

# NEWS

From Inside and Outside CUR

## SCCUR Conference

The second Southern California Conference on Undergraduate Research (SCCUR), of which CUR is a co-sponsor, will be held at Caltech on November 19, 1994. The purpose of SCCUR is to celebrate undergraduate research and scholarship in the variety of disciplines and types of institutions in the region. The conference fosters appreciation of the valuable role creative activities play in complementing other aspects of undergraduate education. It encourages the pursuit of advanced study and collaborations. SCCUR helps to create a multidisciplinary and multicultural community of researchers, scholars, and artists linked by a common enthusiasm for learning.

Two keynote speakers will address the conference: Joann M. Stock, Associate Professor of Geology and Geophysics at Caltech, will speak on "Stress Fields that Cause Earthquakes in Southern California." Fredrick H. Shair, Manager, Educational Affairs at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, has titled his talk "Grand Challenges for Science in Society."

Over 400 students, faculty, and administrators attended the first SCCUR at Caltech in November, 1993. For information, contact Carolyn Merkel, Director, SURF Program, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91125.

## 1994 MACTLAC Meeting

Attention chemistry faculty in liberal arts colleges in the following states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin: The 1994 meeting of the Midwestern Association of Chemistry Teachers in Liberal Arts Colleges (MACTLAC), will be held October 21-22, 1994, at Alma College, Alma, Michigan. The theme of the conference is "The Chemistry Curriculum in Transition." In addition to three plenary speakers, there will be three blocks of time when attendees will participate in discussion groups. Contact: Department of Chemistry, Alma College, Alma, MI 48801.

## Women in Science and Mathematics: A Project Kaleidoscope Regional Colloquium

This colloquium will take place at Berea College, Berea, Kentucky, October 14-16, 1994. The aims and objectives of the colloquium are: to determine and identify strategies for overcoming real and perceived barriers that discourage undergraduate women from enrolling and majoring in the sciences and mathematics; to learn from existing undergraduate science and mathematics programs that are successful in attracting and sustaining participation of women; and to provide participants with information and resources to enable them to develop programs on their home campuses

which encourage more women to enter and succeed in the fields of science and mathematics.

Contact: Jeanne L. Narum, Director, ICO/PKAL, Suite 1205, 1730 Rhode Island Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036.

## Collaborative Research Fellowships Offered

The Center for Interfacial Engineering, a National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center, sponsors a program to involve faculty from liberal arts and research institutions in collaborative projects with its faculty. Funding for visiting Faculty Fellows participating in this program is available through the RDA grant process recently described on the CUR electronic network (CURLS).

The goal is to develop projects of mutual interest, particularly those with potential for being continued in the visiting faculty member's own laboratory with his or her students. While in residence, Faculty Fellows also are invited to contribute their expertise to the design of enhanced learning experiences for students in the Center's programs.

Research at the Center focuses on interdisciplinary study of molecular behavior at the interfaces between materials. The work emphasizes fluid systems in four research areas: Biomedical Interfacial Engineering; Coating Process Fundamentals; Polymer Microstructures; and Surfactancy and Self-Assembly.

Faculty who wish to consider participating (either during a summer or as a sabbatical opportunity) can contact the Center for more information: Hertha Schulze, Center for Interfacial Engineering, University of Minnesota, 181 Shepherd Labs, hschulze@maroon.tc.umn.edu, (612) 625-4369.

## CUR Members Make News

### Peter J. Collings Receives Award

Established in 1984 by the Research Corporation, the Award for Research in an Undergraduate Institution is intended to honor a physicist whose research has achieved wide recognition and contributed substantially to the professional development of undergraduate students.

Peter J. Collings of Swarthmore College was recognized for his excellent experiments on the optical properties of liquid crystals and for his skilled direction of undergraduate students at Kenyon and Swarthmore Colleges, who have been given major responsibilities in carrying out this research.

Internationally known for his work in the field of liquid crystals, Collings received his Ph.D. in physics from Yale University in 1976 and promptly joined the faculty of Kenyon College. He served two terms as chair of the Physics Department there before moving to Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania in 1990, where he is presently a professor of physics and chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Using equipment from Yale's now-defunct liquid crystal program, and aided by a grant from the Research Corpo-

ration, Collings was able to establish a highly successful research program at Kenyon College, which he subsequently transferred to Swarthmore. His experimental program is particularly noteworthy because undergraduate students carry out the bulk of the laboratory work, from constructing the apparatus to analyzing the data. This approach has had a positive effect on the career decisions of his students; nine former student co-authors are presently pursuing graduate studies in physics.

## Hendrix College Receives Department Development Award

A private liberal arts college in Conway, Arkansas, recently became the recipient of a \$588,185 award under Research Corporation's Department Development Program. The award, announced in December, is only the second under this program to encourage and strengthen productive departments of chemistry and physics.

The foundation's funds will help launch an ambitious five-year effort to develop both the chemistry and physics departments at Hendrix. The foundation contribution will be devoted to instrumentation and to helping enlarge the faculty and technical staff during initial phases of the plan.

The Department Development Program aims at "extending excellence" as demonstrated by promising departments, research, teaching, and faculty scientists. Invited chemistry and physics departments formulate development plans and key elements of accepted plans may be funded by Research Corporation.

The first Department Development Award, made in 1991, was to the chemistry department at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

## Eight Educators Receive Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Awards

The Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation, Inc., has announced the first recipients of awards totaling \$480,000 under its new 1994 Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Awards program.

Seven nondoctoral and one doctoral institution will receive unrestricted \$60,000 grants to support the professional activities of outstanding young faculty in chemistry, chemical engineering and biochemistry.

The five men and three women listed below were designated Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholars based on their records

of continuing excellence in teaching, mentorship, and leadership in encouraging undergraduates to become effective members of the chemical profession.

The Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Awards Program, announced in 1993, is designed to recognize achievements in research and teaching in the chemical sciences by faculty whose predominant professional activity is with undergraduates. It is one of two new Teacher-Scholar programs announced last year by the Foundation to renew and extend its support of outstanding scholarship and educational accomplishment in the chemical sciences.

### Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholars:

Furman University, Moses Lee, Chemistry: Molecular recognition and covalent modification of the minor groove of specific DNA sequences with biological importance.

Harvey Mudd College, Kerry K. Karukstis, Chemistry: Kinetic and structural studies of photosynthetic systems using fluorescence and absorption spectroscopy and light scattering.

Michigan Technological University, Faith A. Morrison, Chemical Engineering: Rheology of complex materials including block polymers, highly entangled polymer melts, and electrorheological fluids.

Middlebury College, James A. Larrabee, Chemistry and Biochemistry: Studies on the physical and electronic structure and chemical reactivity of copper and cobalt proteins.

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Camden, Jing Li, Chemistry: Experimental and theoretical solid state and inorganic chemistry and material science.

Swarthmore College, Thomas A. Stephenson, Chemistry: Laser-induced fluorescence studies of photodissociation dynamics and energy-transfer processes in weakly bound molecules.

University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez, Juan López-Garriga, Chemistry: Structure-function relationships in metallo- and photoactive proteins.

Wake Forest University, Mark E. Welker, Chemistry: Applications of transition-metal complexes in organic synthesis.

Please submit news items by sending them to:

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Deadline for submission: 1st of the month prior to publication month (November 1 for the December issue).