

PUGET SOUND CHEMIST

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PUGET SOUND CHEMIST

Newsletter for the Puget Sound Section



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On the cover: Carole Berg (as Madame Curie)

CAROLE BERG ELECTED CHAIR-ELECT

Dharshi Bopegedera will assume the Chair for the Executive Committee for the Puget Sound Local Section.

Chair-Elect will be **Carole Berg**, of Bellevue Community College.

Greg Milligan will be retired as chair and will continue to serve as Past-Chair.

Sue Jackels will serve as Councilor.

Gary Christian and **Craig Fryhle** will serve as Alternate Councilors. Craig Fryhle has served in the past as Chair.

To all of you who voted, thanks!

The Puget Sound Section web site is now

www.acspugetsoundsection.org . To subscribe to the section email list, visit www.chem.plu.edu/mailman/listinfo/pss-acs.

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Mentoring: Connecting UW Graduate Students with Local Scientists

by Elizabeth Mader and Brianna Blaser

Originating from the Greek name of Odysseus' trusted councilor in the Odyssey, mentoring has taken on a less mythological role in the University of Washington's Department of Chemistry with the inception of its new industrial and academic mentoring program. Traditionally, graduate students receive training on how to conduct academic research. Now, however, the majority of Ph.D.'s in chemistry are going into non-academic positions and need opportunities to learn about other career paths. In response, a group of dedicated graduate students, with the help of the Center for Workforce Development and the support of the Department, implemented a mentoring program in September 2003. The program matches graduate students with chemists in the local industrial and academic communities. The program is in need of more mentor volunteers to ensure that all of the interested graduate students can be matched with a mentor.

In their application, students describe their career aspirations and areas of interest and are then matched with a scientist further along a similar career path. "It's been an amazing experience and beneficial for both of us" says third year organic student Julie Bowman who is matched with a scientist from Seattle Genetics. "In addition to exciting discussions about our science, I have learned a lot about the industrial atmosphere, and each of us has made new contacts within the community." Along with one-on-one time with their mentors, the graduate students are invited to participate in a series of seminars, including sessions on negotiating contracts, improving publications and presentations, and snagging that first industrial position.

Becoming a mentor is a great way to give back to the science community, to make a difference in the life of someone else, and to meet other professionals. Our mentors say:

"It's nice to be in touch with the academic world again through the eyes and mind of a motivated student."

"In helping my mentee increase her professional network, I was able to renew some of my own contacts and make new contacts."

"I wish this program had existed when I was a grad student at UW!"

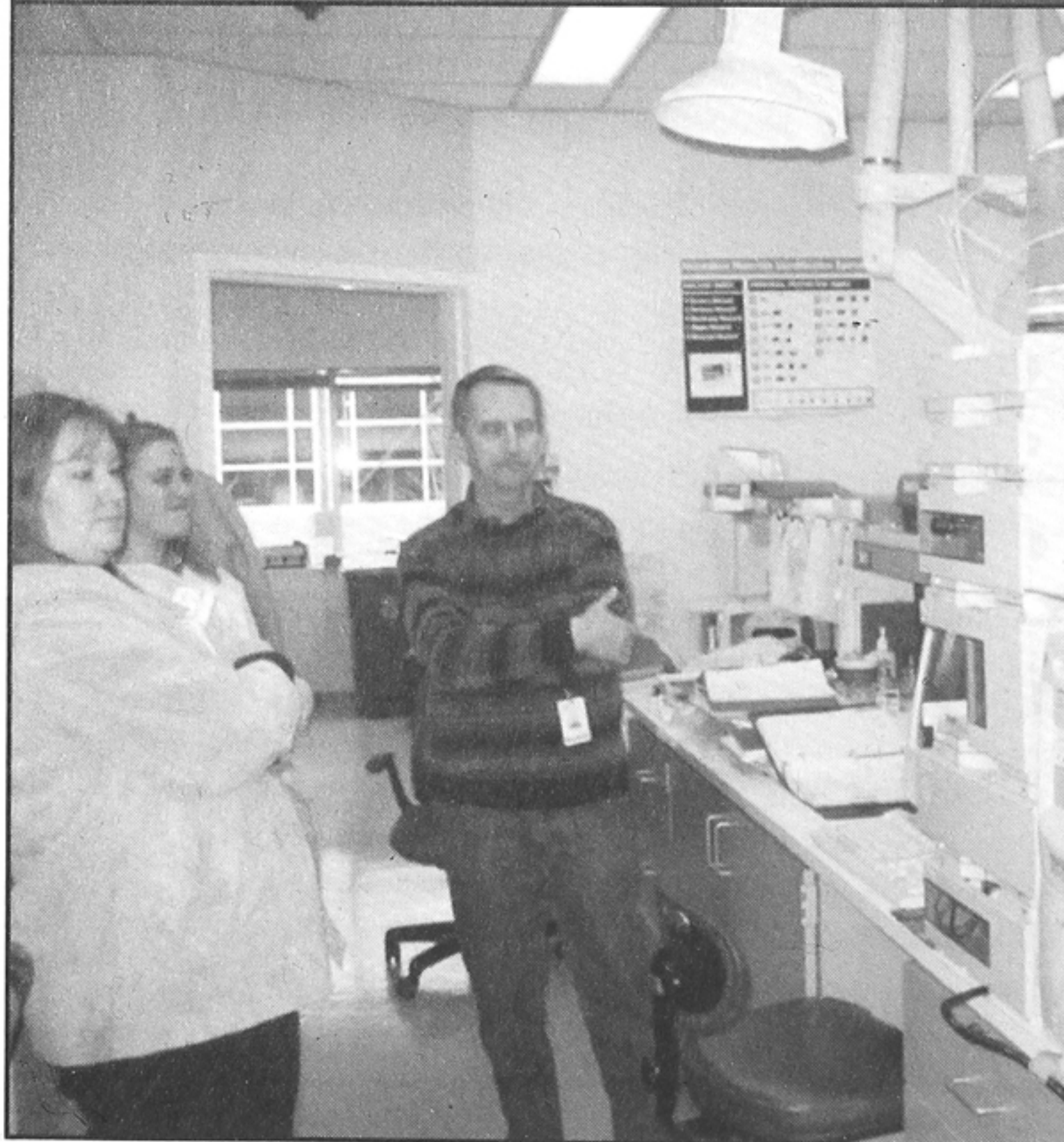
After only its pilot year, the program is showing signs of being a huge success. Both students and mentors have reported enjoying their experiences. This year, with the arrival of one of the largest entering graduate classes ever, the number of student participants is expected to increase. At the moment, we are looking for more local mentors to participate. If you have any questions, please call Brianna or Sheila at 206.543.4810 or email wisegrad@u.washington.edu If you are interested in becoming a mentor, more information is available on the web

at <http://www.engr.washington.edu/cwd/chemistry/chemistry.html>



Greg Milligan presented **Dharshi Bopegedera** with an ACS "Salute to Excellence" Award for her hard work of more than five years as a National Chemistry Week coordinator, at Professor Fortman's talk at Evergreen College in October.

Congrats to Dharshi, and thanks for your continued efforts!



On Friday November 12th, 2004, the Careers In Chemistry Event was well attended at the Washington State Department of Health Laboratory in Shoreline.

The event was organized by Dharshi Bopogedera

To the left are students touring the facility.

ACS Tour Speakers for 2005

Ned Heindel (Lehigh University), March 9th, "Folk Medicine in the 19th Century" Site: TBA

Donald McQuarrie, U. of California, April 20th, "Modern Theories of Electrolyte Solutions". Site: TBA

Mary Virginia Orna, College of New Rochelle, Sept. 23rd, "Chemistry and Art", Site: Evergreen State College.

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