

MC MURRY COLLEGE
Chemistry Department Newsletter

May, 1971

Individual responses to our three previous annual departmental Newsletter have been sufficiently numerous and sufficiently encouraging to lead us to attempt preparation of a fourth one. To all of you alumni greetings and a hope that each of you is well and enjoying his or her work.

This has been a fairly eventful year for both the college and its department of chemistry. To begin with, Dr. Thomas K. Kim, formerly professor of mathematical economics at Texas Tech, arrived on campus about June 1, 1970, to begin his term as eighth president of McMurry. He has been well received on campus, in Abilene, and in the larger college community and gives every promise of providing excellent leadership. On March 13, 1971 he was inaugurated at an impressive formal ceremony held in the theatre of the recently completed Abilene Civic Center. The weather was beautiful that day and a good crowd was present for the occasion. Following the inaugural program a luncheon, attended by about 1,000 people, was held in the banquet hall of the Civic Center. At 3:30 a reception for Dr. Kim and his family was held in the foyer of the recently completed Ryan Fine Arts Center which had been dedicated on the preceding day. This reception was well attended and completed the official activities of the day. Dr. Jones served as chairman of the Inaugural Steering Committee. In passing it should be noted that the Ryan Center is an impressive addition to the appearance and facilities of the campus.

The first January term was held this year and seemed to be well received by both student and faculty participants. A second January term is planned for next year.

Registration for the 1970 fall session was slightly higher than that for the preceding year, and enrollment in freshman chemistry was up slightly for the third consecutive year. Enrollment for the 1971 spring semester is also slightly above that for the 1970 spring semester.

The staff of the department continues to consist of Drs. Harris, Jones, Klassen and Sonntag. Biggest news of the year in the department has been the receipt of several excellent grants. Last May the Research Corporation made a grant of \$25,000 to the department. This sum, along with special funds made available by the college, was used to purchase a Perkin-Elmer R12-A NMR spectrometer with which we received as boot a gas chromatography unit with flame photometry attachment that had been used as a demonstrator and a powerful new permanent magnet that the department has presented to the physics department. Dr. Leichner already is using this latter instrument in research work which he initiated last summer at Michigan

State University. Also in May, the department received a matching grant of \$4100 from the N.S.F. With this it has purchased a "Porta Vac" for use in the physical and inorganic laboratories, two large Dewar flasks for liquid nitrogen, a coulometric power supply for use in coulometric titration work, and a temperature control unit for physical and analytical work. Other pieces will be added under this grant in the fall of this year. During the year Dr. Klassen received a research grant of \$2100 from the Research Corporation. This permitted him to initiate last summer a research program on certain complex compounds of osmium and ruthenium. To continue this work he received in the spring of this year a three-year grant of \$36,000 from the Welch Foundation. During the year Dr. Sonntag has continued his research work under a previously made Welch Foundation grant.

In the spring and summer of 1970, the department graduated four chemistry majors. These people and their present activities are:

Bob Collins	analytical chemist with Dow Chemical Co. and part-time graduate study
Tim Faulkenberry	professional study, U. of Texas Medical School, Galveston
Richard Gore	professional study, U. of Texas Dental School, Houston
Richard Quy	graduate study, Rice University, Houston

As noted last year, Ricky Quy was one of ten recipients of medals awarded by the Southwestern Chapter of the American Institute of Chemists. He was the only recipient chosen from a small college with no graduate program. Awardees were chosen from ACS approved departments in Texas and Oklahoma.

In 1971 we should have five students graduate with majors in chemistry. All of these have received offers of stipends for graduate study and several have already made their choices. These candidates are:

Jean Coleman	graduate study, North Texas State University
Irvin Hamilton	graduate study, U. of Texas Medical School, Galveston
Joe Hudman	graduate study, University of Kansas
Edwin Shaddix	graduate study, Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Tommy Spillman	graduate study, University of Illinois

The annual dinner of the Division of Science and Mathematics was held this year on April 1 at the Abilene Woman's Club. For a change we had no speaker for the occasion. Underclassmen recognized for their performance in chemistry courses during the year were: freshmen--Eldon Redelsperger and Toby Williams; sophomore--

Bill Caffey; and junior--Paul Suddath. This is the third consecutive year of recognition for Paul. The senior receiving recognition this year and having his name added to the departmental honor plaque is Joe Hudman of Post. Joe has a 4.0 average in chemistry thus far and has been chosen by the Southwestern Chapter of the AIC to receive one of the medals and scrolls they are now awarding to outstanding senior chemistry majors in colleges and universities with ACS approved programs in the states of Oklahoma and Texas.

During the year the department has had a number of distinguished visitors. These include Dr. Charles Shoppee, Welch professor of chemistry at Texas Tech, Dr. David Wilson of Vanderbilt University, Dr. Scott Norton of North Texas State University, Dr. Franklin of Baylor University, and Dr. Phillip Brooks of Rice University. Most of these visitors gave talks to joint meetings of our ACS student affiliate chapter and Xi Beta Chapter of Gamma Sigma Epsilon. Dr. John M. White of the University of Texas addressed the initiation dinner of Gamma Sigma Epsilon in October. On that occasion five students were initiated. During the year quite a number of alumni and former students have visited the department. We hope that they will return and that others of you will stop to see us.

Professional meetings attended by staff members during the year are:

- September, Drs. Jones and Sonntag to Chicago to the annual fall meeting of the ACS Committee on Professional Training. While in Chicago Dr. Sonntag presented an invited paper on the use of tapes and slides in the teaching of organic chemistry to the central section of the Teachers of Chemistry in Two-year Colleges.
- December, Drs. Klassen and Sonntag to New Orleans to attend the combined annual meetings of the Southeast and Southwest regions of the ACS.
- April, Dr. Sonntag and a group of students attended the biennial national convention of Gamma Sigma Epsilon. For the past two years Dr. Sonntag has served as Grand Recorder of the fraternity. Dr. Jones attended the dedication of the new Texas Tech chemistry building on April 19 and the symposium held in connection with the dedication. On April 30 he and Joe Hudman attended the AIC awards dinner held at Texas A & M. Curtis Hudman was Joe's guest at the dinner.

During the year we were able to glean the following news items about alumni and former students of the department. In the future we hope that each of you will supply us with other news items of this type so that we may use them in our next issue.

Major Victor Tsang who had been serving as a surgeon in Viet Nam completed his service in January '71 and has opened an office for the practice of surgery in the San Francisco area. The Tsangs have a new daughter born September 26, 1970 and a four year old son.

Drs. Eddie Massey '61 and John Fowler '65 visited with Dr. Jones during the fall ACS meeting in Chicago. Eddie is a research chemist with Eli Lilly in Indianapolis, and John serves in a similar capacity with Du Pont in Wilmington, Delaware. Both seem to like their work.

Don and Mary Alice Larson are parents of a daughter, Lisa Anne, born November 29, 1970 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Don is a graduate student at L.S.U. where he is working with Prof. Sean McGlynn.

Jack Graham '69 and his wife have a first-born, Shawn, who joined the family on September 11, 1970. Jack's naval officer flight training program was phased out early this year and he is now employed in a government laboratory in the Washington, D. C. area. He expects to get in some graduate training on the side.

Leta Allen Loyd '68 received the M.A. degree in chemistry from S.M.U. in '70 and has continued to work at the university during the current academic year under a Welch grant.

Dr. Don DuBois '65 and his wife have a new son, Jon Paul, born September 10, 1970 in Corpus Christi where Don is a researcher with Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co.

Dr. Robbie Foster '59, who is also in Corpus Christi with PPG, and his family suffered considerable damage to their home as a result of the hurricane that hit that area some months ago. At last report rebuilding was almost completed. Fortunately none of the family was injured.

Quite a colony of McMurry chemikers is assembling in Corpus Christi. During the current school year Joe Loter '65 has been serving as head of the chemistry department at the University of C. C. He expects to receive his Ph. D. from the University of Kansas at the June commencement of that institution.

Colonel Billy G. Gant after graduating from McMurry in 1949 with a major in chemistry, took an M. D. and has made a career in the Air Force medical corp. In September 1970 he returned to Abilene as commandant of the base hospital at Dyess AFB. In the spring of this year Col. Gant was named "boss of the year" by the local chapter of American Business Womens Association.

Reynold Carlson '63 has received his Ph. D. degree from Ohio State University and currently is a member of the chemistry staff at the Stark County Branch of Kent State University in Canton, Ohio.

James Moss '67 after receiving an M. A. degree from Vanderbilt University has been working as a research chemist in the laboratories of American Petrofina in Big Spring, Texas.

Leslie Albin '62 is serving as an analytical chemist and research associate on a project in Houston. This fall he plans to resume his graduate studies at the University of Texas' graduate school of biomedical sciences.

Jack Schulze '62 at last report had received an M. S. degree from Baylor and was working with Du Pont in Houston.

Elinore Cutting South '58 is teaching chemistry in one of the Richardson, Texas high schools.

Ray Hamilton '66 is teaching in one of the high schools of Great Falls, Montana and doing graduate work during the summers. He and Mrs. Hamilton adopted a baby girl born March 1. They have named her Chesa Dawn.

Curtis Hudman '68 and Clark King '69 are pursuing graduate studies in chemistry at Texas A & M University.

Karen Pashman '68 should receive the Ph. D. degree from the University of Arkansas during the current year.

Charles Sanders '69 is one of four second year medical students of the University of Texas at Galveston chosen to be pioneers in their off-campus internships in general medicine. Charles is beginning a ten week internship in Pecos.

Don Martin, who graduated from McMurry in '67 with a major in biology and a minor in chemistry is completing work at LSU for the Ph. D. degree in biochemistry. He is the author or coauthor of a number of journal articles.

Tommy McAninch '66 after completing a stint as a Marine Corp officer who saw service in Viet Nam is now well into his second year of graduate study of organic chemistry at the University of Texas in Austin. He has very nearly completed his course work and is well into a research problem in the natural products area.

Frank Lane '60 received an M. D. degree from Baylor University in 1964 and currently is a fellow in child psychiatry at Baylor Medical School. He and Dr. William Cantrell (McMurry '40), professor of psychiatry at the same institution met with premedical students of the Abilene colleges on the McMurry campus in late April.

Steve McGaughey '68 is a full-time graduate student of organic chemistry at Texas Tech. He is working with Dr. Marx and should receive his masters degree in December of this year.

Garvin Harkins '60 received the Ph. D. degree in catalytic chemistry at the Johns Hopkins University in 1964 and later spent a post-doctoral year with Boudart at the University of California and Stamford and a second at Rice University, is currently a research associate in materials sciences at the last named institution. He is a frequent visitor of the department.

John Hicks '65 has received the masters degree in biochemistry from Texas Tech and is working in one of the research laboratories at the Southwestern Medical School of the University of Texas in Dallas. He presented a paper in late April before the annual meeting of the Southwestern Section of the AAAS in Tempe, Arizona.

Bob Collins '70 on a recent visit reports enjoying his work with Dow and that he is about to receive his first patent taken as a result of his work on the catalytic production of ethylene oxide. He makes his home in Angleton and is doing part-time graduate study at Texas A & M.

Our Alumni Fund, interest from which is used to purchase a token award for the graduating senior who has made an outstanding record, still needs some invigorating transfusions. We know that each of you has many demands made upon his resources, but if you can spare a few dollars please send them along to help boost this fund up to the \$500 mark.

Also, while we are begging, we would welcome gifts of certain back files of chemical journals for our reading room in the new science building. We especially need:

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

We will pay transportation charges if you can help us.

This year we had more than the usual number of well-prepared applicants for Special Honors Scholarships in chemistry. Three such scholarships have been awarded and other scholarships offered to some of the applicants. We always need more able would-be chemistry majors. Please help us recruit people of this kind both by talking McMurry to them and by sending their names and addresses to us so we may get in touch with them. If there are financial problems, we have scholarships and other types of financial 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. Greg Mamikunian
Mr. Glenn Morton	Mr. Mohammad Dareshori
Mr. Joe B. Weir	Mr. Eddie Sequeira
Mr. Gail Hart Long	Miss Mary Jane Matthews
Mr. Harry Bristritzky	

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Don't forget to send us news of yourself and to come see us when you are in Abilene. In the meanwhile, the best of everything to each of you, and may your serendipity quotient be high.