

# Periodic Tabloid

Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Division at Caltech

Vol 3, No 1, Fall/Winter 2010-11

## CCE holds its first Safety Training Day

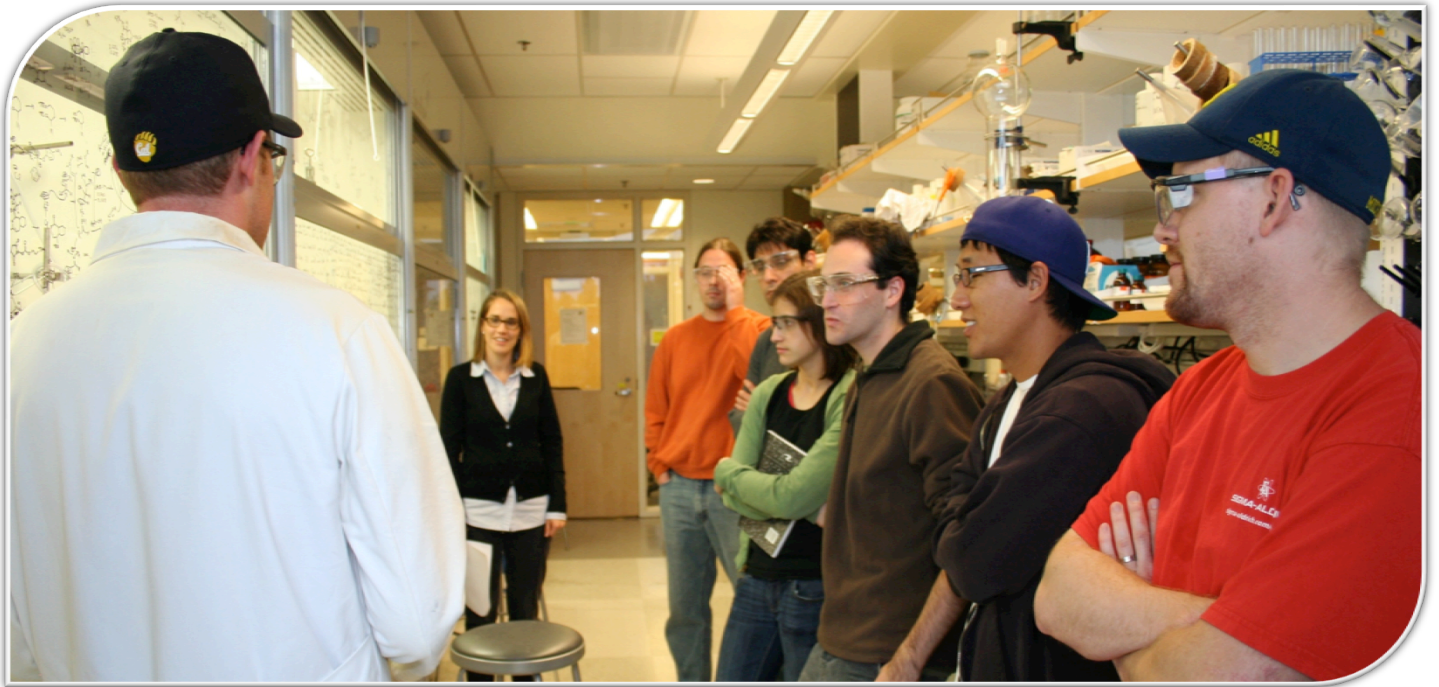
The CCE Safety Committee organized a Division-wide safety training event, with the assistance of the Caltech Safety Office, for the protection of CCE scientists and resources.

CCE Division's first Safety Training Day took place on November 19th, 2010. The afternoon event was organized by the Division's Safety Committee, whose present chair is Linda Hsieh-Wilson. Available to all students, postdocs and staff scientists in the Division (approximately 460 people), the event's high participation level was very encouraging to the organizers. This event was probably the largest of its kind anywhere on a university campus and really highlighted safety as a first priority for all CCE researchers.

The afternoon started with a safety seminar and panel discussion at the Beckman Auditorium. On the panel were John Bercaw (Chemistry), Richard Flagan (Chemical Engineering), Robert Grubbs (Chemistry), Doug Rees (Chemistry), Sarah Reisman (Chemistry), Caz Scislowicz (Director, EH&S), Scott Virgil (Chemistry), Dan Weitekamp (Chemistry), and Jay Winkler (Chemistry). John Bercaw presented the introductory seminar, explaining the purpose of the event, and giving some details of the sessions to follow. The presentation included subjects such as personal

[Continued on Page 2](#)





protective equipment (eye protection, lab coats, gloves, ... etc.), maintaining a safe work environment, Fire Department inspection issues, understanding the hazardous properties of chemicals (MSDS), chemical storage and laboratory housekeeping, and chemical disposal. In this seminar, Bercaw explained the levels responsibility, from individual researchers to the Institute as a whole, and gave examples of how to avoid potentially hazardous situations and how to respond to accidents. The seminar was followed by individual contributions from panel members concerning their areas of expertise.

Six breakout sessions followed the panel discussion, of which each scientist was required to attend three. The sessions included: 1. General Safety: fire extinguishers, emergency showers, 2. Working with Pyrophorics: syringe, cannula, quenching techniques, 3. Liquid Nitrogen and Vacuum/Schlenk Line: hazards/techniques, 4. NMR, Cryogenics, and Laser Safety: hazards/techniques, 5. Biohazards and Sterile Cell Culture Techniques, and 6. Ergonomics: computer ergonomics, lab bench ergonomics. Hands-on training on safety equipment such as fire extinguishers was also provided.

The event concluded with a Division-wide social with refreshments served in the Beckman Institute courtyard.





## Karen Baumgartner joins the CCE Staff

Karen Baumgartner joined CCE during the summer of 2010, as the Assistant to the Executive Officer in Chemical Engineering who is Professor Rick Flagan. Her predecessor Laura Lutz King relocated to the San Francisco Bay area.

Even before joining CCE, Karen was already a familiar face to us, because she transferred from the Caltech Office of Environmental Health and Safety where she had worked since 2004 as a safety technician handling radiological and chemical duties. She earned an EMT-1 Certificate in 2006 and had been an Emergency Medical Technician Skills Instructor for the Prehospital Care Program at Pasadena City College. Prior to joining Caltech, Karen worked as a Manager and Coffee Education Specialist at Starbucks in Arcadia, and as a machinist in a family business.

Karen is the Vice President of Education for the Caltech Toastmasters Club and is a member of the Health Physics Society Government Relations Committee, the Caltech Management Association, and the Pan Pacific Southeast Asian Women's Association. She enjoys scuba diving, rock climbing and volunteering as a member of the Tournament of Roses.

Laura Lutz King, despite her relocation, is still involved with Chemical Engineering in a new capacity. Laura will be assisting Professor Flagan in the upcoming ABET accreditation of Chemical Engineering and other engineering departments at Caltech.



Robert H. Grubbs



Shu-ou Shan

- **Robert H. Grubbs**, the Victor and Elizabeth Atkins Professor of Chemistry and the 2005 Chemistry Nobel Laureate, has been selected to receive the 2011 Roger Adams Award in Organic Chemistry by the American Chemical Society, for his “outstanding contributions to synthetic, mechanistic, and catalytic organic chemistry.”
- **Shu-ou Shan**, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, has been presented with the Irving Sigal Young Investigator Award, for her research’s “profound impact on our understanding of the SRP targeting cycle and its utilization of a multidisciplinary approach encompassing the disciplines of chemistry, biochemistry, structural biology, biophysics, and cell biology.”

## CCE welcomes its first year graduate students

The following graduate students have joined the CCE Division in the academic year 2010-11:

### Chemistry

Alan Cherney  
Sheldon Cheung  
Robert Craig  
Sidney Creutz  
Jason Crowley  
Leah Dodson  
Sijia Dong  
Douglas Duquette  
Guy Edouard  
Christopher Farwell  
Ariel Furst  
Joshua Green  
Matthew Griffin  
Christopher Haley  
Ryan Henning  
Justin Henthron  
Kyle Horak  
Madeleine Kieffer  
Chung Whan Lee  
AHCN (David)  
Lehtihet  
Andrew Lim  
Yiyang Liu  
Christopher Marotta

Adam Nichols-Nielander  
Phong Nguyen  
Kathryn Pérez  
Brendan Quigley  
Corey Reeves  
Jonathan Rittle  
Christopher Roske  
Katherine Schilling  
Helen Segal  
Shannon Stone  
Daniel Thomas  
Connie Wang  
Haoxuan Wang  
Alyson Weidmann  
Raymond Weitekamp  
Zach Wickens  
Joshua Wiensch  
Kuang-Wei Yang  
Qishui Yin  
Bilin Zhuang

### Chemical Engineering

Ricardo Bermejo-Deval  
Matthew Coggan

Maria-Eleni Dimotsantou  
Carrissa Eisler  
Vanessa Evoen  
Katharine Fang  
Katherine Fountaine  
Zachary Gibbs  
Xun Wendy Gu  
Matthew Shaner  
Charles Slominski

### Biochemistry

Xun Wang  
Aron Kamajaya  
Oliver Shafaat  
Eric Lubeck  
Naeem Husain  
Andrew Davenport  
Meera Rao  
Seth Lieblich

## CCE Holiday Party, December 10, 2010



The CCE Newsletter team would like to thank you all for your valuable and kind feedback and to wish you the happiest of holidays!

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