
Walker Group News

Happy Holidays Everyone!

Lots of things going on this year. Three **new graduate students** have joined the group: Danny Kuntz, Meghan Swansen and Marshall Lindsay. All three are currently fighting through finals and getting ready to start doing research. Two new undergrads have joined the group this fall – Jonathan Ng is doing CIT Honors research and Alan Abel is starting research as a freshman.

The group is spreading into some **new lab space**. We're staying in B210 but taking over space in DH B101 – 107. Finally, some labs with clean hoods!

Guy Berry and I hosted the **Society of Rheology Meeting** down at Station Square this past October, so Michael, Gita and Danilo got to help out (and put up with me being pre-occupied). All went well and we impressed the rheology community with Pittsburgh – now they know that there is more than just great rheology research in the 'burgh.

Eric was named the Dowd Fellow in ICES for this year and Danilo was awarded one of three PPG Fellowships.

Eric passed his PhD quals in BME. Michael, Danilo and Gita will all **propose** their PhD's this academic year: Danilo passed his last month, Michael soon and Gita right after New Year's.

Lots of **great talks** and posters were given. Danilo gave his first talk at SOR and a poster at ChEGSA, while Gita and Michael represented the group with great talks at ChEGSA and posters at SOR. Eric gave his first conference talk at the ASM meeting.

Anthony Balducci and James Wertman both **graduated** from CMU (and the group) last May and headed off to MIT – stay real! Anthony won the Ken Westerberg Research Award at graduation, the second awardee from my group.

Group Alumni

Graduate Students

Several mini-reunions this year, but we never quite got everyone in one place. Kevin and I planned our vacation in the southeast so that we could catch up with Brian (B2), My Hang and Yenny at the Colloids meeting in Atlanta. Then My Hang, Yenny and Brian (B1) and I all caught up at the Rheology meeting in Oct. Finally, B1, Yenny and I went to My Hang's wedding in late October (Congratulations My Hang!).

My Hang was back several times for "official functions" and recruiting. Yenny came through to recruit later in the semester (and for sushi). Since B1 is in town, we catch up at one of the finer restaurants in the city – Vinnies.

It sounds like everyone is doing great at work, carving out places in their respective companies and, hopefully, at least thinking about rheology once in a while (?)

Undergraduate Students

I saw Scott Shell and Wes Kopacka at the AIChE meeting. Both can see the light at the end of the PhD tunnel at Princeton. Wes was talking about coming back to town for Carnival (April X) – if anyone else does the same, let me know.

Alex, Anthony, Talat, Tomoko and James are also back at school working on technical degrees. John should be a doctor by now, but probably still in some stage of "school". Mike, Cheryl and Anastasia are out in the real world making a living. Lots of folks I haven't heard from.

I didn't see too many group alumni at the TOC this year, I hope some of you can make it back in the future. Do let me know if you are on campus for recruiting etc.

Some pictures of the group and out of date news can be found on the group website, which is in dire need of an overhaul: <http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/~lwalker/>

News I've heard (send more if you have it!):

Graduate Alumni

Brian Thebaud – doing well in Pittsburgh, working hard at PPG Chemicals (Coatings). We know he's working hard as he tells us that he hasn't been to Doc's in ages.

Brian Priore – living in NJ (recently moved, but what could possibly draw him to NJ?), running the colloids lab for DuPont Automotive Coatings in Philly.

My Hang Truong – finally got through the wedding! She and Tin are living in Cleveland, she works for Lubrizol, he keeps E-bay in business.

Yenny Christanti – happy that cooler weather has reached Houston, doing great at Schlumberger, or so her boss tells me over scotch in the UK.

Brett Beauregard – after finally finishing his MS CPS, Brett left PPG and headed to Oklahoma to work for XXX. As if one degree as a part time student were not enough, he's going to get an MBA now.

Undergraduate Alumni (in order of tenure in the group)

Tomoko Sano – I see Tomoko every now and then when she escapes the bowels of Wean Hall to come up for air. I haven't seen her in a while, so I assume she's almost finished her PhD in Materials Science.

Wesley Kopacka – Wes is plowing into the last stages of his PhD at Princeton. Not far from becoming my academic uncle.

John Cafardi – I haven't heard from John in a while, but assume that he is surviving some horrible stage on his way to becoming an MD. Is it like on ER?

Scott Shell - Scott is also up at Princeton working on his PhD. He veered away from complex fluids to do some complicated simulations, but is getting quite far. Now something practical and he can look for an academic job.

Patrick O'Malley – I hear about Pat from his younger sister who is here at CMU. Pat left P&G to get his MBA and then got married and is living happily in Ohio.

Cheryl Kaminsky – Since graduation, Cheryl has been working at Kodak in Rochester and also was recently married – congratulations!

Michael Wallace – Mike is at Kodak, although he and Cheryl are in different parts of the company. Mike and his wife, Mandy, just bought a house, so I assume they spend weekends at Home Depot!

Talat Aligusane – Talat has decided to go back to school and is working on a Master's in the UK – he'll have to fill us in on the similarities/differences compared to the US.

Alex Meyer – Alex passed his PhD qualifying exams at Delaware this past August – congrats. He stops by CMU quite a bit, must not have enough research to do yet!

Anastasia Gribik – Anastasia is up at GE, we'll have to find out how she is surviving so far from Pittsburgh. Have you adjusted to a daytime schedule yet?

Anthony Balducci – Anthony is at MIT in the first year of the PhD program, he's just picked an advisor and is going to stay in the colloid world, but with a Bio twist.

James Wertman – James is also up in Boston at MIT in the Practice School. So, he's also “enjoying” the crunch of first year final exams. Did you get your practical assignment yet?

There are a bunch of folks that I haven't heard from, or about. If anyone has e-mail addresses or news about the following, let me know: Debraj Ghosh, Holly Brosnahan, Alyssa Werthman, Iris Rodriguez, Dan Tanzil.