



The Reaction

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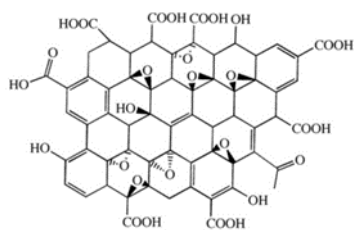


Research Spotlight: Erik Hurley

“Nanocomposite Hydrogels for Wastewater Treatment”

Erik started his research in Dr Meenach’s Laboratory during the summer of 2014 to begin a waste water treatment project. Since then he has been working with incorporating graphene oxide and carbon nanotubes into the matrix of poly (ethylene glycol) (PEG) hydrogels.

These PEG hydrogels swell when in the presence of water and deswell when heated, moving contaminated water past dispersed graphene oxide and carbon nanotube



particles. Previous studies have shown that graphene oxide has high adsorption capacity towards many contaminants which is due to its high surface area and surface functional groups. The work Erik has done so far has shown similar results. In November Erik presented his work at the AIChE National Conference in Atlanta, GA and placed 3rd in the Environmental III division. He will continue this research through

the spring semester and hopefully present at the AIChE Regional Conference in Boston, MA.



Professional Spotlight: Dr. Samantha Meenach

Dr. Samantha Meenach is one of the newest members to the URI chemical engineering faculty, but she has already been making a huge impact. Having grown up in northern Kentucky, she attended the University of Kentucky for her undergraduate and doctorate studies in chemical engineering.

She moved to Rhode Island in July of 2013 with her husband Kyle and their four cats. Upon arriving

at URI she took on the task of being the faculty advisor for AIChE

and the Chem-E-Car team. One of her goals is to bring a car that moves off the line at the competition this year. Dr. Meenach is continually trying to further her research in advanced drug delivery using nanoparticles. She has recently received multiple grants

including the Champlin Foundations grant for powder production equipment for undergraduate education, RI-INBRE Faculty Development Grant, and the URI Council for Research Grant. Her goal

of being a professor here at URI is to create leaders in academia and in industry through research opportunities and AIChE.



Internships and Opportunities

Spend your summer getting paid to show off your ChemE skills! Dozens of companies and universities are offering full-time and part-time PAID positions for students going into junior and senior year. Positions are available locally and nationally for both internships and research opportunities. Applications typically require: Resume, Transcript, Letter(s) of Recommendation, and Personal Statement(s). Deadlines are approaching so now is your time to apply!!

ChemE Jobs & Internships

Summer and Semester Positions

Compilation of over 30 organizations looking to hire in all aspects of chemical engineering

Research Deadlines: **Feb-March**

Internship Deadlines: **Feb – Rolling**

<http://egr.uri.edu/che/jobs/>

American Chemical Society (ACS) – Research (REU/SURF)

Nationwide Summer Research Opportunities

Programs run 9-10 weeks and offer housing and travel benefits (out-of-state)

Deadlines: **Feb-March**

<http://www.getexperience.dreamhosters.com/>

RhodyNet

Online career opportunity database exclusive for URI students/alumni

Jobs both on- and off-campus

<http://web.uri.edu/experience/rhodynet/>

URI/NUWC – Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Newport, RI

Summer and Semester Positions available

Research, development, test and evaluation, engineering and fleet support for submarines, autonomous underwater systems, and weapons systems.

Applications: **Rolling acceptance**

www.nuwc.uri.edu

Toray Plastics – North Kingston, RI

Seeking 12 interns for summer

Applications due **March 5, 2015**

Full-time position focusing on the mechanical and physical properties of the film and correlating the data with other known variables and quality data.

Job posting on RhodyNet

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Word Search

Find your favorite classes and professors!

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A Message From the President...

Dear friends of AIChE URI,

Congratulations on making it this far in your chemical engineering career! This material is tough and it takes dedication to make it through. In fact, it is this dedication that earns an engineer the respect and prestige of the *professional*.

Whether you are a freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior, you can take pride in knowing you are on your way to one of the most engaging, dynamic, and diverse careers in modern civilization.

So, it's backs straight, chins up, calculators out, and eyes toward the horizon—there is a world of continuous possibilities out there ready for you to get involved. Always bring your best and you will ever sail steady on the seas of success.

I look forward to getting to know you better on our time together at the University of Rhode Island. Stop me and say hello!

Sincerely yours,

Tom Campbell

President

