

Dr. Rainer Glaser
Professor and Chair

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**Missouri University of
Science and Technology**

Department of Chemistry
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September 25, 2021

Dear Department Chair,

In AY20/21, Missouri S&T celebrated its sesquicentennial (<https://150.mst.edu/>), and in AY18/19 Missouri S&T's Department of Chemistry celebrated its quasiquicentennial (125 years)! In 1893, chemistry separated from metallurgy, and Dr. William Seamon became the first chair. I assumed my current position as the 17th chair on August 1st, 2018, and it has been a true privilege to contribute to the department's evolution.

The chemistry department (<https://chem.mst.edu/>) is a modern research department with 17 regular full-time faculty, 2 Chancellor's Professors, 10 active adjunct faculty, about 50 graduate and post-graduate students, and some 95 undergraduate Chemistry majors. With our international faculty and diverse student body, we are well positioned to compete internationally in education and research. Extensive renovations of the Schrenk Hall west wing were completed in 2019, the older Schrenk Hall east wing has been refurbished and several new classrooms and offices opened in time for FS21, and a modern vivarium in the basement of Schrenk Hall started operations in the summer of 2021. This new infrastructure catalyzes the department to compete at the next level.

Research in Missouri S&T's Department of Chemistry addresses fundamental questions that provide answers to important societal problems. Building on the traditional sub-disciplines of analytical, inorganic, (bio)organic and physical chemistry, our research groups emphasize inter- and multidisciplinary research with notable strengths in materials science, polymer chemistry, and environmental science. The S&T community is rife of opportunities for interdisciplinary studies and such ambitions are facilitated by world-class centers (<https://research.mst.edu/research-centers>). The attached **newsletters and materials highlight just a few of our recent accomplishments** and hopefully lets you feel some of the excitement of the scientific discoveries going on in our department.

The faculty of Missouri S&T's Department of Chemistry share the educational philosophy that places experiential learning in the center of modern science education. Undergraduate and graduate education are fully integrated and provide synergy to both mentors and mentees. Undergraduates are encouraged to join research groups as early as their first year and to participate in research throughout their studies. Our **Undergraduate Student Alumni** (<https://chem.mst.edu/people/undergraduatealumni/>) and our **Graduate Student Alumni** (<https://chem.mst.edu/people/grad-student-alumni/>) have always cherished their research experiences the most. The synergies of research-centered learning continue to benefit all.

Also attached is a list of **Topics of Faculty Presentations 2021/22**. Our faculty would be delighted to present on any of their research topics in your seminar or colloquium series. With a view to any travel restrictions because of the on-going pandemic, the presentations are offered via zoom and/or in person in FS21 and SP22. We are aware that some departments do not have a budget to cover the expenses associated with the visit by an external speaker. Hence, S&T's Department of Chemistry will cover all expenses associated with up to ten invited presentations in AY21/22. If you are interested, please let us know early so that we can plan accordingly.

Established through a \$300 million gift to Missouri University of Science and Technology, the **Kummer Institute** for Student Success, Research and Economic Development (<https://kummerinstitute.mst.edu>) was established in October 2020 to transform Missouri S&T and the south-central Missouri region by cultivating leadership and technological innovation; nurturing an entrepreneurial mindset; fostering expansion of academic-industry partnerships to directly address emerging needs of industry; and creating economic growth for the region. The Kummer Institute fulfills the vision of June and Fred Kummer, longtime benefactors of Missouri S&T.

Many of our first-year undergraduate students benefit from the **Kummer Vanguard Scholars Program** (<https://kummerinstitute.mst.edu/vanguardscholarsprogram>) which provides scholarships to 350 to 400 STEM scholars each year. Each Kummer Vanguard Scholar receives \$1,000-\$3,000 a year for four years. These scholarships may be combined with other university scholarships as well as dedicated chemistry scholarships (<https://chem.mst.edu/student-opportunities/scholarships>) to provide a broader array of financial support for students. Students from around the world will be selected based on academic and non-academic criteria.

The new and exciting **Kummer Innovation and Entrepreneurship (I&E) Doctoral Fellows Program** (<https://kummerinstitute.mst.edu/fellowsprogram>) provides generous 12-month stipends and tuition remission for up to 100 STEM Ph.D. students a year. The program is open to domestic and international students and offers an array of exclusive opportunities designed to inspire an innovative mindset among our brightest doctoral scholars.

I encourage you to explore the website of the Department of Chemistry (<https://chem.mst.edu>) to get more information about our faculty, programs, and facilities and the many opportunities for our students. If you, some of your faculty, and/or advanced undergraduate students would like to visit our department, please call the department office at 573-341-4420 or email me directly at glaserr@mst.edu. We will be happy to arrange for you to tour our newly renovated facilities and our shared instrument labs and to meet faculty and students in your areas of interest.

Sincerely,



Rainer Glaser
Professor and Chair