

Alejandro Benitz
University of North Texas
Chemistry Building – Office 362
Alejandro.Benitz@UNT.edu

Education

Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry

University of North Texas, Denton, Texas
GPA: 3.90
2017 – Attained Doctoral Candidacy

2014 - ongoing

B.S. in Chemistry

Emphasis in Biochemistry, Minor in Biology
California State University at Channel Islands, Camarillo, California
GPA: 3.01

2014

A.S. in Legal Assisting

Oxnard College, Oxnard, California

2010

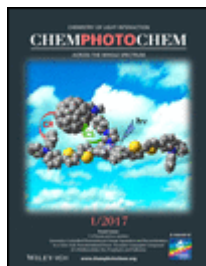
Interests

- Chemical Education and Outreach
- Synthetic Organic Chemistry
- Asymmetric Synthesis
- Medicinal Chemistry
- Drug Discovery and Development
- Biomimetic Nanochemistry
- Fluorescent Sensors
- Photovoltaics

Awards

- Tuition Benefit Award Bonus, Spring 2017, *UNT*
- Tuition Benefit Award, Fall 2015-Spring 2017, *UNT*
- Graduate Assistantship Tuition Scholarship, Fall 2014, *UNT*
- Travel Scholarship for ACS Dallas, Spring 2014, *CSUCI Chemistry Club*
- Travel Scholarship for ACS Dallas, Spring 2014, *CSUCI-Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP)*
- Travel Scholarship for CSU-LSAMP REU Thailand, Summer 2014, *CSU-LSAMP*
- Travel Scholarship for ACS New Orleans, Spring 2013, *CSUCI Chemistry Club*
- Travel Scholarship for ACS New Orleans, Spring 2013, *CSUCI-LSAMP*
- Travel Scholarship for ACS San Diego, Spring 2013, *CSUCI Chemistry Club*
- SACNAS Travel Scholarship, Fall 2012 - *Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)*
- Travel Grant for ACS San Diego, Spring 2012, *CSUCI-LSAMP*
- LSAMP Transfer Student Merit Scholarship, Fall 2011, *CSUCI-LSAMP*
- Governor's Scholarship Award for 98th percentile in STAR testing, 2004

Publications



Geometry-Controlled Photoinduced Charge Separation and Recombination in a *Trans*-A₂B₂-Functionalized Donor–Acceptor Conjugate Composed of a Multimodular Zinc Porphyrin and Fullerene (with cover).

A. Benitz, M. B. Thomas, F. D'Souza, *ChemPhotoChem* **2017**, *1*, 17.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/cptc.201600017>

Presentations of Research

Geometry Controlled Photoinduced Charge Separation and Recombination in a *Trans*-A₂B₂ Functionalized Zinc Porphyrin-C₆₀ Conjugate in a Donor/Acceptor System

- American Chemical Society Southwest Regional Meeting – 2016

Synthesis and Characterization of Thiophene Based Donor/Acceptor Systems

- UNT Graduate Exhibition, 2015

Curcumin Encapsulation in Micelles for Targeted Delivery

- Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research, 2013
- ACS Dallas, 2014

Alkylation of Curcumin to Increase Bioavailability

- Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research, 2014
- Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research, 2012
- ACS New Orleans, 2013
- SACNAS, 2012
- ACS San Diego, 2012

Inorganic versus Organic Solar Cells

- CSUCI LSAMP Research Showcase 2012

Effects of Taxol on HeLa Cell Growth

- Oxnard College-CSUCI STEM Research Showcase 2011

Professional Affiliations

CSU Channel Islands Free Radicals Chemistry Club, 2011-2014

Treasurer 2012

- Organized new member outreach at student orientations
- Managed all booking and purchasing for the club
- Produced lab manuals for chemistry department
- Conducted youth outreach at annual science carnival and local K-12 Schools

American Chemical Society, 2012-2014

Member

- Presented at 3 national conferences

The American Association for the Advancement of Science, 2012-2014

Member

Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, 2012-2014

Member

- Presented at national conference in 2012

Oxnard College Chemistry Club, 2009-2010

Inter-Organizational Council Officer

- Responsible for keeping the associated student government up to date with club activities
- Implemented several fundraisers to help start a chemistry supplies scholarship for disadvantaged students.

National Association of Legal Assistants

Member

- Passed exam for the Certification of Legal Assistants in 2010

Employment History

Teaching Assistant, 2014-2017

University of North Texas, Denton, Texas

Helping professors teach undergraduates through various functions as a grader, a laboratory prepper, leading undergraduate students by running laboratories for organic chemistry, general chemistry for non-majors, organic chemistry for non-majors, and being a lecture teaching assistant for organic chemistry. Additionally, provide one on one tutoring to students through office hours.

MSLI Summer Counselor, 2013, 2014

CSU Channel Islands, Camarillo, CA

My responsibilities with MSLI includes: tutoring, serving as a chemistry lab TA, and chaperoning the 100-strong group of at-risk high school students in team-building exercises and science-based field trips.

STEM Mentor 2012-2014

Project ACCESSO, CSU Channel Islands, Camarillo, CA

Providing guidance to underclassmen about university success through weekly individual and group meetings with students. Help arrange schedules, conflict resolution, planning a university career and help consider graduate school.

Research Assistant, 2012-2014

Project ACCESSO, CSU Channel Islands, Camarillo, CA

Working in conjunction with Dr. Phil Hampton's research team, I am responsible with various independent research projects involving the synthesis of bioavailable curcumin analogues.

STEM Tutor, 2012-2014

Project ACCESSO, CSU Channel Islands, Camarillo, CA

Tutoring other STEM major students with 1-on-1 and group settings in chemistry, biology, physics, and calculus. Assisting in youth outreach with science fair judging and promotion.

Paralegal, 2008-2010

Hamernik & Associates, Oxnard, CA

Managed 220+ open cases involving criminal, family, immigration, and bankruptcy law. Created legal documents, office procedures, correspondence, and retainer groups. Conducted court filings, client interviews, trial preparation, transcriptions, discovery, visa applications, and accounting duties.

Paralegal, 2006-2007

Lascher & Lascher, Ventura, CA

Responsibilities included: Creation and publication of legal documents specializing in the appellate court circuit. Scheduling of depositions and prison visitations for the firm. Maintained the filing for 90+ open clients and the 50-year archive. Updated the firm's constantly evolving calendar. Answered all incoming calls and greeted visitors. Completed dictation for lead attorney as well as the creation of correspondence. Handled maintenance for office equipment.