May, 1970

Comments on our two previous efforts of this type have encouraged us to take pen in hand for preparation of a third annual departmental newsletter. We hope it will find each of you in good health and spirits.

This has been a 'more-or-less' average year at McMurry, although there have been a number of changes. For one thing, the college calendar has been changed from its usual two-semester format to a 4-1-4 plan with the opening date moved forward into August so that the first semester ends with adjournment for the Christmas recess. A period of 3 or 4 weeks in January is to be given over to a single elective course to be chosen by students to coincide with their individual interests. January of 1970 was used for a longer-than-normal vacation and for a faculty session devoted to planning for the programs of future January terms. The second semester began in late January and will end with commencement on the afternoon of May 17. Registration for the 1969 fall semester was just slightly higher than that of the preceding year and enrollment in freshman chemistry was up slightly for a second consecutive year. Enrollment for the spring semester also exceeds that of last year.

The staff of the department this year has consisted of Drs. Lyndol Harris, Norton Jones, David Klassen, and Roy Sonntag. Dr. Klassen replaces Dr. W. L. Magnuson who resigned as of August 1, 1969, to become chairman of the chemistry department at Kentucky Wesleyan College. Dr. Klassen received his doctoral degree at the University of New Mexico and has had post-doctoral appointments at the University of Frankfurt am Main in Germany and the University of North Carolina.

In the spring and summer of 1969, the department graduated nine chemistry majors and five people with secondary teaching fields in chemistry. The majors and their present activities are:

- Bob Cole
  - graduate study, University of Kansas

- Richard Collins
  - service in U.S. Air Force - offered graduate assistantship at L.S.U.

- Sharon Duboise
  - Texas Dept. of Health laboratories, Austin

- Clark King
  - graduate study, Texas A&M University

- Carolyn McCoy
  - graduate study, Rice University

- Charles Sanders
  - professional study, U. of Tex. Med. School, Galveston

- Bob Swindle
  - clinical laboratory work, Abilene

- Jay Valkenaar
  - professional study, Baylor U. Dental School, Dallas

- Jack Graham
  - service, U.S. Navy, officer candidate school
During the academic year, Drs. Harris and Sonntag have continued their research work under their respective Welch Foundation grants with the aid of students. Students receiving Welch Foundation scholarships for this work are Ricky Quy, Irvin Hamilton, Richard Gore, and Tommy Spillman. Dr. Klassen is the recipient of a grant from the Research Corporation which will enable him to initiate further work on the complex compounds of some of the inner transition elements, an area in which he already has published some six or seven papers.

Since publication of our last newsletter at least five of our chemistry majors have received advanced degrees:

- Don DuBois
  Ph.D. (inorganic), U. of Kansas, Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co., Corpus Christi
- John R. Powler
- Earl Beaver
  Ph.D. (physical), Texas Tech University
- Lyneve Chapman Waldrop
  Ph.D. (geochemistry), Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Ralph McClesky
  M.D. Southwestern Med. Sch., U. of Texas

In 1970 we should have four students graduate with majors in chemistry. Some of these already have received appointments for further study.

We hope Uncle Sam will concur in their plans. The candidates are:

- Bob Collins
  plans work in chemical industry
- Tim Faulkenberry
  plans further study of medicine or biochemistry
- Richard Gore
  professional study, U. of Tex. Dental Sch.
- Ricky Quy
  graduate study, Rice University

The annual dinner of the Division of Science and Mathematics was held this year at the Starlite Motor Hotel on April 10. Speaker for the occasion was Mr. Eli Dieckman, Director of the Planetarium of the Abilene Public Schools. His program was presented in the planetarium and was most interesting. Underclassmen recognized for their performance in chemistry courses during the current year were: freshman - Bill Caffey; sophomore - Carl Hudson; junior - Joe Hudman. This is the third consecutive year of recognition for Joe. The senior receiving recognition this year and having his name added to the departmental honor plaque is Ricky Quy of Abilene. In token of his achievement he was presented a technical book for his library. Ricky was chosen also by the Texas Chapter of fellows of the AIC to receive one of their newly established awards for outstanding senior chemistry majors in Texas colleges and universities. He received this honor at a dinner held in Austin.

During the year the department has had a number of distinguished visitors. In October, Dr. Paul Sere, professor of biochemistry at Southwestern Medical School, addressed the initiation dinner of Xi Beta chapter of Gamma Sigma Epsilon. Six student members and one honorary member (Dr. Floyd Bird of H-SU) were initiated at this time. Other visitors who have spoken to combined meetings of the ACS student affiliate chapter and Gamma Sigma Epsilon are Dr. Robert Eubanks of
Oklahoma State University, Dr. Russell Geismar of the University of Houston, Dr. Daniel O'Brien of Texas A&M University, and Dr. Robert V. Nauman of LSU. Dr. Nauman was sent to us under the visiting scientist program of the Division of Chemical Education of the ACS. He spent two days visiting with us. Dr. William Farham of the University of Minnesota was sent to us as a Welch lecturer. He made a most interesting talk on his study of cyclopropanes. He was accompanied by Dr. W. O. Milligan, Director of Research of the Welch Foundation.

Alumni of the department who have visited us during the academic year include: Bill Calhoun, Bob Browder, Don Larson, Billye Gant, Joe Loter, Charles Sanders, Jim Moss, Tommy McNinch, Reynold Carlson, and Ann and Kinnamon Dall. The Dalls made a gift to the department of several years of JACS, all nicely bound. These we appreciate. Tommy McNinch finished his enlistment with the US Marine Corps in December and in January began graduate study at the University of Texas on a good fellowship.

Professional meetings attended by staff members during the year were:

Dr. Sonntag to Las Cruces to attend an Audio-visual Conference, Spring, 1969.
Dr. Magnuson to national meeting American Chemical Society, Minneapolis, Spring, 1969.
Drs. Jones and Sonntag to regional meeting of ACS at Tulsa, Dec., 1969.
Drs. Jones to southern and midwestern regional meeting of Association of Teachers of Chemistry in two-year colleges by invitation, Tulsa, Dec., 1969.
Drs. Jones to regional conference of chemistry department chairman, University of Houston, October, 1969.
Dr. Magnuson to Lamesa to serve as regional science fair judge, Spring, 1969.
Drs. Jones to Coleman, Texas, to serve as consultant for annual high school career day, Feb., 1970.
Drs. Jones to Lincoln, Nebraska in April to attend a meeting of the Great Plains Association of Chemistry Teachers in Liberal Arts Colleges.

Other events of note in the department were:

a. Dr. Sonntag presented at the regional ACS meeting in Tulsa, Okla., in Dec., 1969, a paper on the work he is doing with slides and tapes in teaching various phases of organic chemistry.
b. Dr. Jones presented an invited paper at the regional meeting of Teachers of Chemistry in Two-year Colleges held in Tulsa at the time of the regional ACS meeting.
c. Dr. Sonntag was elected Grand Recorder of the national chapter of Gamma Sigma Epsilon.
d. Drs. Harris and Sonntag have been promoted to the rank of Professor.
e. Drs. Klassen and Jones were official delegates to the inauguration of Dr. John C. Stevens as president of Abilene Christian College.
f. Dr. W. B. McDaniel who holds the rank of professor in this department will retire from active service to the college on June 1, 1970. We will miss having him with us on the campus and having his representation of the sciences on the Administrative Council.

Last year a start was made on raising a departmental fund, interest from which will be used to purchase token awards for graduating seniors who are to be honored. To date the principal of the fund is about $125.00. This does not provide sufficient annual interest to purchase even one book. We thank all who made a contribution to start this fund on its way. We hope that each of you will contribute annually until we have a corpus of $300.00 to $500.00.

Also we would welcome the gift of the following back journals to add to the duplicate files housed in the reading room of the Finch-Gray Science Center:

JACS 1964 to date, inclusive
J. Org. Chem. 1966 to date, inclusive

As always, we are on the look-out for more able students who want to major in chemistry. Please help us recruit people of this kind both by talking McMurry to them and by sending their names and addresses to us. If there are financial problems, we have scholarships and other types of aid available.

Keep us posted on your address and on changes of address for others about whom you may know. Currently we need addresses for:

Dr. Billy Don Burke
Mr. Glenn Morton
Mr. Joe B. Weir
Mr. Eddie Sequeira

Mr. James W. Tingle
Mr. Jack Schulze
Mr. Mohammad Dareshori

In you have news of yourself we will appreciate receiving it. In the meanwhile, all good wishes to each of you.

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As we go to press the McMurry Board of Trustees has just appointed to the presidency of the college, Dr. Thomas Kim, professor of economics at Texas Technological University and prominent Methodist layman. On June 1, Dr. Gordon Bennett will complete his 12th year as seventh president of the college and 22nd year of service to the institution. Dr. Kim will take over on that date as eighth president. Dr. Kim was born in Shanghai of Korean parents. He has been a resident of the United States since 1948 and has done all of his college and university studies in this country. He holds the B. A. degree from Berea College, the M.B.A. degree from the University of Indiana, and the Ph.D. degree in economics from Tulane University.