NEW FACES IN THE CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT

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FROM THE EDITOR

As in the previous issue of UM CHEM, our theme is one of change—but with a difference. Last year we spoke of a sense of transition; today we report rapid, even accelerating movement. You will find seven new members of our faculty and staff in this issue. Visit us and you will find a renovated departmental office, new in staff, procedure and physical appearance. You will find, too, a new distribution of faculty offices and laboratories, and new research instruments.

You will also get a sense of continuity. With our new drive toward national recognition for excellence in research, there remains a continuing commitment to excellence in all that we do, at both the graduate and the undergraduate level.

The ultimate criterion of our excellence is no secret. It lies in you, our alumni. What becomes of you? Where do you go and what do you do? And, after a little time has passed, what are your thoughts about your years with us? To address these questions of our own quality as a major chemistry department, part of a major private university, we initiate in this UM CHEM a series of short articles by our alumni.

We have had many gratifying responses to the previous issue of this newsletter, the first under our editorial hand. With this second issue please let us know what you think of the new UM CHEM. Let us know where you are and what you are doing. And whenever you are nearby, please drop in to say hello.

Carl H. Snyder
Editor, UM CHEM
New Faculty

ANGEL KAIFER (PhD,’84, University of Puerto Rico) joins the department as Assistant Professor, Physical Chemistry. He comes directly from post-doctoral studies at the University of Texas at Austin, and his primary research interest is in electron transfer reactions in environments resembling membranes.

KEITH S. KYLER (PhD,’83, University of Wyoming) is our new Assistant Professor, Organic Chemistry. Between leaving Wyoming and coming to Miami, Keith held a postdoctorate appointment at Harvard. Total syntheses of natural products of medicinal importance is his major research interest.

NITA A. LEWIS (PhD,’77, University of Guelph) comes to us as Associate Professor, Inorganic Chemistry, from a similar faculty appointment at the University of New Brunswick. Her research interests cover a wide range, including anionic catalysis in electron transfer reactions and the synthesis and study of elaborate molecules that mimic biologically important metallo-proteins.

New Staff

Since January EDI FINAMORE has been Staff Associate/Administrative Assistant in the departmental office, concerned with complete office operations.

TERESA (BRANDYE) TRUITT came to us in March as part time Technical Typist; by now she has become the office’s full time Senior Secretary. Only last month RICHARD ARREGUI became full time Technical Typist for the department.

DAVID HUDSON has joined us as our Electronics Specialist, with responsibility for all chemical instrumentation. He comes to the department directly from a postdoctoral appointment at RSMAS, where he worked with Professor Peter Lutz on the effects of oil pollution on sea turtles. Dave earned his PhD (’84) in zoology, studying diseases of turtles at the University of Rhode Island.

Promotions and Transfers

GLORIA COOPER has been promoted from Staff Coordinator in the departmental office to Secretary.

ROBERTA (BOBBE) MANNING, who was with our departmental office since 1977, was promoted in May to Senior Secretary with the head coach of the university’s new basketball program. We miss Bobbe and wish her the very best in her new position at the Hecht Athletic Center.

Retirements

ARTHUR E. CARLSON, Instrument Maker for the Departments of Chemistry and Biology, retired from the University last year. At a farewell luncheon in December Cecil Criss, Department Chairman, described Art’s contributions to the Department and noted the remarkable advances in our electronic instrumentation since Art joined us in January, 1969.

In April a group of 40 friends of HENRY HUBINGER gathered at the Faculty Club to wish him a happy, healthy and prosperous retirement from the chemistry faculty. At this surprise party Harry Schultz described Henry’s many contributions to the Department and especially to our freshman chemistry program. Curt Hare presented a composite of the numerous TV tapes Henry has made to help our first-year students learn chemistry.

Curt also persuaded Henry to join him in a special presentation of the Hubinger and Hare Chemical Magic Show, a famous exhibition of the wonders of chemistry sponsored by the Chemistry Department, which (this time) included a few chemical stunts never before performed before an audience. Afterward Jack Benson of Drama, John Fiske of the Division of Communication Services, Carl McKenry of the School of Business, and Frank Stuart of History reflected on Henry’s considerable and valued service to the University.
Professional and Community Activities

In conjunction with the Spring meeting of the American Chemical Society, the Chemistry Department served as host to a mixer in Miami Beach. Among alumni and guests attending were TRUDY DICKNEIDER, FRANK EZELL, RAY FRENCH, PAUL GENDLER, WAYNE and Mrs. MORRIS, TONY and MARTA PAPPAS, and LOREN and RICK TERMINE.

The Department fielded a team in the Trivial Pursuit Challenge which took place in the Student Union Ballroom in February. Team members ROBERT GAWLEY, DEBORAH GUSTOWSKI, JOHN HALL, DENNISSE PARRA, AND HARRY SCHULTZ showed great spirit and detailed knowledge of trivial matters. Sponsored by the Honors Students’ Association and Phi Kappa Phi, proceeds from the Challenge went to the University of Miami Mailman Center for Child Development.

Awards and Honors

At the annual Honors Day Convocation, 28 March 1985, TERESA GARCIA-PONS received the Chemistry Alumni Award to Outstanding Premedical Chemistry Major, while RUBEN R. PUENTE-DURA received the Chemistry Alumni Award to Outstanding Professional Chemistry Major.

Faculty, staff, graduate students and guests enjoyed a hearty lunch of hamburgers cooked by Keith Wellman at the first annual End-of-Year Chemistry Picnic in December. The major event at the gathering was presentation of the Chemistry Department Awards by Cecil Criss:

For publishing their first papers: GREG SMITH, JAMIE NIEVES, JIM LANKFORD, STEVEN NOLAN. For delivering one of the best student papers at the recent ACS Meeting-In-Miniature: MILAGROS DELGADO. For the student attaining the highest average in the core graduate program (a tie): RODOLFO CADILLA and IRIS PAYAN. For the teaching assistant ranked best by undergraduate students: DEBORAH GUSTOWSKI. In addition, a special departmental award went to GEORGE FISHER, Research Associate Professor, for outstanding service in the annual Alumni Telephone Campaign.

Following presentation of the departmental awards, Robert Gawley and Carl Hoff presented a series of special awards from the Society of Associate and Assistant Professors (The SAAP Awards). SAAP Awards, presumably for meritorious professional activities, went to SCOTT BOYETTE, JOHN HALL, GIGI HART, NORMAN LIAN, JAMIE NIEVES, STEVE NOLAN and INEZ TRYAI.

In April GEORGE FISHER received additional recognition for his contributions to the Alumni Telephone Campaign. The College of Arts and Sciences presented George with two distinguished awards: The Golden-Finger Award for the greatest number of pledges obtained in the annual campaign, and the Silver-Tongue Award for the largest amount of funds raised. The funds which George and other participants raised are used to improve the teaching and research capabilities of the Chemistry Department. We hope you will respond generously to the Alumni Telephone Campaign when we repeat it this Fall.

George Fisher receives two awards from the College of Arts and Sciences.

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ALUMNI NEWS

Visits

MORRIS J. DANZIG (BS,'49; MS,'51; PhD,'53 at Tulane) visited Dr. and Mrs. Harry P. Schultz while attending the February meeting of the American Managerial Association in West Palm Beach. Dr. Danzig, Vice President for Research at CPC, Inc., is at Corn Products Research Labs (a division of CPC) in Skokie, Illinois. His travels to the many countries in which CPC has interests have taken him recently to the Peoples Republic of China.

RAYMOND FRENCH (PhD,'81) stopped by to say hello during the spring ACS meeting in Miami Beach. Ray is at Shell Development in Houston, Texas.

DEBORAH A. HIMELHOCH (BS,'79) of Chicago, Illinois, and her husband, William Coukos, visited the Department in December.

GLADSTONE McDOWELL, JR., came to visit us early this year. Gladstone was a Chemistry student from 1973-1976 and is now enjoying very much his medical residency at the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

SOPHIE PAPPATHEODOROU (BS, Magna Cum Laude,'62; MS,'65; PhD. '78) visited in December. For the past four years Sophie has been teaching chemistry at the California State University, Fresno.

Letters and cards

ADRIANA CANTILLO (BS,'70; MS,'73) obtained her PhD in environmental/analytical chemistry at the University of Maryland and is now working in the National Status and Trends Program and the Quality Assurance Program at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Rockville, Maryland.

J. V. MARTINEZ DE PINILLOS, former graduate student in Chemistry, is currently Manager of Analytical Services in the Corporate Research Services Department of Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., Allentown, Pennsylvania. He received his PhD in physical chemistry at the University of Florida.

RICHARD FITZPATRICK (BS,'84) has completed his first year of graduate study at The Pennsylvania State University and is hard at work on doctoral research in inorganic chemistry with Professor H. Allcock.

Dr. PAUL GENDLER (MS,'68) and his wife Helen are in California, where Paul is developing computer components at the IBM Research Laboratory in San Jose.

Patricia and MIKE MICKLUS (PhD,'71) send greetings from King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Mike designs delivery systems for new drugs at Wyeth.

Michigan is the source of two sets of greetings: From Jill, Little Scott and SCOTT OSBORNE (AB,'78) of Lansing, and from Nancy and DENNIS RANSKI (BS,'75) of Livonia.

MARCIA L. SILLS (BS,'75, Summa Cum Laude; MD,'80) is now in her first year of GI fellowship at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

MARK H. THIEMENS (BS '72), Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of California, San Diego, recently reported his discovery of a new variety of isotope effect of interest in geochemical and cosmochemical studies. After receiving his PhD from Florida State University ('77) in Chemistry/Oceanography he held the post of Research Associate at the Enrico Fermi Institute for Nuclear Studies, University of Chicago.

Writing and Talking


At the December ACS Miami Subsection meeting, LIBERO BARTOLOTTI described advances in mega/micro computers and their applications to chemistry.

Ray French with Loren and Rick Termine at the Chemistry Department's ACS reception.
For the past five years he has been a member of the chemistry faculty at the University of California where his research is currently supported through the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Foundation.

After having left her job as a research chemist at American Dade Corp., to travel for a year and a half in Australia and Asia, REGINA TOLKARSKI (BS,'78) is back home in Florida and working again at American Dade. She sees optometry school in her future.

JUAN E. VILLA (BS,'65; MS,'67; PhD,'69) is Professor of Chemistry at Herbert H. Lehman College of the City University of New York. Juan maintains an active research program in bioinorganic chemistry, funded in part by the National Science Foundation and the Petroleum Research Fund. He has received numerous honors and awards, including a Fulbright Fellowship as a Senior Lecturer in Colombia, South America.

CARLOS A. CALZADILLA VILA, MD, (BS,'79) is starting his internship at Prince George's County Hospital in Maryland after graduating from Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara in December.

After I graduated from UM I matriculated at Northwestern University Dental School in Chicago. Currently [2-23-85] I am four months away from completing a residency in Pediatric Dentistry at Chicago's Children's Memorial Hospital and a simultaneous Master's degree in Oral Biology at Northwestern.

Dental school was quite a transition. I left behind school, family, friends and a warm climate for rigorous training in what I hoped would be a satisfying career. Within a week of arriving in Chicago I was spending 8:00 to 5:00 every day — with time out for lunch — in the formal study of histology, biochemistry, gross anatomy and oral anatomy with 118 other overwhelmed, bewildered folk. As the quarters went by we tried to master the intricacies of physiology, pathology and dentistry in sixty-mile-per-hour lectures and marathon laboratory sessions. There's nothing like the frustration of seeing a carefully crafted inlay (achieved after three failed attempts) roll onto the floor under a careless foot.

I've spent many hours reflecting on my experiences at UM and my time spent in chemistry. One of the unique features of our department is the choice of a chemistry major. At most colleges a student majoring in chemistry must take coursework like that of our professional chemistry major. As a result most of my classmates majored in biology and took very little coursework beyond inorganic and organic. When I was at UM I followed the premed chemistry pathway with a few additions. This allowed me to make the most of the department while taking other course-work useful for the health professions. Aside from the pleasure I took in the subject matter, I found myself better equipped to deal with the basic science curricula of dental school than most of my classmates. It has also given me the courage to tackle a biochemical project for my master's thesis.

Looking back, the Chemistry Department at UM and the people who have created it have given me many gifts. Among these are a sense of belonging as an undergraduate student, confidence as a dental student, and a sense of accomplishment as a graduate student. As I wind up my formal training and begin to embark on an interesting and satisfying career, I ask myself, What more could you want from a university?

Deborah A. Himelhoch