

The Schlieren

Spring 2008

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Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Terence Morrill Retires: The End of an Era



This spring quarter marks the last quarter that Dr. Terence C. Morrill will teach at RIT. He has served RIT since 1967 and will be retiring in May. Dr. Morrill started his career in industry like many aspiring chemists. After earning his BS in chemistry at Syracuse, he got a *sweet* job working for a sugar company in California. It didn't take long for Dr. Morrill to decide that industry wasn't for him and he returned to school at California State University to earn his masters degree. He then went on to the University of Colorado and earned his PhD in 1966. He began his teaching career shortly afterwards joining the faculty at RIT in 1967.

Dr. Morrill's first office was on the downtown campus! He remembers that the downtown campus area

was awful. He recalls that “students actually were being robbed at knife point throughout the year and the campus was falling into disrepair due to all the funding going to the new Henrietta location”. Dr. Morrill tells us that he’ll never forget his first class because only one student showed up and the course section was eventually canceled. Given his long tenure at RIT, Dr. Morrill has seen his fair share of lab “accidents”. One of his most memorable lab incidents involved a student coating their round bottomed flask with stopcock grease and then having it quickly ignite into a tower of flames.

Aside from being a professor, Dr. Morrill has immersed himself in student life by volunteering as a faculty athletic representative, helping out the RIT athletes by proctoring exams when they couldn’t make the normal test time and sitting on disciplinary boards. He was also involved in “Noon Hour Warrior’s Basketball” which consisted of faculty, students, and alumni coming together to play basketball for an hour.

Dr. Morrill has achieved a great deal at RIT. He recently stepped down from his position as Chemistry Department Head. When asked about what advice he would give to new professors he responded: “Attitude is very important. If you enjoy it, then do it. But if don’t like it, leave”.

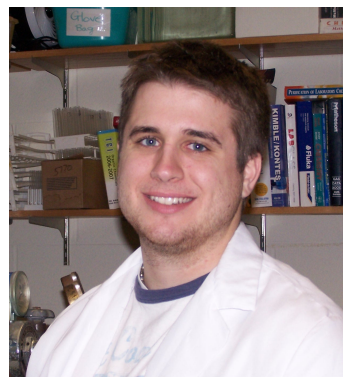
Dr. Morrill will be sorely missed in the Chemistry department and we wish him and his family all the best!! On behalf of the faculty and the students, we thank you so much for your dedication to this department! This truly marks the end of an era for our department .
-Tyler Kallen ‘09

Word In The Hood

Tyler Kallen:
BS ‘09 Chemistry

Mentor:
Dr. Tina Collison

Research: “Studies Toward the Total Synthesis of Trocheliophorolide A”



Tyler is a 3rd year chemistry major from Rutland Vermont. Upon completing the sophomore organic sequence, Tyler began doing research for Dr. Tina Collison. He is currently working on a project that aims to synthesize a natural product called Trocheliophorolide A that has been shown to inhibit the growth of certain bacteria. Although the project is nearing an end, Tyler is working to bring enough material through so the final steps of the synthesis can be run. Tyler is the most junior member of the Collison group and has been working to learn the ropes. Starting next fall, Tyler will be the most senior member of the group and will soon be mentoring incoming students in the Collison lab.

When asked about getting to where he is today, Tyler says “growing up, I always wanted to be a scientist.”. His interest in becoming a chemistry major grew from the encouragement of his 11th grade Chemistry Honors teacher Mr. Lopes whose love of the subject inspired him.

After graduating from RIT, Tyler plans to pursue his PhD in organic chemistry, although he is still undecided about what he will do after graduate school. Besides Tyler's studies and research endeavors, he is also a member of the RIT track team, in which he throws javelin. He can also be found around the department working in the second floor stock room.
-Laura Herder ‘09

Where are they now?



Paul James Jones: After nearly 18 years in the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Laboratory at Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals in Danbury, CT, with 10 of those as its head, Dr. Paul-James Jones (BS Chemistry, 1983, Ph.D. Yale, 1990) decided to take a left turn and has started a new career as Systems Architect in the Information Technology Department at Boehringer. This change gives Paul ample opportunity to use his critical thinking and information management skills acquired in the laboratory, and apply them in a much broader arena. Paul fondly remembers his days at RIT, and has reacquainted himself with the inner workings of the campus through co-op students currently working at Boehringer.

Patrick Diehl hails from Aruba and arrived at RIT in 1981. Patrick did some independent work with Dr. Rosenberg at one point and claims that Dr. Tubbs' p-chem course is still one of the toughest courses he has ever taken. Upon graduating from RIT, Patrick went to the University of Virginia for a Masters degree in Materials Science. He then studied at Arizona State University where he earned his PhD in Science and Engineering of Materials. Patrick specialized in high resolution electron microscopy on interfaces of thin films. After doing a post-doc and working as a researcher at the University of North Texas he decided that he really enjoyed teaching. During his work at UNT he took education classes and completed his teaching certificate. After 10 years of teaching physics and chemistry at a private highschool in Charleston, SC, he moved to Hong Kong last summer. He now works at Hong Kong International School. "It is a great experience living and working here" he says. We travel a lot in the region. My wife is a psychologist who also teaches. We have two daughters (in first and fourth grade).

Patrick writes, "I wanted to thank you for the education I received at RIT. There was always much personal interaction and care for the individual. Not easy to do in a large school. Thank you."

News

- Congratulations to Joshua Thomson '10 who is a 2008 recipient of a Goldwater Fellowship. Josh is the first sophomore from RIT to receive this honor . As such he will be receiving \$15,000 towards his last two years of college. Way to go Josh!
- Marc O'Donnell '08 and Jessica Alexander '10 both presented a poster of their work on the interactions of rhodamine 101 with carbon nanotubes at the National ACS meeting on April 6-10 in New Orleans, LA. They were accompanied by their research mentor Dr. Chris Collison
- Also present at the ACS meeting were two of Dr. Tom Smith's students Glen Labenski MS '08 and Siddhesh Pawar MS '08. Glen gave a talk on light induced change on refractive index and Sid presented a poster on photoplastic siloxane based thiol-ene polymer systems.
- Congratulations to both Marc O'Donnell '08 and Jessica Smith '08 who were both named RIT Outstanding Undergraduate Scholars.
- Congratulations to Brandy Pappas '08 who received the 2008 John Wiley Jones award. The awards dinner was followed by a seminar by Timothy Swager of MIT who was chosen as the JWJ guest lecturer.
- Joshua Thomson is a 2008 American Society of Microbiology Undergraduate Research Fellow. WOW, well done, Josh!

- ChemClub will be publishing a senior '08 pamphlet soon that will include all of the chemistry/biochemistry students graduating this year. It will include their plans after graduation and “things they learned the hard way”.
- ChemClub will again be hosting its annual Chemistry Golf Scramble. If you didn't play last year, here's another chance to join the fun. It will be held on May 10th at 2:30pm at Genesee Valley Golf Course. Local alumni have been invited this year and we're hoping to get a great turn out! Stay tuned.

Chemical Humor

The Analytical Detective – Great Events in Chemistry



1858: Kekulé, moments before
his inspirational insight into
the structure of benzene.

For more information about the ChemClub or how to get involved please our website at:

www.rit.edu/~chemclub