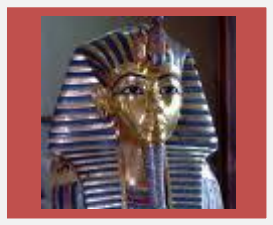




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Cool Chem Fact Did you Know?



Boron

A Recipe for a Mummy

Boron (5), or rather its salts which can be found in natron, were very important at the process of mummification. To remove all moisture, embalmers were covering the corpse with natron and were inserting pouches with this mineral into the body. After 40 days of such treatment the dried body was ready for bandaging.

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## Director's Message...



Dear Readers,

Last May, twelve organic chemistry students and I visited Genentech for a tour of their Small Molecule Pharmaceutical Sciences Department. Students were very impressed with all equipment, particularly the large reactors in the process lab. They were reassured that the chemistry they are learning will suit them well, they will just need to work in a larger scale. Students also enjoyed how approachable all scientists were and the opportunity to ask many questions.

The Spring semester ended on a very high note. Several science students transferred to four year universities. Among them two Chemistry majors and one Chemical Engineering major. We had two ACS scholarship recipients, Xochitl Rios, Chemistry major, is a first year award recipient who is finishing up her science requirements in the Fall. She has offered to help out as an organic chemistry volunteer tutor at the Learning Center. Jeremy Morales Madrigal received a renewal award. He transferred to University of California at San Diego as a Chemical Engineering major. Congratulations to both! In addition, Xochitl Rios and Nchinda Ngeche were selected to conduct research internships at Stanford Research Institute for ten weeks in the Summer. They reported back on what an eye opening experience it was to work in a research laboratory. They felt fully prepared and able to adjust well to their new environment. Their work was very highly regarded by their mentors. We are seeking opportunities for further collaboration.

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, the Chemistry Department at Cañada College hosted the first chemistry district wide meeting. Twelve faculty and three administrators accepted my invitation to tour our facilities and exchange ideas about pedagogy, teaching strategies and future dialogue. Attendees expressed their interest to meet at the end of every semester to establish and maintain an ongoing conversation.

I am excited to announce a new collaboration with a teacher at one of our local high schools, Mr. Felix Guzman from Carlmont High School. Mr. Guzman spearheaded the implementation of Organic Chemistry in the Chemistry curriculum at Carlmont. This is not a typical course taught at the high school level. His 30 students will come to Cañada once a month during the 2010-2011 academic year to work in our laboratory and use our equipment and instrumentation. Several pieces of this equipment was purchased with our NSF grant funds.

Another exciting new collaboration this Fall is with Mrs. Iris Ross, Redwood City School District GATE Resource teacher. We are coordinating the logistics to have every one of her 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students visit our campus. During their visit, students will tour the library, the learning center and the science laboratories. They will be given an introduction to safety in the laboratory so they can participate in mini chemistry activities assisted by college student volunteers.

National Chemistry Week is fast approaching. We are preparing several activities including guest speakers. Our local ACS section will hold their October dinner meeting on campus.

The Fall semester is shaping up to be full of opportunities for our students for chemistry enrichment and networking.

Jeanette Medina

## Help Needed!

If you seek individuals with excellent laboratory and employability skills we would like to hear from you!

Please contact us at:

**(650) 306-3304**

email us at:

[Canada.NSFGGrant@smccd.edu](mailto:Canada.NSFGGrant@smccd.edu)

## Cañada College News

### 40<sup>th</sup> Commencement

Nearly 200 graduates took part in the 40<sup>th</sup> Commencement Ceremony at Cañada College on May 29th at 10 a.m. Students earning professional certificates were also honored during the ceremony.

This year's ceremony was held outdoors and featured Senator Joe Simitian, State Senator representing San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties and Dr. Mohammad Qayoumi, president of Cal-State East Bay.

Here is a sampling of our graduate's achievements:

- ◆ 22 MESA students accepted to four-year institutions for fall 2010
- ◆ MESA students won over \$850,000 in scholarships
- ◆ 29 students received M-SETS scholarships from NSF totally over \$500,000
- ◆ Over 72 students declared their transfer status and were accepted to 4-year institutions

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## Project News:

### Two Local Teachers Placed in Summer IISME Fellowship Program

We are happy to report that two San Mateo County Chemistry teachers have been placed into IISME Summer Fellowships sponsored by our grant. Both are working at Stanford University this summer. The two that were selected this year both held IISME Fellowships last summer as well.

- 1) **Kevin Doyle** teaches Chemistry, Physics and Physical Science at Aragon High School, and he was invited back for a second summer in the Chidsey Lab within the Chemistry Department at Stanford University.
- 2) **Michael Patterson** teaches Chemistry, and runs the FIRST Robotics Club, at Junipero Serra High School. He has been asked to identify the best research platforms of the myriad different ones currently being used by the many science researchers and grad students who work the lab.

## Upcoming Events

### GEMS (Girls Engaged in Math and Science) Workshop Cañada College Campus, September 18, 2010

Middle School and High School students from around the Bay Area will be visiting Cañada College for an all day science workshop. There will be a morning and an afternoon session which delve into different areas of chemistry and engineering. The event is sponsored by NSF. Lunch and refreshments will be served.

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### American Chemical Society, Santa Clara Valley Chapter Monthly Meeting Hosted by Cañada College October 14, 2010

Dr. Jeanette Medina and the NSF Grant will be hosting the American Chemical Society, Santa Clara Valley Chapter Monthly Meeting on October 14, 2010. The guest speaker is Toby Beth Freedman, Ph.D., President, Synapsis Search, (executive recruiting services for the life sciences industry) and author of *Career Opportunities in Biotechnology and Drug Development*. An audience of 30-50 is expected to attend including college students and job seeking ACS members.



**For additional details  
about our grant go to the  
National Science  
Foundation Website at:**

[http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/  
showAward.do?AwardNumber=070  
3188](http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward.do?AwardNumber=0703188)



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## **Chemistry: A Pipeline to 21st Century Careers**

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[www.canadacollege.edu/nsfgrant](http://www.canadacollege.edu/nsfgrant)

Newsletter archives can be found on  
the Photo Gallery page of the our site

## Events This Quarter

### April 17, 2010 – Upward Bound Panel and Lab

On April 17th Professor Jeanette Medina and four of her Chemistry students made an early morning trek to motivate the Upward Bound students to continue in their education and go to a 4-year college. Xochitl Rios, Melissa Ibarra, Abraham Vela, and Juan Del Rio shared their stories, their educational experience, as well as how to pick a major. Being able to ask questions of the panel was good, but the most exciting part of the day happened when the Upward Bound students were lead by the Cañada students through a chemistry demonstration and four mini-labs. The labs were intended to promote science majors and careers. "This was the best Saturday College!" said Kristina Razon-Gomez, a sophomore at Sequoia High.



### April 23, 2010 – Outreach Day at Eastside Prep High School, East Palo Alto

Dr. Medina, NSF Grant director; Melody Yang, Ph.D., NSF Grant Outreach Coordinator and Jennifer K. Schwartz, Ph.D., Introductory Course Coordinator/Lecturer, Dept. of Chemistry, Stanford University, conducted a hands-on Density Lab for students at Eastside College Preparatory School, a local high school committed to opening new doors for students historically underrepresented in higher education. Stanford graduate students and Cañada College students assisted in this all-day activity.



### April 28, 2010 – First Annual Cañada College Honors Transfer Program Research Presentations

The first annual Cañada College Honors Transfer Program Research Presentations were held on April 28, 2010. This event highlighted original research by the eight students who were selected to participate in the Bay Honors Consortium Community College Research Symposium at UC Berkeley on May 1, 2010 as well as eight additional projects completed by Organic Chemistry students in classes at the college. After the presentations, from 4 - 5 pm, there was a faculty roundtable during which an informal discussion of the Honors courses which yielded the student work was held.



### June 1, 2010 – San Mateo Community College District Year-end Chemistry Professor Summit

SMC College District Chemistry professors met at Cañada College to discuss teaching pedagogy, instrumentation and instructional resources for the coming year. The gathering began with a tour of the new chemistry labs at Cañada College featuring new instruments and equipment purchased with funds from our NSF grant. A representative from Pearson Education was on site to showcase new Chemistry textbooks that provide a less expensive alternative to the current textbooks being used in the District.

