Welcome to one of the first of what I hope are many Chemical Bonds Newsletters from the Department of Chemistry at East Carolina University. I am excited to regularly share news of our accomplishments in this format. This fall, we have a record high enrollment in our chemistry classes, and are happy to be home to almost 200 chemistry majors. Our graduate students continue to publish, present, and excel all the way to well-respected jobs after school. Please read on and see why Pirate Chemists are so successful!
~ Dr. Rickey Hicks, Professor and Chair

Department Receives Expert Counsel

The Department of Chemistry Advisory Board has been very active since 2007 in providing the department with excellent advice in the areas of departmental strategy and fundraising activities. These Advisory Board members were instrumental in helping gain an almost $100,000 grant from Golden LEAF Foundation supporting our Undergraduate Teaching Laboratories.

Franklin D. Kizer Award

The Department of Chemistry seeks to designate our most generous donors as Franklin D. Kizer Award Winners. Mr. Kizer, an alumnus of ECU Chemistry, was a long-time supporter. His scholarship is one of the longest-running endowments benefiting our students. Mr. Kizer passed away at age 93, in March, 2010. We honor his lifelong commitment to our department by naming industrial and alumni donations at the $100,000 level after Mr. Kizer. We look forward to our first Kizer contributor.

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When the student becomes the teacher

The Chemistry Department Undergraduate Teaching Assistant Program was created to provide eligible undergraduate students the opportunity to enhance their working knowledge of general chemistry, improve their proficiency in communication, and develop the ability to fairly assess the work of others. They cultivate these skills in CHEM 2301, Teaching Chemistry Laboratory. Two main components comprise the content of this course: lecture sessions and laboratory shadowing. In lecture, students perform exercises designed to improve their instructional abilities from both the applied and managerial perspective. For the laboratory component, students are assigned to a laboratory section where they work under the direction of a senior faculty member. These senior instructors act as mentors as the undergraduate trainees gain experience and put into practice the skills necessary to become effective laboratory assistants and valued team members.

At left, Dr. Bell reviews a procedure with two teaching assistants in training.

To be able to teach these students what I was once taught makes me feel accomplished. It enables me to see how much I have grown throughout my years at ECU and how much I have been taught by my Chemistry professors.  
– Magen Cross, ECU Class of 2012

Alumni Profiles

• Landon Allen  • ECU Class of 2010 and 2011  • BS Biology, BA Chemistry, MBA, and future MD

My favorite chemistry class in college was Organic II with Dr. Burns.  
I can’t live without my Blackberry!  
My dream job is to work in a rural community health center.  
I am so glad I majored in chemistry because I better understand the molecular and chemical etiology of many pathological processes, as well as drug therapies used to treat them. I feel more comfortable handling new published research material and, above all, better prepared to manage patient care.

Faculty and Staff Notes

Dr. Rosa Bell and Dr. Subodh Dutta were both recognized with teaching awards from the Board of Governors and Alumni Association, respectively, in 2012. Another university-wide honor has been awarded to Dr. Andrew Morehead, as he is serving as the Vice-Chair of the Faculty this year. A frequent contributor to the Journal of Membrane Science and Technology, Dr. Rickey Hicks has been named Editor in Chief. The department will miss Mr. Bill Dawson, who has retired after over thirty years of service to ECU.