

Report from the National Meeting of  
The American Chemical Society  
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Four faculty members (Mary Anderson, Nasrin Mirsaleh-Kohan, Cynthia Maguire and Richard Sheardy) and eleven students (six graduate students and five undergraduate students) attended the 255<sup>th</sup> American Chemical Society Meeting & Exposition from March 18<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> in New Orleans, LA. Along with the faculty were graduate students Anna Stopper, Lindsay Haynes, Skylar Wappes, Sara Williams, Karen Reyes and Trang Nguyen, and undergraduate students Claudette Fraire, Tra Nguyen, Meredith Garrett, Aishwarya Lanka and Daniella Trujillo.



On the way to New Orleans!

Dr. Mary Anderson serves as one of the 4 Dallas-Fort Worth elected Councilors to National American Chemistry Society. She serves on a National ACS committee, the Membership Affairs Committee (MAC) and as the liaison to the Graduate Educational Advisory Board (GEAB). She spent Saturday evening, Sunday, as well as Monday and Wednesday mornings on American Chemical Society business. On Sunday, Ms. Maguire and Dr. Sheardy organized and presided over a symposium in the Division of Chemical Education (CHED) titled *Citizens First!* featuring presentations by both Ms. Maguire and Dr. Kohan. This symposium emphasizes the notion that a good scientist is also a good citizen! On Monday, in the Division of Chemical Health and Safety (CHAS), Dr. Sheardy also gave an invited presentation in a symposium on creating cultures of safety in chemistry and biochemistry departments.

On Sunday night, the ACS recognized the outstanding activities of our KEM Club with the awarding of a plaque with a “Commendable” specification! In the past few years, our KEM Club has received similar awards as well as being recognized for their green chemistry work.



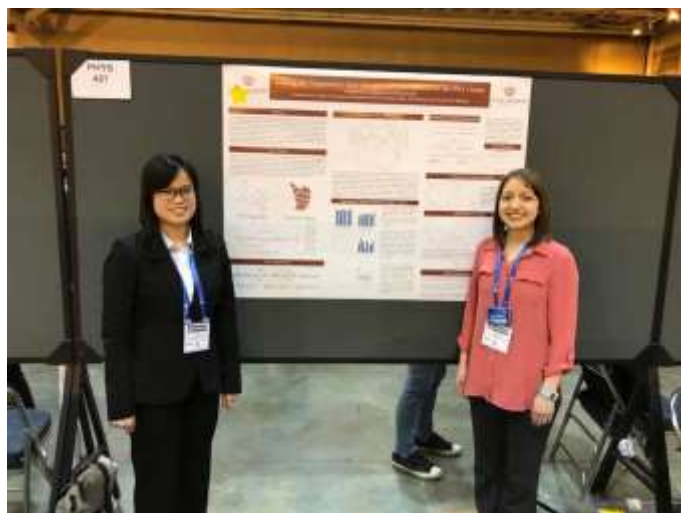
Tra Nguyen, KEM Club president, accepting the award, the award itself and our students standing proudly with it.

Sunday night also provided an opportunity for Drs. Sheardy and Kohan and Ms. Maguire to meet and have dinner with some of our SENCER colleagues. It was a fabulous dinner at The Court of the Two Sisters with many great ideas generated about science education and civic engagement.

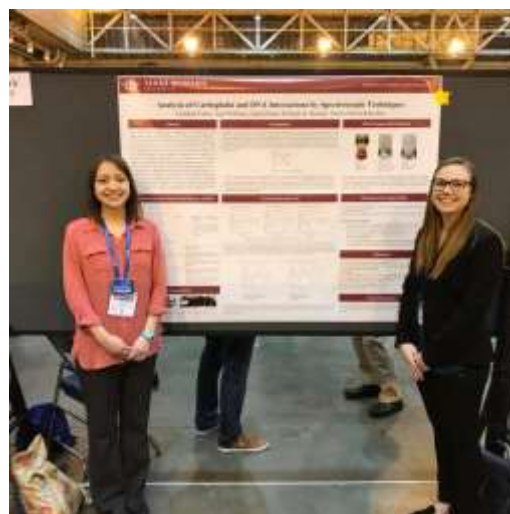


With SENCER colleagues Trace Jordan and wife (NYU), Stephen Carroll (Santa Clara University), Nyssa Crompton (Independence Community College), Steve Bachofer (St. Marys University), Cathy Middlecamp and husband (University of Wisconsin), and Bettie Davis and Matt Fischer (St. Vincent's University) at Court of the Two Sisters.

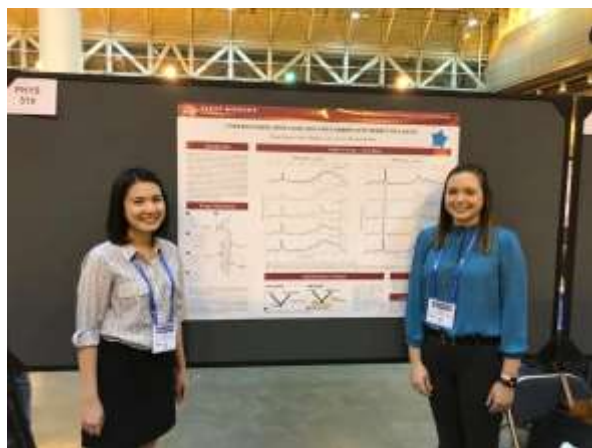
In addition to the presentations by our faculty, our students also presented 9 posters! We had posters in the Divisions of Chemical Education (CHED), Biological Chemistry (BIOL), Inorganic Chemistry (INOR) and Physical Chemistry (PHYS)!



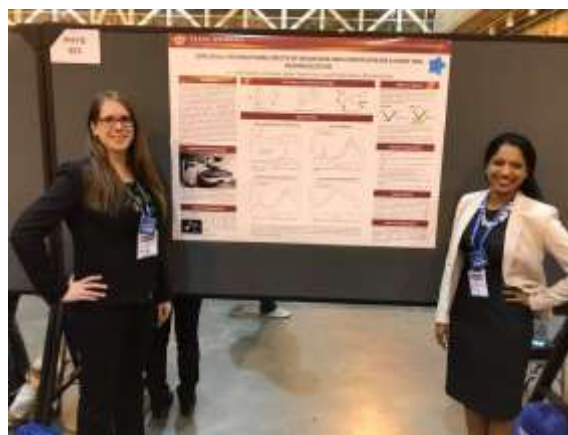
Tra and Claudette



Claudette and Sara



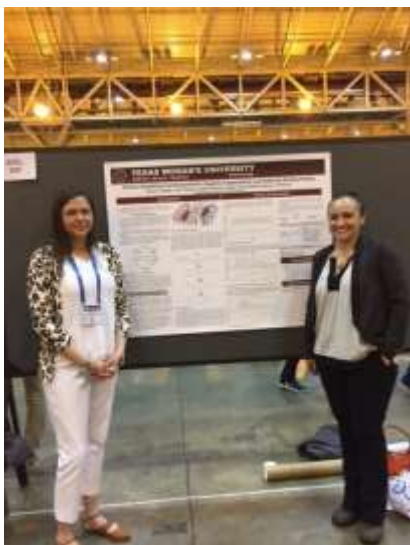
Trang and Skylar



Meredith and Aishwarya

The Wednesday Physical Chemistry poster session!





Lindsay Haynes and Anna Stopper



Dr. Anderson and the Chemistry Mole



The gang and then sorted by research group at the convention center!!!



For additional educational activities, we visited the WWII Museum and we also went to the Audubon Zoo!



On our Tuesday night, Dr. Stephen Carroll (Uncle Steve) gave a really nice presentation to the students on a method for note taking that will lead to enhanced learning. Also in attendance was Dr. Reid Bishop (Uncle Reid) from Belhaven University!!

Our last morning in NOLA at the Old Coffee Pot



## Listing of Presentations

### Symposium:

Citizens First! R.D. Sheardy, *Organizer* and C. Maguire, *Organizer* (CHED)

### Talks:

1. C. Maguire, N. MirsalehKohan, R.D. Sheardy: Civic and social responsibility for chemistry majors. (CHED)
2. N. Mirsaleh-Kohan: Sharing your research with the general public: A trip to the mall. (CHED)
3. R. D. Sheardy: Developing a culture of safety in chemistry and biochemistry at Texas Woman's University. (CHAS)

### Posters (students presented all the posters):

1. Linking pH, temperature,  $K^+$  concentration and conformation for the DNA i-motif. (PHYS)  
C.R. Fraire, T. Nguyen, S. Sullivan, S. Tittle, E. Bazan, R.D. Sheardy
2. Analysis of carboplatin and DNA interactions by spectroscopic techniques. (PHYS)  
C.R. Fraire, S.M. Williams, R.D. Sheardy, N. Mirsaleh-Kohan
3. Instrumental and environmental chemistry discovery laboratory: Utilizing various analytical methods to study the chemistry of water. (CHED)  
D. Vargas Trujillo, C. Grizer, R. Kidwell, J. Carvajal de Luna, S. Tittle, A. Kolek, M. Wilk, J.D. Beatty, M. Omary
4. Wasted fracking water: An examination of components by instrumental methods to assess potential environmental impact. (CHED)  
S. Wappes, S.M. Williams, S. Tittle, T. Nguyen, B. Overton, D. Steffey, M. Wilk, M. Omary, J.D. Beatty
5. Role of green chemistry in the synthesis and characterization of several new copper-phenanthroline complexes. (INOR)

M. Wilk, R. Johnson, S. Scott, D. Vargas Trujillo, V. Nesterov, M. Omary

6. Synthesis and characterization of new copperquinoxaline complexes via solventless and solvent synthetic routes. (INOR)

K.A. Reyes, G.Martinez, Y. Faheem, A. Henderson, V.Nesterov, M. Omary

7. Understanding how cisplatin and carboplatin modify DNA bases. (PHYS)

T. Nguyen, S. Wappes, N. Mirsaleh-Kohan

8. Exploring the structural effects of nedaplatin and carboplatin on a short DNA oligonucleotide. (PHYS)

M. Garrett, A. Lanka, S. Ariyibi, N. Mirsaleh-Kohan

9. Human glutathione synthetase: Negative cooperativity and substrate binding studies. (BIOL)

A. Stopper, L. Haynes, I. Chavarri, H. Conrad Webb, M. E. Anderson