. Both of these undergraduate scholars will present their findings during Research Week in Spring, 2013.

UTMB Visit

Dr. Lisa Cain (Director, Medical School Enrichment Program), Ms. Trea Smith, and Ms. Debra Leidy from the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX visited the College of Science and Technology on October 26, 2012 to promote the EMSAP, MSMP, and AARP programs to students in the College.



Siobhan Tarver Receives SETAC Minority Student Travel Award

Siobhan L. Tarver, Environmental Toxicology PhD Candidate, attended the Society of Environmental Toxicology & Chemistry (SETAC) North America 33rd Annual Meeting in Long Beach, California, November 10th-14th. Siobhan presented her research entitled, "Correlating Environmental and Biological Monitoring using GCMS: Human Exposure to Volatile Organic Compounds in the Greater Houston Area," in the Biomonitoring of Toxic Chemicals Session at SETAC.

Siobhan was awarded a SETAC Minority Student Travel Award which included a registration waiver and admission to a short course at the meeting. Siobhan was also invited to join the Human Health Risk Assessment Advisory Group which is composed of SETAC members from various backgrounds including academia, consultancy, government, and industry with research focuses on any interactions involving humans and environmental exposures. Her career goals include continuing research with a government agency serving as a scientific expert on human health exposures and risks related to contaminants.

Scholarly and Creative Activities

Publications

Zhu, L., L. Yu, X. Chen, and J. Guo. Simulated Analysis of Exclusive Bus Lanes on Expressways: Case Study in Beijing, China. Journal of Public Transportation, Vol. 15, No. 4, pp. 111-127, 2012.

Song, G. and L. Yu. Applicability of Traffic Micro-Simulation Models in Vehicle Emission Estimations: Case Study of VISSIM. In Transportation Research Record: Journal of Transportation Research Board, No. 2270, Transportation Research Board of the National Academies, Washington, DC, Jan 2012, pp. 132-141.

Osakue, E. E., Anetor, L. and Odetunde, C., (2012), A Generalized Linearized Gerber Fatigue Model, Machine Design, Vol. 4, ISSN 1821-1259, p. 1-10.

Anetor, L., Osakue, E., and Odetunde, C, (2012), Reduced Mechanisms Approach of Modeling Premixed Propane-Air Mixture Using ANSYS Fluent, Engineering Journal, Vol. 16, Issue 1, p. 67 – 86.

Hillar, M. "Dziedzictwo Braci Polskich. Rozdział Religii od Państwa i Wolność Sumnienia." ("The Legacy of the Polish Brethren. Separation of Religion and State and Freedom of Conscience.") Published in Gazeta AMG, a monthly of the Medical University of Gdańsk, Vol. 22, July, 2012, No. 7 (259), pp. 34-38.

Hillar, M. "Philo's Logos Doctrine. Bridging the two Cultures and Creating the Philosophical and Theological Foundations of Christianity," in Dialogue and Universalism Vol.XXII (1) 2012, pp.1-31.

Hillar, M. Book review : Janet Turner Stilson, Biographical Encyclopedia : Chronicling the History of the Church of God Abrahamic Faith 19th and 20th Centuries (Stillmn Valley: Word Edge, 2011). In E-Herald of Coming Kingdom, Vol. 4, issue 7, July 2012, pp. 16-18.

Thesis and Dissertation

Jerry He, "Characterization of Real-World VSP Distribution for Emission Analysis," M.S. Research Thesis, November 2012 (Advisor: Lei Yu).

Kelsey Parks, "The Effects of Pre- and Perinatal Exposure to Arsenic on Gene Expression in the Fetal Rat Kidney," M.S. Research Thesis, November 2012 (Advisor: Desireé Jackson).

TSU Homecoming Awards to COST

Parade Walking Unit: SECOND PLACE

Parade Campus Floats: FIRST PLACE

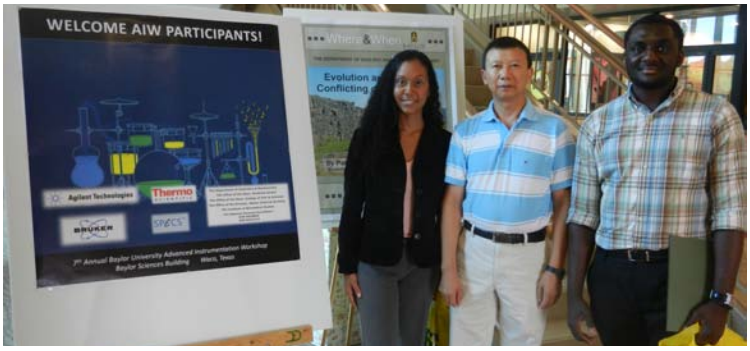
Trucks: FIRST PLACE (COST ALUMNI ASSOCIATION)

Campus Decoration, Office: THIRD PLACE (ROOM 157)

Campus Decoration, Door: FIRST PLACE (DEAN'S SUITE)

Advanced Instrumentation Workshop

Dr. Yuanjian Deng of the Chemistry Department accompanied two chemistry majors, Eugene Boakye Ansah and Angelica D. Jimenez, to the Advanced Instrumentation Workshop at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, on September 21-22, 2012. This two-day workshop provided these students an opportunity to be exposed to and operate state-of-the-art equipment used in small molecule X-ray crystallography, which is not available here in the Chemistry Department. Both students felt that the exposure to various instruments has broadened their knowledge and helped them for career planning.



Meetings and Seminars

Sharmila Bhandari, Ji Woo Seo, Hyun-Min Hwang, Debbie Bennett, Irva Hertz-Piccioto. High molecular weight polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in indoor dust and their health risk. Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry North America 33rd Annual Meeting, Long Beach, CA, November 11-15, 2012.

Hillar M, Seminar for Polish Philosophical Society and Institute of Philosophy and Social Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Evolution of the Hellenistic, Judaic, and Christian Religious Beliefs from Pythagoras to Tertullian, Warsaw, May 29, 2012.

Hillar M, Seminar for the Editorial Board of "Dialogue and Universalism, The Legacy of the Polish Brethren: Separation of Religion from State and Freedom of Conscience," Warsaw, June 2, 2012.

Hillar M, Seminar for Religion, Ethics and Society Club, "Naturalistic Spirituality: Beauty of Our Earth and Wisdom of Sages Houston, August 25, 2012.

Hillar M, Seminar for Religion, Ethics and Society Club, "Does Archaeology Prove the Existence of Jesus? An Alternative Explanation." Houston, October 27, 2012.