

## Transatlantic Dual Bachelor Degree in Chemistry

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### CHEMISTRY ON THE MOVE

#### Transatlantic exchange - 8

##### 3 more students from Regensburg have graduated with the Atlantis Dual Bachelor Degree in Chemistry

All good things come to an end! Four students from Dublin and three students from Regensburg have finished their transatlantic year at the University of Kansas and the University of Arkansas. While the Irish students still have a year to study back at Dublin City University before they graduate, for the German students this summer marks also the end of their Bachelor studies: Graduation time! Thomas Broja, Daniel Rackl and Stefan Ruider are being awarded the Dual Bachelor Degree in Chemistry, first they received the US-degree at the University of Arkansas, and upon their return to Regensburg they will receive the German degree as well.

All three students will continue now with their studies for their master under the newly accredited Bachelor/Master curriculum at the University Regensburg that allows the Dual Bachelor students to finish the Master program in just one year instead of the normal duration of two years when entered with the regular Bachelor degree.



Graduation the University of Arkansas: Stefan Ruider, Thomas Broja, and Daniel Rackl receiving their Bachelor certificates

#### Transatlantic Study Exchange - 9

##### 13 students enter the transatlantic study exchange in the 2010/2011 cycle

It is a new record for the Atlantis program: After 12 students in the last exchange cycle, this term a total of 13 students have gone across the Atlantic for one year. A novelty is also that for the first time more US-students are going to Europe than vice versa: Five students from the University of Arkansas and two students from the University of Kansas have started their first semester at Dublin City University, while two students from Dublin and four students from Regensburg have arrived in Lawrence and Fayetteville. Another first is that in this cycle two of the Atlantis students are Biochemistry majors, a curriculum that is jointly offered by two Faculties in Regensburg, Biology and Chemistry. The dual degree could also be set up in this case together with the University Arkansas, where Biochemistry is offered by the joint Faculty of Chemistry & Biochemistry.



But the Atlantis program is much more to the students than just studying for a dual degree, it is also about people. Paul Gillick, DCU, notes: *However, it is not just expanded educational diversity that I've experienced. The people I've met have truly made my...*

Paul Gillick and class mates at UARK in front of the Cathedrale Saint-Louis, New Orleans

...contd.

## Transatlantic Study Exchange...contd.

...stay and the reputation of 'Southern Hospitality' has proved itself to have definite grounding. My fellow classmates have offered help in all areas of settling into the unique surroundings of Fayetteville while those I've met outside the classroom always express sincere interest about the purpose of my stay and the Atlantis Programme itself.

## Medal Bene Merenti for Prof. Robert E. Gawley, University of Arkansas



Helping the Atlantis program to succeed: Prof. Robert E. Gawley, who supervises the Atlantis program at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, has been instrumental for the implementation of

the US side. Dealing with various faculties to get approved a smooth credit transfer for the European students beyond the core curriculum in Chemistry – one of the major obstacles due to the differences in the college systems in the US and in Europe – and setting up adequate and individual study plans for the students had only been two of many challenges Prof. Gawley had overcome in the course of the program. Prof. Gawley had made the European students to feel at home in Fayetteville, providing for them special opportunities such as participating in international meetings such as the ACS conference in San Francisco (see previous newsletter), organizing the Web conferences to name a few more things.

In recognition for his contributions to the program, Prof. Gawley is awarded the medal *Bene Merenti*, the highest honor the University of Regensburg can bestow on an individual. In an award ceremony at the Dies Academicus on November 13, 2010, the award will be given to Prof. Gawley by the Rector of the University,

Prof. Thomas Strothotte, who is very familiar with transatlantic exchanges himself: Being born in Canada, Prof. Strothotte came with the intention to do a one year study stay in Germany. This one year has stretched to 25 and still counting...



## Scientific Collaborations and Publications within the Atlantis project

Research is a central aspect of Chemistry and also one of the cornerstones within the Atlantis program. The Atlantis students join shortly after their arrival abroad a research group, in which they carry out their Bachelor thesis, being jointly supervised by one colleague each of their home and host institution. This allows them to work in a team on challenging topics ranging from material sciences to cancer therapy. Take for example Andreas Porschenrieder, who is in this year's exchange cycle at the University of Arkansas: *Another part of my experience abroad is the lab research in Dr. Paul Adams Group. Our interests mainly focus on the expression, purification and characterization of cancer proteins and their inhibitors. My current project aims the standardization of the expression and purification of TSC2-37, which is a potential inhibitor of oncogenic Rheb proteins. As I already worked with phospholipid bilayer and micelles in Regensburg (Prof. Dr. B. König), a further project will be the characterization of the interaction of protein and inhibitor in a membrane – like environment. One major advantage of my lab research is the fact that I am able to work independently. Thus I improved my practical skills as well as my theoretical knowledge about special biochemical concepts and machines within the last 4 month.*

The scientific collaborations set up this way between different research groups are instrumental for the future of the Atlantis program since they guarantee a long lasting relationship between the partners, and moreover, offer funding opportunities in cross national research programs. The success of these partnerships has been documented by the EUCHEMUSA network by an increasing number of joint publications in highly reputed international journals as well as by invited lectures and poster presentations on major conferences on both sides of the Atlantic. Recent publications include:

Ruider, Stefan A.; McIntosh, Matthias C. **Novel SN2' reactions in terpenoid synthesis.** 239th ACS National Meeting, San Francisco, CA, United States, March 21-25, 2010 (2010), ORGN-1166.

A. Schätz, T. R. Long, R. N. Grass, W. J. Stark, P. R. Hanson, O. Reiser, *Adv. Funct. Mater.* **2010**, Early View. Doi: adfm201000959.sgm. **Immobilization on a Nanomagnetic Co/C Surface Using ROMPolymerization: Generation of a Novel HybridMaterial as Support for a Recyclable Palladium Catalyst.**

A. Kumar, J. Burns, W. Hoffmann, H. Demattio, A. K. Malik, F.-M. Matysik, *Electrophoresis* **2011**, in print: **Determination of Hydrazines by Chip Electrophoresis with Contactless Conductivity Detection.**

More information about the project at  
<http://www-oc.chemie.uni-regensburg.de/atlantis>