Reminder: SAGE IGERT Applications Due October 17th

Dr. Robert G. Bergman wins the 2014 Welch Award in Chemistry

For pioneering work in alkane activation and mechanisms of organometallic reactions, Dr. Robert Bergman will receive the 2014 Welch Award in Chemistry. Dr. Bergman has made vital contributions to the understanding of organometallic chemistry, particularly carbon-hydrogen bond activation and its application to drug development and cleaner energy. The award ceremony will take place October 27 in Houston.

The Green Chemistry and Sustainable Design Seminar

The seminar will be hosting three talks between November and December from 4 to 5:30 PM in 433 Latimer Hall. Speakers include:

  o Smother and Spark: The Impact of Flame Retardant Policy on Pollution
  - November 24, 2014 — Noah Kittner, Energy and Resources Group, UCB
  - December 1, 2014 — Elena Krieger, PSE Healthy Energy

As a final note, Elena Krieger will be running an interactive problem-solving workshop from 12-1:30 pm on December 1. Lunch is provided and space is limited. For more information or to sign up, email Heather Buckley.

New graduate seminar on designing sustainable materials, products

Professors Alastair Iles and Christine Rosen are launching a new course this spring, ESPM 290 (CCN: 30299) / MBA 296.3, titled Graduate Seminar on Designing Sustainable Materials and Products: Problem Solving for Society and the Environment. In this class, students will explore the challenges and ethical conundrums of changing a deeply entrenched and complex production system. Using 11 brand new cases developed for this course including electric cars and flame retardants, we look at the basic concepts of green design, ethical reasoning, and several important processes for changing the system. The course will be a highly interactive, often student-led “brainstorming” process of how to transform our materials production and use system. Students will form interdisciplinary teams to investigate specific problems of changing the system. The class will meet 3-6 pm Wednesdays in the new active learning classroom in 118 Barrows Hall. Questions? Contact Alastair Iles or Christine Rosen.
Megan Schwarzman appointed to Biomonitoring California Panel

In September, California Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins appointed Dr. Megan Schwarzman to serve on the Scientific Guidance Panel for the California Environmental Contaminant Biomonitoring Program, also known as Biomonitoring California. The program—the only of its kind conducted by a U.S. state—aims to determine levels of environmental chemicals in a representative sample of Californians, establishing trends in the levels of these chemicals over time and investigating the effectiveness of public health interventions. For more on the panel, visit their website here.

Greener Solutions Presentations on December 8th and 10th

In this fall’s Greener Solutions course, two interdisciplinary teams of UC Berkeley graduate students have been investigating safer alternatives for preservatives and safer methods of designing spray polyurethane foam insulation. They will present their findings in two events at the end of the semester: an evening poster session hosted by BizNGO at the Presidio Officer’s Club on Monday night, December 8th and on the Berkeley campus during the morning of December 10th, 2014. To attend one of the presentations, or for details on time and location, email Megan Schwarzman.

Spotlight on BASIS

Each year, over 450 graduate students and postdocs at UC Berkeley bring their love for science and engineering into local elementary school classrooms through the Bay Area Scientists in Schools (BASIS) program. Run by Community Resources for Science, a local non-profit that has been helping elementary school teachers develop skills, enthusiasm, and confidence in science teaching since 1997, the BASIS program brings diverse STEM role models into high need local schools to engage elementary school students in hands-on investigations. To learn more about the program and see photos of scientists bringing delight to young learners, visit their website. Interested in volunteering? Click here to become a volunteer and here to sign up for an orientation.

Two job opportunities at Yale

The Yale Center for Green Chemistry is looking for a Program Director with entrepreneurial spirit and lab experience to lead the center. Responsibilities will include technology development, grant writing, education, and outreach. To apply, email a letter of interest and CV to Julie Zimmerman. The Molecular Design Research Network (MoDRN) is also looking for a program manager to serve as the primary technical point of contact for a multi-institutional research program related to design guidelines for less hazardous chemicals. For more information or to apply, visit their website here.

Applications for Ciba Travel Awards in Green Chemistry due soon

Apply by October 17, 2014 for the Ciba Travel Awards in Green Chemistry. US students interested in green chemistry and sustainability — from high school through graduate school — can apply to have up to $2,000 in travel expenses covered to present research at qualified ACS conferences in 2015. If you have questions, email gci@acs.org or call (202) 872-6102.
Green Chemistry Education Webinars

The Green Chemistry Education webinar series officially launches this fall. The first webinar will be held on October 15, and will feature Dr. John C. Warner, Founder and CTO of the Warner Babcock Institute for Green Chemistry to discuss chemistry education and answer questions. The webinar will go from 2 to 3 PM EDT and you can register here. The second webinar takes place on November 19 from 2 to 3 PM EST and will be hosted by Dr. Jane Wissenger of the University of Minnesota to discuss the modernization of the organic chemistry laboratory. Register for Dr. Wissenger’s webinar here. All webinars are free and open to the public, and will be recorded and posted along with supporting documents here.