Members-at-Large
NEWSLETTER

National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry
November 2004

New MAL Listserv!
We have a new listserv hosted by Whitman College and administered by MAL Ruth Russo.

Any user can subscribe or unsubscribe by sending a blank message to:
ispmal-subscribe@whitman.edu or
ispmal-unsubscribe@whitman.edu

Make sure you send from the email address to which you wish to receive mail. You will receive a confirmation request to make sure you control the subscription address. Once this address is verified the user is either subscribed or unsubscribed, depending upon the message sent to the list.

To send messages to the list, address them to ispmal@whitman.edu. It is a private list, meaning that only those of us subscribed can read the messages. If there are questions about the listserv, please contact Ruth Russo at russonr@whitman.edu

2005 Triennial Convention
The Lanthanum chapter of [ ] will host the triennial convention June 6/9-6/12, 2005 in Lynchburg, VA at the beautiful facilities of Sweet Briar College. The location provides a beautiful retreat atmosphere a short drive from the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. If you wish to join us and have [ ] foot the bill, consider being an MAL delegate. Contact Kathryn Thomasson, MAL Coordinator, kthomasson@chem.und.edu for more information.

MAL Coordinator
One of the things done at convention is to elect a new national council. My term as MAL Coordinator is ending this triennium. Consider running for MAL Coordinator (or one of the other positions on National Council if you are interested). The MAL coordinator would get to edit this newsletter, communicate with lots of neat folks all over the world and work with the MAL treasurer and MAL Scholarship Committee to manage the Educational Re-entry Award. It's a great way to support MAL without being enormously time consuming. I like being able to communicate with so many different people. Please contact Kathryn Thomasson, kthomasson@chem.und.edu if you might be interested.

Websites
For the national [ ] http://www.iotasigmapi.info/
For MALs http://www.iotasigmapi.info/MAL/

Questions for Thought & Response.
Can Professional Women Have Children? Bonnie Gordon, the previous MAL Coordinator and Gabrielle Rum, the 1998 MAL Award winner share their recent conversation about motherhood. It begins with some interesting statistics found by Gabrielle and ends with Gabrielle's comments about careers versus biological realities are very much to the point.

The youngest mother whose history is authenticated is Lina Medina, who delivered a 6 lb boy by cesarean section in Lima, Peru in 1939, at an age of 5 years and 7 months. The child was raised as her brother and only discovered that Lina was his mother when he was 10. On April 9, 2003, Satyabhama Mahapatra, a 65-year-old retired schoolteacher in India, became the world's oldest mother when she gave birth to a baby boy. Satyabhama & her husband had been married 50 years, but this is their first child. The baby was conceived through artificial insemination using eggs from the woman's 26-year-old niece & the sperm of the niece's husband. Bobbie McCaughey is the mother who holds the record for the most surviving children from a single birth. She gave birth to the first set of surviving septuplets - four boys & three girls - on November 19, 1997 at the University Hospital, Iowa. Conceived by in vitro fertilization, the babies were delivered after 31 weeks by caesarean in the space of 16 minutes. Jayne Bleackley is the mother who holds the record for the shortest interval between two children born in separate confinements. She gave birth to Joseph Robert on September 3, 1999, & Annie Jessica Joyce on March 30, 2000. The babies were born 208 days apart. Elizabeth Ann Buttle is the mother who holds the record for the longest interval between the birth of two children. She gave birth to Belinda on May 19,1956 & Joseph on November 20, 1997. The babies were born 41 years 185 days apart. The mother was 60 years old when her son Joseph was born. The highest officially recorded number of children born to one mother is 69, to the first wife of Fedor Vassilyev (1707-1782) of Shuya, Russia. Between 1725 and 1765, in a total of 27 confinements, she gave birth to 16 pairs of twins, seven sets of triplets, & four sets of quadruplets. 67 of them survived infancy. The modern world record for giving birth is held by Leontina Albina from San Antonio, Chile. Leontina claims to be the mother of 64 children, of which only 55 of them are documented. She is listed in the 1999 Guinness World Records but dropped from later editions.

Bonnie's response was: "Does this mean that motherhood is getting ahead of you?"

Gabrielle replied: "No!! I love being home with the baby! He is just wonderful. Watching the world through his eyes is just amazing - and teaching him things is really fun. We are all doing well! Nicolas just turned two."

Bonnie wrote: "Good - I'm glad to hear that Nicolas is a keeper. So many professional women really struggle those first few years. Life brings so many changes."

To which Gabrielle said: "I'll be the first to admit, it's hard staying home raising a baby. There's not a whole lot of kudos or
recognition for a job well done as you go along - it's 20 years from now that I see the result of my "work". For someone who has gotten recognition based on school work (grades) and a job (salary), staying home doesn't give you much of a measure for success compared to what I've been used to for 35 years. So, yes, it does take time to recalibrate your brain to realize that a job is just money. It gives you the "tools" as my father always says to get what you want. It doesn't define who you are - it's what you do. Being a successful career person is not necessarily being a successful person in life. They are two separate entities that we seem to merge into one. But enough of my philosophizing - It's the hardest job I've ever had, but definitely the most rewarding. And, he is the most demanding boss I've ever had! But being able to spend time with him, watching him grow, being part of his development - making a difference, a REAL difference in someone's life is the most important thing you can do in life."

**Member Get-a-Member Campaign**

As MALs, we have a policy in place for nominating new members. If you get two new members to join within a year, you are eligible for free **mentor** merchandise from the supplies coordinator. National council lets you use the honor system so you've found to tell the supplies coordinator and she will send you something. The new supplies coordinator is QuynhGiao N. Nguyen NASA John H. Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field Mail Stop 106-1 Environmental Durability Branch 21000 Brookpark Road Cleveland, Ohio 44135 Email: Quynhgiao.N.Nguyen@NASA.gov

Look around you. Are there colleagues, subordinates, friends or students who qualify? Qualifications for membership can be found on our website mentioned above. Remember, *students don't need to be majoring in chemistry, but must have taken the minimum of chemistry courses (see the undergraduate qualifications)*. Professionals also just need to meet the minimum number of Chemistry credits; they don't need to be working as Chemists. You can contact me for application forms. I look forward to seeing your nominations for new members. Institutions and chemists in the area must be included.

**Chapter News**

*Te continues mentor program.* All of the senior graduate students interested in mentoring incoming first years provide a little information about themselves (where they're from, where they did their undergrad, who they're working for and in what division, and some personal hobbies or interests) and a list is compiled for the first years to peruse. Te then schedules a lunch specifically for those interested in being or having a mentor in which everyone has an opportunity to meet and greet and get to know others. After the meeting, the first year students make a list of the 3 senior students that they might like to have as a mentor. Assignments are made to pair up first year students with their mentors, and the main duty of the senior student would then be to initiate contact and take the first year student out to lunch. From there, it’s really up to the pair to decide how often they might want to meet. The hope is that the result is a lasting friendship.

**General News**

**Mentornet: Mentoring Future Women Faculty In Science And Engineering.** The following describes a terrific program to help electronically mentor future women faculty in science and engineering. More mentors are needed and interested and qualified faculty are urged to consider this excellent opportunity.

*Help Increase the Number of Women Faculty in Your Field.* Mentor a future colleague in just 20 minutes a week. You probably notice it every day. The number of female students and faculty members in science and engineering is desperately low - for example, less than 5 % of all full professors in engineering are women.

*How you can make a difference:* Volunteer to mentor a woman graduate student, postdoc or untenured faculty member who is considering a faculty career. The MentorNet Academic Career E-Mentoring (ACE) program will match you with a protégé for an eight month long email based mentoring relationship that can be very rewarding. With an average of less than 20 minutes a week you can make a vital difference in the life of a woman and help her "stay the course" towards a faculty career.

*Why should you volunteer?* Mentors volunteer primarily to help a protégé and to have a much-needed impact on the future make-up of their field. Yet MentorNet mentors report an enriching and rewarding experience for themselves as well as opportunities for self-reflection and self-renewal in the communication with their protégé. Mentors can even improve their mentoring skills for better interactions with students and postdocs at their own campus through MentorNet's optional web-based training guides and coaching.

*What's different about being a MentorNet mentor?* You are already a mentor to your graduate students and postdocs. You may even mentor junior faculty in your department. Yet mentoring through the MentorNet ACE program is different. For protégés, it means the chance to get truly impartial advice in a "safe" environment for questions and ideas they may not share with faculty who have decision making power over their career. For mentors, email allows for thoughtful and considered responses, a chance to be supportive and non-judgmental, to offer your insights and perspectives on a faculty career and career paths in an impartial way. It's also a chance to make a big impact on another person's life that takes very little time.

*What would we talk about?* The protégés who participate in the ACE program want to discuss the issues they face in the pursuit of a career in academia. They want to know about
work/life balance strategies, tenure strategies and what life is really like as a tenured faculty member. While women mentors are particularly effective in addressing these questions, male faculty members who are sensitive to these issues also play a highly valued role as a mentor.

Who does it take to be a good mentor? Nothing more than a willingness to listen to your protégé with an open mind, to share your experiences and a genuine desire to help a future colleague.

Who are the protégés? The protégés enrolled in the MentorNet ACE Program are graduate students, postdocs or untenured faculty in engineering, related sciences and technologies, or mathematicians who are interested in or pursuing a career as a faculty member at a college or university.

How it works: Mentors and protégés communicate by email for the duration of 8 months. Email is quick and convenient, and allows both parties to communicate at a time that suits them. MentorNet supports the relationship through on-going email messages to mentors and protégés with suggestions for discussion topics of particular interest and importance to women in their career path towards a faculty position in science and engineering.

Mentors needed in: All fields in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Fields most needed: Computer Science, Biological Sciences, Biomedical Engineering, Physics, Electrical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Chemistry, Geology, and Civil Engineering.

Requirements to be a mentor: male or female, tenured faculty member (including emeritus faculty), in engineering, science, technologies, or mathematics, at an institution of higher education, willing to dedicate an average of 20 minutes per week over an 8-month period, and willing to exchange email messages regularly with a protégé

About MentorNet. MentorNet is a nonprofit e-mentoring network for women in engineering, science, math, or technology. Since 1998, MentorNet's flagship Industry E-Mentoring Program has paired over 11,000 community college, undergraduate, and graduate women students interested in working in industry or at a government laboratory or agency with professional engineers or scientists in email based mentoring relationships. Since 2003 MentorNet has offered the Academic Career E-Mentoring Program for graduate students, postdocs and untenured faculty interested in an academic career. In 2001, MentorNet was honored with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring. Make an impact on the future make up of your field - volunteer with the MentorNet ACE program today! Sign up at www.MemberNet.net/join. For more information about our program, please contact us at: info@mentornet.net.

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This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. SBE-0318510. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation. To receive the monthly MentorNet News e-newsletter designed to keep you abreast of recent research and developments in mentoring as well as news about women in the fields of engineering and science, subscribe at http://www.mentornet.net/documents/community/public/subs.aspx

Member News

Donna Iannotti, the MAL Treasurer writes: Greetings from soggy Vero!! Well, we made it through hurricane no. 2, Jeanne.!! Vero Beach is on the Treasure Coast of Florida, and is some 30 miles north of the landfall point for both Frances and Jeanne.!! Charley missed us, and we only got Ivan on the flip side when he returned to Florida as storms.!! With this one, I had some roof damage and water leakage during the height of the storm.!! Plus, the screen house that covers the pool (very common in this part of Florida) collapsed and went for a swim.!! Many people, unfortunately, lost everything!! However, the important thing is that no one was hurt, we're all safe and "stuff" can be repaired and replaced.!! Personally, the good news is the Florida Medical Entomology Lab wasn't damaged; I still have a job as soon as power is restored.!! Also, the break has given me a chance to catch up on the books and most importantly, acknowledgement letters for those who have sent contributions to the MAL Reentry Scholarship fund.!! I apologize to anyone who has not received a letter yet.!! The past six weeks (or more) of hurricane preparations and damage repair (not to mention the lack of electricity) has rearranged a lot of my routine.!! Currently, we have received a total of $935 for the fund (since I've become treasurer--some of that money is in with fiscal '03-04, some with this fiscal year, in case you're adding it up).!! With everyone's generosity, plus the interest the savings account is receiving, we pretty much have covered this year's award plus a little extra for next year.!! I'd personally like to thank everyone who has contributed to this great cause.
Positions Available
Tenure-Track Biochemist, St. Olaf College, Department of Chemistry. Applications are invited for a tenure-track position in biochemistry at the Assistant or Associate Professor rank, starting September 1, 2005. Responsibilities include teaching courses in chemistry and biochemistry and contributing significantly to our interdisciplinary program in Biomolecular Science. Candidates should demonstrate a commitment to the goals of liberal arts education, including quality undergraduate teaching at all levels and building an experimental research program that involves undergraduates. Applicants must hold a Ph.D. degree in Biochemistry or a closely related field or anticipate completing it before the starting date. Details: http://www.stolaf.edu/depts/chemistry/biochemist.htm

Tenure Track, Analytical Chemistry, University of North Dakota. The Department of Chemistry invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in analytical or related area starting in Fall 2005. The successful candidate is expected to establish a vigorous, independent program of externally funded research and should be able to teach graduate and undergraduate courses in analytical chemistry. The Department has research focuses in catalysis and biological chemistry. Candidates with interests that complement these areas and emphasize method development are especially encouraged to apply. A Ph.D. is required and postdoctoral experience preferred. Details: http://www.und.edu/dept/chem/FacultyAnalyticalPosition.htm

Joke of the Day
Fast thinking on the part of kids in grade school. When the teacher asks, "What is the chemical formula for water?" The grade school kid answers "H-I-J-K-L-M-N-O". The teacher responds, "What are you talking about?" The kid replies, "Yesterday you said the formula is H to O."