



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
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# Department of Chemistry

## *Special Seminar*

4:15 p.m. Monday, June 6, 2016 • 331 Smith Hall



Associate Professor

**Elizabeth A. Colby Davie**

Assumption College

### ***Beyond Survival Mode: Fostering Scientific Thinking in the Organic Lab***

#### **Abstract**

Organic chemistry plays a prominent role in most undergraduate science programs, yet the discipline is often dreaded or feared by students for its reputation of being a challenging course of study. The laboratory is an ideal place to break down these barriers with extended periods of time to engage with concepts. Guided inquiry experiments in organic synthesis provide opportunities for students to master discipline-specific laboratory and analysis techniques while honing general scientific thinking skills that will serve students well for careers in science or the health professions. A case study will be presented which involves a multi-step synthesis of a terphenyl compound, relevant to the field of OLEDs and screen technology.

Elizabeth Colby Davie earned her bachelor's degree in chemistry from Macalester College and a doctorate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, under the guidance of Professor Timothy F. Jamison in 2005. She then held a post-doctoral fellowship at Boston College with Professor Scott J. Miller. Elizabeth joined the faculty at Assumption in Worcester, MA in 2007, where she is currently an associate professor of chemistry. She primarily teaches introductory and advanced organic chemistry courses, and recently began teaching a seminar course in the college-wide honors program. She enjoys working with undergraduate students in her research laboratory and has mentored several projects in synthetic organic chemistry.

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and hosted by the Department of Chemistry.

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