

THE CHEMISTS CLUB

The University of Chicago
Newsletter #20 Winter 2003

FROM THE DEAN AND THE CHAIRMAN

I am writing to let you know that I will be leaving the University of Chicago at the end of June. I have been selected to be the ninth President of Pomona College in Claremont, Ca.

I am excited about the opportunity to lead one of the premier liberal arts colleges in the country, but I will deeply miss The University of Chicago and all of the close friends I have made here. I have spent my entire academic career here since my Ph.D. (over 27 years), and have come to love this University and the value it places on scholarship and teaching of the highest quality. It has been a privilege to serve as Dean over the last seven and a half years and to work with the faculty, staff, and administration to build an even stronger Division. I feel that the University is in excellent hands, and am confident my successor will lead us forward in very positive directions.

I look forward to working with all of you over the next several months, and hope to stay in contact after my move to California.

David Oxtoby

In addition to the loss of David Oxtoby, after six years, I will be stepping down as chairman, June 31, 2003. I anticipate that Mike Hopkins will take my place and do an excellent job. I have found the department wonderful to deal with and wish Mike the best.

James Norris

During the past several months there have been an unusual number of telephone calls amongst "old timers". These calls have been in large part provoked by Jordan Abel who is organizing a reunion [see next page]. One of the results of these communications has been an outpouring of memories. Several people have noted this and contacted me to express a desire to create a mechanism to assemble these reminiscences. There seems to be an intense desire not only to share these stories but to be able to retain them for current and future members of the Department. Certainly, during the reunion we will have tape recorders handy. But, in addition to recording during the event, we would very much desire all of you to think about the past and somehow send us your thoughts. You are welcome to actually write them down and snail- or e-mail them to me. Or, since reminiscing is most often done orally, please, *we beg you*, keep a tape recorder handy and record your thoughts, record your conversations, record anything and everything related to the University. Send your tapes to me, and we will create volume of past history of the Department. Please do not say, I'll think about it tomorrow. Tomorrow, unfortunately, some of us will not be around to enjoy the results.

Mary Giacomoni, Editor

STUDENT AWARDS

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Lieve Teugels

BURROUGHS WELLCOME FELLOWSHIP

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Mahir Ocak	Aranh Pen
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Allan Wilson	

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Shelli Frey	Jennifer Gottfried
Justin Jureller	Maria Krisch

PREDOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAM CHEMISTRY/BIOLOGY

Jeff McGilvra	Helen Song
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WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP

Julie Gruetzmacher

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Also, very special thanks to **N.C. Yang** who made a most generous contribution to *Chemistry Thesis Award Fund*.

Dear Friends,

Please remember your matching fund forms! They make a BIG difference to us. Six people thanked here did not do so. Mores the pity!

You might also join the continuously very generous **George Van Dyke Tiers** in making us a beneficiary of your life insurance policies!

ALUMNI NOTES

Philip C. White - 38

After leaving Chicago in 1975, I was appointed by President Ford to the Department of Energy. We stayed in Washington until June 2002. A few years of consulting on energy matters, before retiring completely in '88 - 50 years of work was enough!

Morris S. Kharasch

Richard Rustandi - 91

Joined Merck research laboratory doing vaccine research. Published a total of 15 papers in the last four years in various journals including: *Nature Structure Biology, Biochemistry, Protein Science, BBR and JBC*.

James Norris

William M. Saltman - 49

I am working on a book about the need for scientists to be allowed to work freely in their laboratories - but with a need for controls before allowing their results into the marketplace. Example: stem cell research/genetic modification of food crops.

Norman Nachtrieb

A one day reunion of Professor Morris Selig Kharasch's students and post-docs is being planned for Thursday, June 26, 2003, at The University of Chicago.

Donald J. Kahn - 57

I was pleased to receive an American Chemical Society Certificate for "Fifty Years of Service". In reality, my chemistry education served me well in five different careers over 30 years in heavy industry. I owe the ACS an award for its support of chemical education and the advancement of chemistry in these 50 years.

W. Urry

The agenda for the reunion is quite simple. The morning will present an opportunity to tour the old, as well as the new laboratory facilities; and if desired, and weather permits, a short tour of the campus. There will be a luncheon, followed by an afternoon session for reminiscing. If we are able to teleconference with an excellent speaker system, Dr. Frank H. Westheimer, will open our afternoon session for reminiscing.

Jim Siggins - 59

Approximately 50 years ago, there was a fest for Morris Kharasch. Present included Frank Westheimer, Schlesinger and H.C. Brown. This came to mind as I was reading the piece by Alfred Holtzer. [I assume Seymour Lemberg is the father of K.M. Lemberg (student). He, like me, was a student of M.S. Kharasch.] Editor's note: the assumption is correct.

N.C. Yang

For out of town returnees, we anticipate arranging round trip bus service from the Ramada Inn [\$90 + tax = the university's discount rate]. We are planning the closing dinner here as well.

Grant D. Venerable, II - 70

I moved to SE Pennsylvania in June 2002 to begin my new appointment as Vice President for Academic Affairs, Lincoln University of Pennsylvania.

Jack Halpern

Mary Giacomoni, in the Chemistry Department, is coordinating this event. She is developing complete details from menu planning, to costs of the luncheon and dinner.

Scott Gilbertson - 90

In the summer of 2003 I will be taking a position as the Robert A. Welch Distinguished University Chair in Chemistry at the University of Texas Medical Branch. I will be the director of the Program in Chemical Biology.

William Wulff

To date, 58 Kharasch Docs and Post-Docs have been found and contacted. If you are among the missing, please contact:

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Prairie Village, KS 66208

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jabel@blitz-it.net

CONGRATULATIONS

BA & BS RECIPIENTS

SUMMER 2002

Sandipani Manalur Sandilya, BA

AUTUMN 2002

NONE

MS RECIPIENTS

SUMMER 2002

Duhee Bang	Allan Umali Barlan
David Eugene Boler	Amadou Cisse
Brian William Cohen	James David Crowley
John Daniel Farnum	Claire Sigrid Jacobs
Abhishek Kumar Jha	Daniel Kenneth Jordan
Ekaterina Arsenyevna Korobkova	Ji Hwan Lee
Laura Ruth McCunn	Jeff Donald McGilvra
Yukiko Mishina	Helen Song
Thu Bach Tran	Guoyao Xia
Wei Zhang	Yanhua Zhang

AUTUMN 2002

Christopher Ray England Umair Abdul Qadeer

Ph.D. RECIPIENTS

SUMMER 2002

Bianxiao Cui - *Rice* - Structure and Diffusion in Dense Confined Colloidal Suspensions. Post Doc with Steve Chu, Stanford University.

Seth Benjamin Darling - *Sibener* - Rational Nanoscale Control of Interfacial Structure and Dynamics. Joint Argonne National Laboratory/UC Post Doc.

Yong Huang - *Rawal* - Exploration of the New Horizon of Diels-Alder Reactions: Asymmetric Catalysis. Post Doc with David WC MacMillan, California Institute of Technology.

Cheslan K. Simpson - *Hopkins* - Synthesis and Electronic Properties of Conjugated Materials Containing Tungsten Benzylidynes. Post Doc with Bill Tumas, Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Cathrine Ann Southern - *Levy* - Spectroscopy of Anthranilic Acid and Its Derivatives in a Supersonic Jet. Post Doc with Patricia O'Hara, Lecturer, Camille & Henry Dreyfus Fellow, Amherst College.

AUTUMN 2002

Tahllee Baynard - *Berry* - The Threshold Behavior of Electron-Atom Superelastic Scattering in Magnesium. Post

Doc with Akkihebbal Ravishankara at the Cooperative Institute for Environmental Studies, U of Colorado, Boulder.

Yuezhong Feng - *Mrksich* - Chemistry and Biology at the Interface: Tailored Materials for Biotechnology. Organic Chemist at Platypus Technologies, Madison, Wisconsin.

XiaoWu Jiang - *Wulff* - Synthetic Studies towards Conocurrone: A Novel Synthesis of Trimeric Quinone via the First Reactions of Carbene Complex with Conjugated Triynes. Post Doc with Marvin Miller, of Notre Dame.

Mihoko Kato - *Mrksich* - Studies on Integrin-Mediated Cell Adhesion Using Model Surfaces.

Xiaoyu Li - *Lynn* - Origin of Life and Synthetic Biology: DNA-Templated Polymerization of Synthetic Molecules. Post Doc with David R. Liu, Harvard.

Aindrila Mukhopadhyay - *Lynn* - Initiating Lateral Gene Transfer: Analysis of the VirA/VirG Two Component System *in Vivo*. Post Doc with Jay D. Keasling, University of California, Berkeley.

Min-Yi Shen - *Freed* - Computer Simulations of Protein Dynamics. Post Doc with Andrej Sali, University of California, San Francisco.

Bhawani Singh - *Schwartz (BMB)* - Paps Synthetase: Structure-Function Studies of the Bifunctional Enzyme. Post Doc at Abbott Laboratories, Waukegan, Illinois.

Norito Takenaka - *Rawal* - Synthetic Studies of Naturally Occurring Molecules with Interesting Biological Activities. Post Doc with Hisashi Yamamoto, here.

FURTHER CONGRATULATIONS

Wei Zhang, a second year graduate student working in the Yamamoto group, has won a \$1000 scholarship from the Midwest Chapter of the Society of Cosmetic Chemists. She is the first winner we have ever had of this unique prize!

Ed Pool, Graphic Arts, retired after working at the University for 36 years. On October 30th, there was a breakfast in RI 106 (Graphic Arts) to honor him.

Please join us in congratulating **Milan** and Shannon **Mrksich** on the birth of their daughter Kaitlin. Kaitlin was born Tuesday, January 21st at 4:00 AM. All three are doing well.

Sergey Kozmin has been selected as an Alfred P. Sloan Fellow for year 2003.

Rustem Ismagilov has been selected as an Office of Naval Research Young Investigator.

OUR LOSSES

James B. Culbertson - 27 6-76

Carl T. Bahner - SM 28 3-4-02

Jesse L. Riley - SM 33 no date

Ruth C. Rosenbaum - 33 - Thorfin Hogness 8-5-02

Wallace A. Erickson - 36 1-25-03

Martell M. Gladstone - 36 4-25-95

Martin D. Kamen - 36 8-31-02

The discovery of the radioactive element carbon-14 by Martin Kamen made it possible for biologists to decipher the complex chemistry of the living cell. The discovery made it possible for Willard Libby in 1949 to invent radiocarbon dating which allows archaeologists to determine the age of artifacts dating back 50,000 years, leading to the development of timelines for early civilizations. This work lead to Kamen's receiving, in 1995, the prestigious Enrico Fermi Award in chemistry given by the Department of Defense. [This was the same year as your editor's father, Ugo Fano, won the same award in physics.]

Not only was Mr. Kamen a world-renown scientist, he was also an accomplished musician, playing the viola, often with well known performers. His professional and personal downfall came after a 1944 dinner he had with two Russian officials he had met at a cocktail party given by the violinist Isaac Stern, with whom he occasionally played. The Russians asked him about radiation treatments for a colleague with leukemia. FBI agents suspected a more sinister motive, and he was fired the next day, his passport was revoked and he was called before the House Un-American Activities Committee. He was later cleared of all charges and won libel suits against newspapers who had labeled him a suspected spy. During the 1950s and 1960s he did groundbreaking research on bacterial cytochromes and photosynthesis.

He is survived by his son, David, a UN translator of Spanish and Japanese in New York, and a sister, Lillian.

James R. Macdonald - 36 3-28-88

Lyle B. Borst - 41 - William Harkins 7-30-02

Stephen S. Kane - 41 11-15-02

Isadore M. Richlin - 41 7-24-01

Ralph L. Dannley - 43 - Morris Kharasch 1-5-02

Myron L. Corrin - 46 5-80

Henry B. Wise - 47 6-10-01

Thomas H. Siddall III - SM 48 1-8-00

Robert H. Snyder - 48 - Morris Kharasch 1-27-02

Lawrence A. Blasberg - SM 50 7-02

Louis P Varga - SM 50 - Willard Libby 2-20-01

Robert J. Gnaedinger, Jr - 51 - Joseph Mayer 5-24-02

A true Chicagoan, Robert Gnaedinger attended Oak Park High School before coming to The University of Chicago for his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. He then moved to various states before returning to the Chicago area. His travels first took him to Urbana for post-doctoral work, then to Bell Telephone Labs in New Jersey where he worked on transistor models which were involved in the first US satellite flight. From there he moved to Motorola in Phoenix, CTS of Canada in Streetsville, Ontario. Still working on transistors he moved to United Aircraft in West Hartford, Connecticut before returning to the Chicago area. Back here he worked first for Soil Testing Services in Northbrook, and lastly for the US Environmental Protection Agency.

He is survived by his widow, Agnes, 4 children and 7 grandchildren.

Jacques C. Poirier - 52 8-22-02

Roger E. Gerkin- SM 54 5-23-01

Peter S. Bauchwitz - 56 - Morris Kharasch 9-21-02

Chimere Ikoku - 64 12-21-02

Qing Chang - SM 98 - Norbert Scherer 1-3-03

It was Qing Chang's brilliance that caught her future husband's eye, but it was her childlike qualities that stole his heart. At 5'2" she was still very mch a girl, one who had trouble finding clothing that would fit. Yong Huang [PhD 2002] was devastated when he learned that his wife was killed during a downtown police chase. He was even more shocked to learn she had been pregnant - something she may not have known.

Although they met in high school, they didn't start dating until they were at the university in Beijing. After receiving degrees in chemistry they came to The University of Chicago in 1997 to attend graduate school. Ms Chang received her masters in 1998 before transferring to UIC where she earned a second masters in math and computer science. She was working at ThoughtWorks Inc. [in Chicago's Loop] as an expert in financial services software at the time of her death. With her husband at Cal Tech doing Post-doctoral research she had accepted a transfer by the company to work for six months in London.

Please note that although some of these people did not pass away recently, it was only recently that the Alumni/ Development Office learned of their demise.
