

Periodic Tabloid

Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Division at Caltech

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Schlinger Dedicated on March 9th, 2010

The new CCE building opened its doors on March 9th, 2010, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in its courtyard, followed by a lunch at the Athenaeum. Chemical engineers and synthetic chemists moved in and began their research in the weeks that followed.



The Warren and Katharine Schlinger Laboratory for Chemistry and Chemical Engineering was dedicated March 9 in a ribbon-cutting ceremony held in the courtyard of the new facility. With a focus on sustainability and resource conservation, the Schlinger Laboratory will foster innovative and productive scientific collaborations, bringing together diverse research groups to continue Caltech's tradition of pioneering investigations in chemistry and chemical engineering.

"This is a milestone in the history of our division," said CCE Chair Jackie Barton, speaking before a large audience that had gathered outside the state-of-the-art laboratory. It is the first laboratory intended exclusively for chemistry and chemical engineering research to be built at Caltech in at least 50 years. Barton thanked her predecessor as division chair, McCollum-Corcoran Professor and Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering David Tirrell, for taking the initial steps toward the laboratory's creation nearly a decade ago and applauded the generosity and foresight of the Schlingers, whose lead gift made the building's construction possible. Addressing the couple, Barton said, "We want to thank you so much for your vision—it is because of that vision and your efforts that we now have this extraordinary laboratory. Your efforts have made such a difference... Now it's our turn to go out and make a difference and to push back the frontiers."

In his remarks, Warren Schlinger recalled his freshman year at Caltech in 1941. At that time, said Schlinger, "the chemical engineering faculty at Caltech had a department made up of two professors and a secretary"—Katharine Stewart, whom Schlinger would marry in 1946. "Since then," he noted, "our association with Caltech has been continuous."

The Schlinger Laboratory is on target to receive Gold certification from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System, which requires projects to meet stringent energy- and water-efficiency standards.

In addition to the major support from the Schlingers, funding for the new building was also provided by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Will and Helen Webster, Victor and Elizabeth Atkins, the John Stauffer Charitable Trust, Barbara Dickinson, and the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation.





Photos by: Bill Youngblood



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Chemistry welcomes prospective graduate students with dinners, outings, and poster sessions.

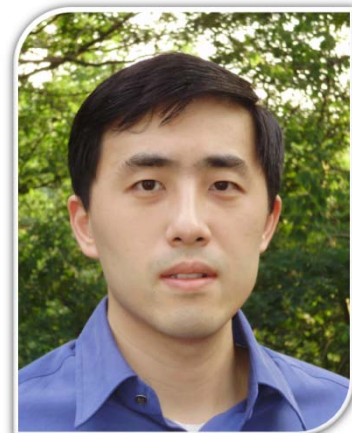
Every spring, Chemistry invites all admitted prospective graduate students to visit the Caltech campus, so that they can get to know the campus, faculty, and students. In 2010, there were two Visit Weekends, February 18-20 and March 18-20. Once students are admitted, they make arrangements to attend one of the two Visit Weekends. These Visit Weekends are very informative and most faculty and graduate students are available to give them a taste of graduate school at Caltech.

The Visit Weekend runs from Thursday evening to Saturday afternoon. Prospective students arrive on Thursday to join Chemistry students and other prospective students for dinner in Pasadena. Friday is the day for main events where they attend lab tours, meet with individual faculty, have lunch with Chemistry students, attend poster sessions, followed by happy hour and dinner with faculty and graduate students. Agnes Tong, who is responsible for Chemistry Graduate Records, arranged for the first Friday dinner to be held at the Beckman Institute courtyard, and the second Friday dinner at the newly built Schlinger courtyard (please see photos). The Saturday schedule was relatively informal, with activities such as hiking or museums, which allowed the students to see the Los Angeles area. Thanks to all involved, the visit weekends were a great success. Forty-four graduate students in Chemistry will be joining us in 2010!



Long Cai joins CCE Faculty on July 1st

We are happy to welcome Long Cai to the Division. Long Cai was born in Tianjin, China. He moved with his parents to the United States and attended middle school in New York. In the summer of his senior year, Long worked on diffractive optics in the laboratory of Harold Metcalf in SUNY at Stony Brook. There Long discovered his interest in science and especially in the interaction of light and matter. Long went on to study chemistry and physics as an undergraduate at Harvard, where he worked for Dudley Herschbach and Bretislav Friedrich on "pendular state" molecules generated by short laser pulses. Long continued graduate studies at Harvard with Sunney Xie in single molecule spectroscopy, where he worked on watching gene expression and decision-making events in single cells with single molecule resolution. He then came to Caltech and became a Beckman Institute fellow in the laboratory of Michael Elowitz in 2006, where he worked on signaling in single yeast cells and discovered that many pathways operated in a frequency modulated fashion in response to extracellular signals. Long starts his laboratory in the division of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering at Caltech on July 1st, 2010. His lab will be situated in Noyes. We are very excited that he will join us.



Edith Roberts, an honorary Caltech alumna, passed away peacefully on February 21, 2010

This last term we lost a dear friend and wonderful member of the CCE family, Edith Roberts. Edith will be remembered by all of us through her warm smile and graciousness. She always made everyone who knew her feel a little bit better. Edith is survived by her husband of 68 years, John D. "Jack" Roberts, Caltech's Institute Professor of Chemistry, Emeritus; a daughter, Anne; three sons, Donald, John Paul, and Allen; and nine grandchildren.

A Caltech undergraduate in chemistry is twice honored

Wesley Yu, a Caltech junior, has won a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program, which was established by Congress in 1986 to provide a continuing source of highly qualified scientists, mathematicians, and engineers by awarding scholarships to college students who intend to pursue careers in these fields.



Wesley has also received Caltech's Arie J. Haagen-Smit Memorial Award, which was presented to him on May 6th. The award was established in 1977 to honor the memory of the pioneering bioorganic chemist who discovered the chemical constituents of smog. Dr. Haagen-Smit was a member of the Caltech faculty for 40 years, and his family and friends have arranged for a prize of \$750 to be given at the end of the sophomore or junior year to a student in biology or chemistry who has shown academic promise and who has made recognized contributions to Caltech. The selection is made by a committee of representatives from the biology and chemistry divisions, and the deans.

Periodic Table

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Design by : Silva Virgil

Division Chair: Jacqueline K. Barton

Division Administrator: Paul Carrood

Division Chair's Assistant: Maureen Renta