

What Can I Do with a Chemistry Degree? Selected Examples of Successes of Alumni of the UCA Chemistry Department!

Melissa Choate is a 2006 graduate of the chemistry department at UCA. Melissa works as an Analytical Chemist at the L'Oreal (Maybelline) manufacturing plant in North Little Rock. Her lab uses HPLC, UV-VIS, and AA (Atomic Absorption) to test liquid, powder, and solid make-up for the amount of preservatives and OTC products.

Regan West is a 2006 graduate of the chemistry department at UCA. Regan is employed at the Arkansas State Crime Lab where she says "I work in the drug section at the crime lab. We analyze evidence for controlled substances. The main ones are marijuana, cocaine, and methamphetamine, plus several kinds of abused prescription drugs. About 60% of our time is spent doing paperwork, sampling the evidence, and taking notes. To do the analysis, we run the samples on GC-MS and use TLC as a confirmatory test. We use IR mainly to tell cocaine HCl from its base form, because the legal charge is different for the different forms. Most of the time it's fairly routine, but every once in a while we get weird stuff."

Cullen Matthews graduated with honors in chemistry in December, 2005. His thesis was based on three years of research that he did with Dr. Bill Taylor. Cullen is currently serving in the Navy Nuclear Submarine Service. He is stationed out of Bremerton, WA aboard the USS Michigan.

Micah Abrams earned a BS in Chemistry from UCA in 2001. Micah then received his Ph.D. dissertation from the Georgia Institute of Technology and did postdoctoral work with Dr. T. Daniel Crawford at Virginia Tech. He joined the UCA chemistry faculty as a theoretical chemist beginning in the fall, 2006. In 2008, Micah joined Decisive Analytics in Arlington, Virginia, as a Senior Engineer.

Missy Snodgrass Golden earned the BS in Chemistry from UCA in 1998. Missy completed a Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry under Marcetta Darensbourg at Texas A&M. She spent two years working with Prof. Bernadette Donovan-Merkert at UNC Charlotte, as an NSF-funded teaching/postdoctoral appointment. In Fall of 2006 she began a position as a tenure-track assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry at California State University, Fresno.

Chris Dietrich is a 1996 alumnus of the chemistry department at UCA. Chris graduated from Southern College of Optometry in May of 2001. After briefly practicing in Conway he purchased a private practice in Mountain View, AR and has been in solo private practice since. His office is on the courthouse square.

Darrin Gainer, a 1995 graduate of the chemistry department at UCA, currently teaches chemistry at Greenbrier High School. He has done graduate work in chemistry at UALR.

Derek Boahene, a 1995 graduate of the chemistry department at UCA, graduated first in his class in medicine at Meharry in Nashville, TN. Following that he did a five-year surgical residency in otolaryngology head and neck surgery followed by fellowship training in Facial plastic and reconstructive surgery which covers cosmetic surgery of the face as well as reconstruction of congenital and acquired defects in the head and neck region. He then joined Johns Hopkins University Hospital as an assistant professor.

Becky Weston Edwards, a 1994 alumnus of the chemistry department at UCA, received a Ph.D. from the University of Mississippi in February of 1998 and began work at Eastman Chemical Company, Arkansas site, as an analytical chemist in March 1998 where she is still employed. Becky is responsible for many of the chromatographic techniques in the analytical lab. Since she has been with Eastman, she has supervised the liquid chromatography lab.

Brett Krepps, a 1992 graduate in chemistry from UCA, received an M.S. in chemical engineering in 1994. Two years later he applied to medical school and received his M.D. from UAMS in 2000. He completed a residency in orthopedic medicine at the University of Kansas Medical School in 2005. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons and practices orthopedic surgery in Indiana.