

## Welcome to the Department of Chemistry at Michigan State University

As part of the Orientation Committee, we are interested in making your transition to graduate school and relocation to the East Lansing area as enjoyable as possible. The committee members are students from many areas of Chemistry and are in various stages of the graduate program. Because getting to know people in the department is an important aspect of Orientation Week, we have planned several opportunities to meet and interact with other graduate students, faculty, and staff.

Note: Please remember to attend the **New TA Institute** event on Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup> in Wells Hall from 8:30-5, where you will learn about important policies for all teaching assistants at MSU. This is mandatory for all of our new students. Complimentary parking will be available from August 17-26 in lot 39, across from the International Center - close to Wells Hall and the Chemistry Building.

Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup> officially begins Orientation week with a **Sunday Social** at 3:00 p.m. This will give you a nice opportunity to meet the other incoming students and graduate students on the orientation committee. Also, you can get familiar with the Chemistry building and on-campus parking.

On Monday morning, you will have **Placement Exams**, both in General Chemistry and specific areas, depending on your interest. Be sure to bring a calculator! Afterwards, Orientation Committee members will be available to take you nearby for lunch (at your own expense) or to simply eat lunch with you. Feel free to pack a lunch or get a quick meal or snack throughout the week - we have Sparty's Café, which is located in the Biomedical & Physical Sciences (BPS) Building, attached to the Chemistry Building. Sparty's summer hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 – 5:00.

On Tuesday, you will start to be introduced to some of the people you will routinely see in the Chemistry Department. Tuesday is designed to answer many of the questions you might have about **program requirements** and continues to introduce you to groups available within the Chemistry Department. Additionally, yearly **department photos** will be taken to be displayed in the building and on the department website. For lunch, we will once again be organizing groups to go to local restaurants (again, at your own expense), or if you would rather bring a lunch, there will be a group that will stay at the Chemistry Building. We will also stop at the MSU Dairy Store on Tuesday.

On Wednesday morning, the Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) is sponsoring a **welcome breakfast**. You can meet other graduate students and become acclimated with one of the department's clubs. Most of the morning will be devoted to **advising appointments** - you will receive information on the specific time you will meet with a faculty member in their corresponding area. Afterwards, you will return to the regular classroom to learn about Sexual Harassment Issues at MSU. Groups will organize for lunch again.

Thursday's you will have time to get enrolled in the courses that you and your initial advisor discussed on Wednesday, we will be available to answer any questions and assist you in acquiring building keys and access. TA Training will start and continue into Friday. On Thursday evening, we have an organized **Social Night**. This event will be your best opportunity to meet some of the current faculty, along with other grad students in a relaxed atmosphere. It's a great chance to speak with the faculty/students about their research interests.

On Friday, you will report to CEM 138 for **Safety Training**, with fire extinguisher practice at the end. After lunch (bring your own or stay close by due to likely time constraints), Orientation Week will wrap up with the final session of TA Training. Come and celebrate the end of the orientation process with orientation committee members as they host **Wine Night** at the Chemistry Building, which will be followed by a night out in Downtown East Lansing.

Please feel free to contact either one of us if you have any questions regarding orientation week. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Samantha Houchlei  
Orientation Committee Co-Chair  
[houchle1@msu.edu](mailto:houchle1@msu.edu)

Arzoo Chhabra  
Orientation Committee Co-Chair  
[chhabr12@msu.edu](mailto:chhabr12@msu.edu)

