
Walker Group News

Happy Holidays Everyone!



Posing for a group picture are (back) Eric, Danny, Marshall and Alan, (front) Lynn, Michael, Gita, Kate and Danilo. You would think everyone would look happier after a free dinner!

One new graduate student joined the group this year: Jeff Sheehan is working on his MS and is co-advised by me and Newell Washburn, a faculty in Chemistry/BME. Unfortunately, he left just before we took the picture.

Marshall Lindsey finished his thesis in December and thus completed his M.S. degree – just under the wire as usual for the group!

Alan Abel and Kate Hollabaugh joined the group as undergrad researchers this year. As usual, we will have a few more undergrads join the group in the spring.

I spent several weeks this summer in Leeds, UK working in Simon Biggs' lab. We are still trying to learn about polymerized micelles adsorbing on surfaces. Simon is doing well in the UK – as busy as ever.

Lots of great talks were given and papers are coming out. We blanketed the Colloids meeting at Yale after the convoy from Pittsburgh. Danilo, Michael and Gita all got papers published this year.

Adam Welander, Steve Clifford and Jonathan Ng all graduated from CMU (and the group) last May. While Adam and Clifford decided not to do research with me during their senior years, they are still alumni of the group.

For those of you that have heard rumors about the department – we are NOT moving to a building on Craig St. It looks like the renovation of Doherty will actually happen. Plans have the start of the renovation coinciding with the department's centennial next October – wish us luck (we will need it).

Group Alumni

Graduate Students

Several mini-reunions this year, but we never quite got everyone in one place (as usual). Yenny and My Hang were in town for recruiting in September and we managed to get together with B1 and others.

Everyone is doing well at their jobs, there were recent promotions for all of the group alum. B2 changed jobs but is still at DuPont.

Undergraduate Students

Alex Meyer was at the Colloids meeting in June – giving his first conference talk. Seems to be doing well moving colloids around!

I saw Scott Shell and Anthony Balducci at the AIChE meeting in Austin. Both are doing well – Anthony still recovering from qualifiers at MIT and Scott almost finished his PhD at Princeton. I did not get much of a chance to chat with either – the department has a search on for new faculty, so I spent a lot of time talking to strangers.

Alyssa Wertman was back for the TIE last spring and is doing well at Ford – back at school working on a Masters degree.

Some pictures of the group and out of date news can be found on the group website, which is STILL 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 – still here in Pittsburgh, working hard and recently promoted at PPG.

Brian Priore – moved to another part of DuPont but still at Marshall Lab. Recently engaged and getting ready to move into a new house.

My Hang Truong – taking over Lubrizol and still in Cleveland. Tin has a real job, but I still think he dreams of eBay business cards.

Yenny Christanti – still at Schlumberger working on complex fluids, although it sounds like she's making a break from wormy micelles.

Undergraduate Alumni (in order of tenure in the group)

Tomoko Sano – I saw Tomoko a few weeks ago – she claims that I will receive an invitation to her thesis defense (MSE here at CMU) this spring.

John Cafardi – I hear reports about John-sightings from Mike Wallace and Brian Priore, but I have not heard from him – I assume he's still in Philly working on becoming a famous doctor (the real kind).

Wesley Kopacka – is almost done with his PhD at Princeton. He's slowed down a bit to look for a job, but I am sure I'll be getting a defense announcement soon.

Scott Shell – is almost finished his PhD at Princeton, preparing for a postdoc and looking for a faculty position.

Patrick O'Malley – I saw Pat at the department's graduation ceremony this year – he was in Pittsburgh to watch his younger sister graduate.

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!

Holly Brosnahan – Mike Wallace passed on last years' newsletter and Holly got in touch with me. She's also doing well at Kodak and has been doing a good job of keeping up with colleagues from her graduating class – thanks for the information!

Alyssa Werthman – is at Ford in Michigan and seems to be doing great. She's been back to CMU to recruit and is continuing her education part time.

Talat Algusane – Talat is working on a MS degree in the UK.

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 and Ana got married in July – congratulations! Having survived his first year of grad school, quals and a wedding – Anthony should be relaxing right now.

James Wertman – finished his MS from the MIT practice school and is currently looking for a full time position. Sounds like he had some interesting experiences during his time in Boston and elsewhere.

Adam Welander – is at Wisconsin working on his PhD in Paul Nealy's group. Finally, he has found a school with a “decent” football team.

Steven Clifford – spent the summer touring Europe and is now settling into reality for Shell in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Jonathan Ng – is at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio working on things that I am sure he cannot tell us about, without having to kill us that is!

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, Iris Rodriguez and Dan Tanzil.