

Graduate Colloquium Proposal

Speaker information

Name: _____ Professor Thomas Clayton_____

Address: Department of Chemistry
Knox College
2 East South Street
Phone: 309-341-7482 tclayton@knox.edu

City: ___ Galesburg _____ **State:** ___ IL _____ **Zip code:** _ 61401-4999

Sponsoring Department

Department: _____ CHEM _____

Sponsoring applicant: Eyrusalam Bedasso, Narayan Hosmane, Lee Sunderlin
(Graduate student or graduate faculty working with their graduate student)

Phone: __ 753-6870 _____ **E-mail:** __ sunder@niu.edu _____

Lecture date: [Click here to enter a date.](#) **Time:** __ N/A __

Location: _____

Title: _____

Seminar date: TBA **Time:** __ 4 PM _____

Location: _____ 201 LaT _____

Title: _____ Advances in Liquid Crystal Chemistry

Justification of lecture topic: *(importance of event as related to graduate-level students, significance of the particular topic(s): **Provide more than 2-3 sentences.***

N/A

Justification of seminar topic: *(importance of event as related to graduate-level students, significance of the particular topic(s): **Provide more than 2-3 sentences**)*

The graduate research and teaching programs in chemistry and biochemistry at NIU are greatly enhanced by visits of outstanding speakers from other institutions. Direct interaction with these speakers broadens the perspectives of the students, allows students to make contacts at other institutions, helps to initiate collaborative activities, and informs students of research at other institutions. It also improves the external visibility of the NIU Chemistry and Biochemistry Department, which helps students obtain jobs after they graduate. In general, speakers spend most of the day talking with students and faculty members before the seminar, allowing time for significant exchanges of information in addition to the formal lecture.

The department considers this lecture program to be a key part of graduate education. Attendance at these seminars, as well as other seminars funded through other means (and seminars by NIU graduate students and faculty) is mandatory for a required class.

Professor Clayton performs research in the area of liquid crystals, which is of interest primarily to organic and inorganic chemists. The closest overlap is with the research of graduate students in Prof. Hosmane's research group. Professor Clayton is also very involved in undergraduate research and teaching initiatives, which is of interest to graduate teaching assistants and graduate students who are mentoring undergraduate researchers.

Role of graduate students in speaker selection. Proposals omitting this information will not be funded (should involve a systematic, relatively formal department-wide process. Students constitute majority in the final voting/selection process, also be involved in initial generation of topics and potential speakers. **Please provide more than 2-3 sentences of the process ex: How were the names collected? How were speakers selected or the voting process?)**

Suggestions for speakers were solicited from all graduate students and faculty by e-mailings, announcements during seminars, and verbal requests. Input from all five divisions (analytical, biochemistry, inorganic, organic and physical) was solicited. A meeting was held earlier in the Spring semester with the graduate students to solicit possible speakers. Students on the committee were volunteers, generally those who were interested in inviting a particular speaker.

Many speakers in the department are funded through other sources, including external funding, departmental resources, and at the cost of other departments interested in recruiting graduate students among our undergraduates. Essentially all speakers proposed by graduate students who are not too expensive (due to distance, usually) are invited. Thus, the main job of the graduate colloquium committee is to encourage submission of names as prospective speakers, rather than winnowing out the list of selections. The lack of detailed discussion of how we choose from among the proposed speakers is due to the fact that cutting the list does not usually occur.

The speaker selection committee was:

Students: Travis Helgren, Michael Lesslie, Eyrusalem Bedasso

Faculty advisors from each division: Lee Sunderlin, Narayan Hosmane, Doug Klumpp,
Elizabeth Gaillard, Victor Ryzhov

Qualification of the speaker

Professor Thomas Clayton

Ph.D., Inorganic Chemistry, 1989, Ohio State University.

B.A., Chemistry and English, magna cum laude, 1981, Iowa Wesleyan College.

Teaching Interests: Inorganic chemistry, synthesis and theoretical characteristics of organometallics.

Honors/Grants

Pew Teacher-Scholar Fellowship.

Presentations

Pedagogy in the Teaching Lab Inspired by Mentoring Undergraduate Research: Descriptive Inorganic Chemistry at Knox College. Presented at the spring National Meeting of the American Chemical Society, 2008.

Campus & Community Involvement

Resident Faculty, Oak Ridge National Laboratory.
 Member, American Chemical Society.
 Member, Council on Undergraduate Research.
 Member, Midwest Association of Chemistry Teachers at Liberal Arts Colleges.

Budget

If total payment to speaker is \$400 or less, do not itemize. Over \$400 **MUST** provide an estimated itemized budget. (Double click the table, and then click in the area to place your numbers).

Travel (as appropriate)

Note:

	Number	Amount		Total
airfare average 2 week advanced purchase coach fare			\$	-
transportation for arrival airport limo			\$	-
rental car (rent, gas/tolls)				
hotel HSC	0	\$ 89 per night	\$	-
meal per diem		\$ 28 per day	\$	-
speaker fee			\$	300.00
total			\$	300.00

Multiple sponsoring units must indicate proportion to be allocated to each unit.

Academic Unit: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Expenditures are to cover: honorarium, travel, hotel _____

TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST TO COLLOQUIUM COMMITTEE: \$ 300

Sponsoring applicant's signature: _____

Approval of chair or program or center director: _____

Do you wish to have us prepare 25 free posters? YES x NO