

CH302 Random Musings, April 17, 2007

1. The final quiz is next Thursday the 24th. It will cover the material on organic and polymers presented this week in lecture. Traditionally this quiz is intended to give students a very high grade and it has never been the case that a score less than about 90 was earned. It does require some level of knowledge, but it is really a very simple quiz. Here are the question types:

- Structural isomers of hydrocarbons
- Hydrocarbon nomenclature
- Functional group identification
- Naming a simple organic compound
- General classes of organic reactions
- Organic polymer nomenclature
- Building blocks of biopolymers
- Identifying biopolymers

2. We should have the version of QUEST that allows question to be killed and credited up this weekend and Travis will then be able to adjust grades on exams 1 and 2. This should simplify your ability to determine where you stand with your course grades with respect to exemption and the final exam.

3. I am looking for 6 to 9 students to attend a lunch on Wednesday the 23rd from 11:30 to 1 where you will be asked questions about the e-book, the chemistry portal, and the general idea of electronic learning vehicles. Book publishers are trying to understand student perspective on this new approach to learning and it would be really beneficial if some of you would trade a decent lunch for the chance to serve in this role. If you are willing to help, please e-mail and let me know.

4. It is time for the majority of you to go earn your extra credit. Remember that you need to do the following to earn an extra credit:

- Complete the extra credit task below.
- Write it up (probably 100 words or so, but write as much as you want to tell the story.)
- Submit it as plain text in the body of the e-mail (no attachments!!)
- Send it to dalaude@mail.utexas.edu by the deadline
- Jump for joy at having earned 1% of your course grade

Extra Credit Assignment 2:

- Title: **Undergraduate Research** with your uteid appended (If you do not use this subject you will not be filtered into the file from which I assign extra credit.)
- Due Date: Saturday May 3 at 3 am

Instructions. Go to the undergraduate poster session on Friday, April 18th, sometime between 11 am and 3 pm in the Welch Foyer (right outside this classroom.) For details see:

http://cns.utexas.edu/current_students/research/forum.asp

And for the program pdf go to:

http://cns.utexas.edu/current_students/research/forumprogram_2008.pdf

To earn the credit, find a poster you like, talk to the person standing in front of it for 5 minutes, and then going home and email me about your experience. Spend a few sentences telling me who did the poster, why you liked the poster and how neat it is to see that students your own age are doing world class research that you could also be doing with a little initiative. For those of you who can't go to the poster session, an alternative bonus opportunity is to walk through a science building on campus on the upper floors, staring at the walls. You will see scads of research posters that are up for your perusal. Just take a look at one of those and email me with the same instructions as above except include the name of the first author on the poster.

Extra Credit Assignment 3:

- Title: **Scholarly lecture** with your uteid appended (If you do not use this subject you will not be filtered into the file from which I assign extra credit.)
- Due Date: Saturday May 3 at 3 am

Instructions. This campus is littered with seminars of a scholarly nature that occur in addition to the normal course lectures that are given. Every department will hold literally hundreds of these a year. You will see signs for these posted everywhere. For example, while walking to a help session last week in Geological Sciences, the first four doors I passed, had descriptions of four entirely separate events that were holding multiple scholarly lectures. Typically these talks are about 50 minutes in length with a question answer period and occur in the late afternoon. They occur non-stop, year round, and should become part of your academic experience as you evolve into an intellectual force on campus. Some of you questioned might ask whether concerts or plays might be considered, or whether the presentation has to be about science. My response is that you must establish a relevance to your academic interests. So if you are a pre-med history major I can see going to a talk about breast cancer cures or why Rome fell, but I am not sure you can justify the ballet. But really, I leave it to you to make the justification as part of your explanation of the experience.

A couple of public service announcements:

- Come enjoy pizza and hear about **internships, post baccalaureate programs, and graduate studies in biomedical sciences**, from faculty members at Vanderbilt University, University of Michigan, and UT Southwestern Medical Center! 30 minutes of presentations on the programs will be followed by discussion and question and answer. Don't miss this opportunity! These programs are very interested in our students. Biomedical sciences are multidisciplinary programs that lead to excellent research or academic careers. Check the websites of the faculty members below.

Thursday April 17 5pm Welch 2.304

FREE PIZZA!

- **Getting on Track: A Symposium for Pre-Health Professions Students**
April 19th, 2008
9am-2pm
Robert A. Welch Hall 3.502

Itinerary

9am - 9:30 Sign in, light Breakfast; Welch 3.502

9:30- 9:50 Welcome, Introduction of officers and Program description

12:00- 12:30 Lunch; Welch 3.502

9:50- 10:00 Transition

10:00- 10:50 Breakout session

- Nutrition; Welch 2.304

- Finance; Welch 2.308

12:30- 1:30 Student panel

- Nursing; Welch 2.256 (Nursing students)

- Medical; Welch 2.304 (Medical School students)

- Pharmacy; Welch 2.308 (Pharmacy students)

11:00- 11:50 Mock Interview session

- Nursing; Welch 2.256 (Nursing faculty)

- Medical; Welch 2.304 (Medical School faculty)

- Pharmacy; Welch 2.308 (Pharmacy faculty and students)

1:30 – 2:00 Keynote address/Close; Welch 3.502

Poetry Corner. So one of the reasons people go to College is to fall in and out of love. And that all goes on as I attempt to teach you the thermochemistry of ice melting. You can see why some times I seem to take a back seat to your primary concern, which is more often matters of the heart.

Well nothing is truer about relationships than that they end, and when they end, 98% of the poetry in the world gets written. So here is a poem by one of your classmates describing such an issue. Personally I have only written one poem in my life, in the parking lot of an HEB after such a failing. And I think it sounded a lot like this one too. Isn't love grand?

A clock tells time
but I took the batteries out.
Every second. minute, hour, day, week, month
that ticks away is the same,
everything beats the same..every moment feels and sounds the same
without you.

When I'm laughing with you those many times in your room,
I look at you
and I watch your eyebrows raise,
and your dimples form,
and your goofy grin forming
and your eyes light up.
It does something to me.
I only see perfection.

Last night I thought about you.
In the morning I thought of you.
The moments in between, you were there too.

I want you out!
But I can't get rid of the
tall
simple
blue jean wearing
dark-haired
smart
caring
beautiful
guy.

While I'm thinking of you
and what we could be
and the memories we could make
and the places we could go
and the things we can discover and create
you are thinking
you are salvaging your past
with another girl.

- sucker for him