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Obituary

MASANGU SHABANGI
(1965-2014)

On March 13, 2014, Dr. Masangu Shabangi, Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE), passed away after a pulmonary fibrosis that had been affecting him for some time.

Dr. Shabangi was born on October 28, 1965 in the Democratic Republic of Congo, former Zaire. He obtained his B.S. in Chemistry from Asbury College in Kentucky and his doctorate in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Toledo, Ohio. He became a faculty member in the Department of Chemistry at SIUE in 2000, reaching the rank of associate professor in 2006.

Dr. Shabangi had a wide range of research interests that included, but were not limited to, electrochemistry, and chemo and biosensors. He worked on what are known as water-soluble vitamins, basically the different types of vitamin B and vitamin C. During his career he published a number of papers in major scientific journals and received numerous grants in support of his research (see Appendix I). He taught a number of courses, including General Chemistry, Nursing Chemistry and Advanced Instrumental Analysis, the latter at the graduate level. He received several teaching awards and was a member of several scientific societies.

His great passion was in promoting the participation of minority students in the natural sciences. As an African he inspired others, including African Americans from East St. Louis, to pursue careers in the sciences. He always told them that there are no shortcuts in life; that if they wanted to succeed they needed to apply themselves with discipline and setting high standards. To learn more about Dr. Shabangi, visit http://www.siue.edu/artsandsciences/CTarticle106.pdf and listen and watch him in a radio interview he gave about his life and career at https://vimeo.com/62391956

I had the great opportunity to know Masangu Shabangi not only professionally, but also personally. He and I were tennis partners, another activity he pursued despite his chronic respiratory illness. He was a mild-manner individual, generous, and very kind with everybody.

He leaves behind his wife Lea Shabangi and two children, Alexandre and Timothy.

Aldemaro Romero Jr.
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
APPENDIX I

Dr. Masangu Shabangi
Grants, Publications, and Presentations

FUNDED GRANT PROPOSALS:

- SIUE-Graduate School, Grant writing workshop (Received a laptop PC, 2004).
- SIUE-Graduate Students (2004): Isolation and Characterization of Thiamin-Dependent Enzymes (Ben Bomer, $500, Funded)
- SIUE-SRF (2002): The electrosynthesis of molecular wires in zeolites” ($6,000)
- HECA (2002): Illinois Board of Higher Education: “Academic Activities Required to Prepare Underrepresented students in Science” ($60,000). (P. I. Masangu Shabangi), this grant is mostly for service, but it provides other support needed for research
- SIUE-SRF (2001): The development of fiber optic based biosensors for the detection of vitamin B1” ($6,000)
- HECA (2001): Illinois Board of Higher Education: “Building blocks for the recruitment, preparation and retention of underrepresented students in science” ($40,000). (P. I. Masangu Shabangi), this grant is mostly for service, but it provides other support needed for research

PUBLICATIONS:


PRESENTATIONS:

- The electrochemical study of glucose oxidase and its coenzyme FAD (James Blazier, Senior Assignment, April 2011).
- The electrochemical and electrophoretic investigation of the effect of urea on pyruvade decarboxylase (Ryan Hicks, Thesis Defense, August 2009).
- The Electrochemistry of Urea Induced Dimers of Pyruvate Decarboxylase (Ellise Mullins Probst’s lecture 2009).
- Electrochemical investigation on the effect of applied potential on the reaction catalyzed by pyruvate decarboxylase (Tejendra Patel, 2008 Probst Lecture).
- Electrophoretic Investigation of Pyruvate decarboxylase (Department seminar by Ryan Hicks, March 05, 2008 and Probst Lecture).
- Electrochemical Investigation of Thiazole. (Senior Assignment presentation by Ryan Hicks, November 15, 2006).
- Evidence of Thiamin Pyrophosphate as Redox Center in Pyruvate Decarboxylase. (by Patrick Bell, Pittsburgh Conference, Orlando, FL. March 14, 2006).
- Electrochemical Investigation of the Catalytic Power of Pyruvate Decarboxylase and its Coenzyme Thiamin Pyrophosphate (Award Winner Poster by Patrick Bell, Probst Lecture 2005).
- Electrochemical Study of Alpha-Ketoglutarate Dehydrogenase and Pyruvate Dehydrogenase Complexes (Senior Assignment Poster by Kathryn Hoyt, Probst Lecture 2005).
- Determination of the Presence and Structure of a Thiamin Derivative Using Several Instrumental Methods (Senior Assignment Poster by Chris Korves, Probst Lecture 2005).
- The effect of diffusion of analyte on bare carbon and Y-zeolite modified screen printed electrodes using cyclic voltammetry and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy methods (Senior Assignment Oral Presentation by Brandon Hatfield, Spring 2005).
- The electrochemical investigation of thiamin and its phosphate esters in acidic solutions. St Louis University, St. Louis, MO, October 29, 2004 (by Masangu Shabangi, Invited).
- Nanoparticles and their applications (by Isil Yasa, Departmental seminar, September 22, 2004).
- Isolation and Characterization of Thiamin-dependent Enzymes (by Ben Bomer, Departmental seminar, October 13, 2004).
• The Effect of Alcohol on the Absorption of Thiamin (by Cara Johnson, Senior Assignment, Probst Lecture 2004).
• Analysis of Thiamin in a Biological Sample (Senior Assignment by Hope Hall, November 5, 2003).
• The use of Zeolite-Modified Electrodes to Study the Diffusion Properties of Analytes (by Steve Bryant, SIUE Senior Assignment, 2002).
• Capillary Electrophoresis Analysis of Thiamin Derivatives as an Alternative Method to HPLC based Thiochrome (Thiamine Conference, May 18, 2002, Newark, NJ).
• The Electrochemical Characterization of Thiamin Pyrophosphate and other Thiamin Derivatives (Poster, Pittcon, March 2001, New Orleans, LA).
• The Electrochemical Characterization of Vitamin B₁ as a potential Technique for its determination (Illinois State Academy of Science, April 20, Macomb, IL).
• The Electrochemical Analysis of Thiamin Pyrophosphate and other thiamin Derivatives (Poster by Jeff Sutton at the 221st ACS National Meeting, San Diego, CA).
• Capillary Electrophoresis Analysis of Thiamin Derivatives (Award Winner Poster by Jeff Sutton, Probst Lecture 2002).
• Optimization of Experimental Conditions for the Separation of Thiamin Derivatives Using HPLC (by Christa Willaredt, SIUE Senior Assignment, 2001).
• Capillary Electrophoresis Analysis of Thiamin Derivatives as an Alternative Method to HPLC based Thiochrome (Thiamine Conference, May 18, 2002, Newark, NJ).
• Electrochemical Investigation of the Effect of Complexing Cosolvents on the Redox Potential of SmI₂. (Pittcon. March 97, Atlanta, GA).
• Fine Tuning the Redox Potential of Samarium(II) iodide in THF. (Pittcon. March 98, New Orleans, LA).