

**RE: A C T I O N S** - Newsletter of
the Department of Chemistry

FEBRUARY 2005

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I am hopeful that your spring semester is going well. As the semester progresses, I am sure you have made plans for the approaching summer. There are many summer research internship opportunities across the country and I very strongly encourage you to participate in one of them. All of the costs of these internships are borne by the specific sponsoring programs and many provide you with an additional monetary stipend. Please check the bulletin board and with your chemistry club officers about summer internship opportunities. Remember

these summer programs are an excellent way to obtain the research experience needed to be competitive for admission to professional schools and graduate programs.

I would also like to remind you that the free STARS tutoring center is now located on the third floor of the newly acquired hospital. If you are having a problem in a class, make sure that you get help immediately from your instructor and the tutoring center before it reaches a point where your grade will be affected.



H. Alan Rowe, Ph.D., Chairman, Department of Chemistry - hard at work on your behalf.

Please contact any of the chemistry faculty or staff if there is anything we can do for you. Have a safe, productive semester.

H. Alan Rowe, Chairman

SCHOLARSHIPS & INTERNSHIPS

- Many scholarship and summer internship opportunities are posted on the Chemistry bulletin board on the first floor.
- Make it a habit to read the bulletin boards and check them frequently for postings of new information.
- Apply for these opportunities! Learn what's out there.
- It could change your life

NEWS YOU CAN USE - References

This is the time of year when students are asking their professors to either write letters of recommendation, or to act as a reference for them.

Remember that you must first ask your professors for permission to use their names as references. Never give the name of a person as a reference unless you have asked permission of that person. If your professor has nothing good to say about you, he/she will suggest that you ask someone else for a reference.

You do not want to be "damned by faint praise." If you have not checked with your professor beforehand, an unenthusiastic

reference will not further your chances of acceptance to graduate school or of getting accepted into that summer internship program or landing that job that you want.

By asking permission first, your professor will be prepared for a surprise visit or phone call. Then the professor will be able to give a glowing reference, with facts, figures and examples of your outstanding work at Norfolk State.

Do not wait until the last minute to ask your professors to write letters of recommendation. If your professors have to write 25 letters in two days, they will not be able to write the best

letters possible for you. Give them enough time to do you justice.

Your future is at stake.

J. Krail



Tools of the trade.

NEED SUMMER WORK? Apply for an Internship.

Chemistry majors, what will you do this summer?

If you are a freshman, chances are you do not know about the possibility of earning a good stipend while spending your summer as an intern at another university, a company, or a national research laboratory.

But whatever your classification, you should procure a summer position related to your studies. In addition to the very nice stipends many places offer, you will have the opportunity to acquire important skills not readily learned during the academic year

with its numerous pressures and deadlines. You will also develop important career connections with other students and with professors, researchers, supervisors, and managers. If you work on a scientific project, you will gain lots of hands-on experience related to a specific project. You might have to make a poster presentation at the end of your project. Maybe you will be lucky and your results will be included in a scientific paper along with your name!

Now that you know how great a summer internship experi-

ence can be, what should you do to secure one? Learn what the options are. Look for opportunities online, read the chemistry bulletin boards, ask other students (see the fall newsletter for the students who interned last summer). Ask a faculty member. Try to determine what kind of experience would most benefit your career choices and personal preferences. Ask yourself what kind of chemistry and what part of the country you would like to explore. You will need to complete paperwork, ask for letters of recommendation, submit a



resume and official transcripts. But it will all be worthwhile! So, chemistry majors, the time to do it is now! The deadlines are quickly approaching, as most are in February. The chemistry faculty will help you choose, and prepare. Come and talk to us!

Suely Black, Ph.D.

LETTER FROM COUNSELING

Dear NSU Student:

On behalf of the Counseling Center, we welcome you back for the Spring 2005 semester. At the Counseling Center we believe that our success is defined by your success. We are here to support you through your journey at NSU by providing a variety of services to students **free of charge**.

These services include individual, couples and group counseling, consultation, outreach programming, and

crisis counseling. Our crisis counseling services are available 24 hours a day and can be obtained by simply calling 823-8173 during our regular office hours of 8:30a.m. – 8:00p.m. Monday-Thursday / 8:30a.m. – 5:00p.m. Friday. After hours, services can be obtained by contacting the NSU Police Department at 823-8102.

Over 221 of your peers participated in individual and group counseling at the Center during the 2003-04 academic year; furthermore,

2350 students attended outreach programs that included activities such as *Stress Management* workshops and *Depression Screening Day*. We hope that you will take advantage of the resources available at the Counseling Center and we look forward to assisting you during your days at NSU.

Sincerely,

Dr. Curtis K. Greaves
Director of the Counseling Center
Ms. Vanessa Caldwell Jenkins
Coordinator of Outreach Programming

“...our success is defined by your success. We are here to support you through your journey at NSU...”

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS-What employers want to know

I was talking to Dr. Stewart at lunch the other day and he told me that a student had applied for a job and that an interviewer had come by his office. For your information, here are some of the questions that he asked Dr. Stewart.

1. Does the student come to class on time?
2. Does the student dress appropriately for class - no do-rag, baggy jeans, halter top, etc.?

3. Does the student have a positive attitude towards his/her academic courses?
4. Has the student demonstrated any leadership skills in the class?
5. Does the student have good verbal and written communication skills?

I have also been asked -

6. Is the student self-motivated?

7. Does the student take direction well?
8. Does the student ask intelligent questions when something is not understood?

These questions must indicate what is important to an employer.

J. Krail



Poster sessions hone our student's communication and presentation skills.