Jones seeks to engage students in chemistry

Some people think of chemistry as difficult and even dangerous, a field for which only a very few are inclined. Myron Jones sees it differently and successfully engages students in this branch of science.

Jones was born in Winchester, Tenn., and obtained his bachelor’s degree in chemistry from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. His master’s also in chemistry from Middle Tennessee State University and his doctorate in analytical chemistry from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Jones did not think of becoming a chemist when he went to college to study engineering. He met his undergraduate professor in chemistry, and he became a teaching assistant. He helped him during his free time and just got interested in helping students because he noticed when he explained things to them they would have an ‘aha’ moment and he was very excited about that.

This experience taught him about the impact a good mentor can have on students. “The way that mentor worked with us, he would never give us a problem that was impossible to solve,” Jones said. “He would always ask us what we thought we could do to solve it and so I think when a student comes to me and he has a problem, I do ask them. What do you have done? Have you tried to find the answer to the information, to try and find out where they are on their journey to getting there? If they are stuck, I’m going to help them explain to them through that process so they can figure out their own way to answer that question. They can always go back and answer it up in a book.”

Dr. Myron Jones in his lab

One of the barriers he said he has to overcome with his students is that most of them are not chemistry as a subject. He said that he works to instill in them the idea that it is also fun and it is practical, an idea he said should begin in high school chemistry classes. He said that high school chemistry teachers should approach the subject as more than the simple memorization of equations, but that the equations grow out of the material. He said if you can see where the equations connect to the material I think it would be more meaningful for them. “As a chemistry as a science that helps students to train their minds in beneficial ways, regardless of what they later pursue in life.”

“Chemistry is a very good subject to major in at students universities,” Jones said. “I have friends who were chemistry majors with no intentions of being chemists. Some of them are medical doctors, some are lawyers. Patent lawyers, that big grey area that you can go into if you are a chemistry major. So I think chemistry is a good major in life.”

ALDAMERO ROMERO

Regional

College Talk

Aldemaro Romero is the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Northern Illinois University. He is the editor of "The Sage," can be heard every Sunday morning on WINDI, and can be reached at CollegeArt_Science@niu.edu.

Shah Lu/SIU

SIUE

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Perhaps the longest running antique show in the area, the Friends of Loverly Library will conduct the event since 1977 to raise money for the local library. The antique show will be held April 18-20.

"For 41 years, the antique show has provided a great service to our students, to our faculty and staff, that we are very happy to open our doors to," LD Director of Development Kyle Moore said in a news release.

About 70 vendors are expected to have approximately 3,000 attend take advantage of this event to peruse their wares, which include unique items from local and national dealers will be on hand for the year’s show.

The show will be held daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the University Center. For more information, visit www.siue.edu/loverlylibrary friends or contact Kyle Moore at 684-5274.

Arts

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The spring schedule includes the following classes that are offered on Wednesday evenings and begin March 18.

Metal Clay Jewelry - Clay Modeling - 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Wheel Throwing Clay - 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Color Your Watercolor: Watercolor - 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Artic Movement Gentle Yoga will be offered from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays beginning March 15 through April 17.

For more information, call 654-6010 and register.

Shah Lu/SIU

ReCYCLE

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“This is the truth people live a life of convenience. It would be nice to be able to return toys or clothes plenty of time to stores. This is because of a lot of different organizations that he makes frequent trips to drop off items. He doesn’t make a profit on the donated items. He will pick up any include (apples, small (waste) items; laptops, cables, light fixtures, cameras with flash, monitors, cars, (motor) oil, cell phones, electric meters, circuit boards, for instance, clocks, printers and plotters, consumer electronics, items, video cassettes, monitors, camcorders, recorders, printers, scanners, small scale servers, portable digital music players, cable recyclers, satellite dishes, printers (including desktops, laptops, and tablets) and digital video recorders and players.

Recycling makes a hobby, makes items whether they work or not. This is an area for organizations that he manages frequent trips to drop off items. He does not make a profit on the donated items. He will pick up any include (apples, small (waste) items; laptops, cables, light fixtures, cameras with flash, monitors, cars, (motor) oil, cell phones, electric meters, circuit boards, for instance, clocks, printers and plotters, consumer electronics, items, video cassettes, monitors, camcorders, recorders, printers, scanners, small scale servers, portable digital music players, cable recyclers, satellite dishes, printers (including desktops, laptops, and tablets) and digital video recorders and players.

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