MC MURRY COLLEGE
Chemistry Department Newsletter

May, 1972

Greetings to each of you from all members of the departmental staff. We hope that you have had no entanglements with flu or other ailments and that all goes well on all fronts.

Thus far the 1971-1972 academic year has been a relatively quiet one with few outstanding events. The overall enrollment count was just about the same as last year. There were fewer freshmen but more upper-classmen. Even so our enrollment in freshman chemistry was about the same as in the preceding year. Actually, there was an increase of one student. At the fall Board meeting the decision was taken to proceed with the building of the new physical education plant, and groundbreaking ceremonies for the new structure were held during the spring Board meeting on March 17. Inflation made elimination of the swimming pool necessary, but the plan is to build it within the next few years as funds become available. At the end of the current year Professors Bynum and Thompson will retire as will Mr. Joe Easterly, our head librarian. As you probably know, Mr. Jack Holden has been named Vice President for Promotion and Development.

The staff of the department continues to consist of Drs. Harris, Jones, Klassen, and Sonntag, and course offerings have undergone no drastic changes during the year. In addition to its ACS approved major the department will offer in the future a B. S. program that requires only 30 sem. hrs. of chemistry and less math and language than for the B. A. The new program will serve principally some of the pre-medical and pre-dental people and others who plan careers in the paramedical sciences and overlap areas of science such as oceanography, etc. Inauguration of this program has permitted our working out with the Department of Business and Economics a joint program that adds 23 hours of courses in business and economics to 30 hours of chemistry, eight of physics and a minimum of six of mathematics for the preparation of students who hope to work in the management, marketing, or purchasing areas of chemical industry. This program is unique in this part of the country and should prepare students for some unusually good job opportunities.

With the last half of the NSF matching grant reported to you last spring we have added to our stable of instruments a Perkin-Elmer 700 I.R. spectrometer for use as a teaching instrument in the regular organic laboratory courses and a very good Nester-Faust spinning-band vacuum distilling unit. Also we have added a variable temperature probe to the fundamental NMR spectrometer thus making this a highly versatile laboratory tool.

In the spring and summer of 1971, the department graduated five chemistry majors. These people and their present activities are:

Jean Coleman     graduate study, University of Texas at Arlington
Irvin Hamilton   post graduate study, University of Texas at Austin
Joe Hudman graduate study, University of Kansas at Lawrence
Edwin Shaddix graduate study, Virginia Polytechnic University
Tommy Spillman graduate study, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana

In the spring of 1971 Joe Hudman received one of the ten awards made by the American Institute of Chemists to senior chemistry majors in Oklahoma and Texas. Again McMurry was the only small liberal arts college to have a winner.

In 1972 we should have four students to graduate with majors in chemistry. Three of these should receive the certified B.A. degree and one the new B.S. These candidates and their plans are:

Bob Hardy professional study, University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Dallas
Carl Hudson graduate study, University of Texas, Austin
David Reeve professional study, University of Texas Houston Medical School, Houston
Paul Suddath graduate study, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque

Carl Hudson was a recipient of one of the medals awarded by the Texas Chapter of the American Institute of Chemists, thus giving McMurry a winner for the third consecutive year. The award was made at a dinner held by the AIC on the Baylor campus in Waco on April 7. Carl was named Chief McMurry last fall and has served this year as Chief Alchemist of Xi Beta Chapter of Gamma Sigma Epsilon.

The annual dinner of the Division of Science and Mathematics took place on the evening of April 21 at the Abilene Woman's Club. Underclassmen recognized for their performance in chemistry courses during the year were: freshman—Randal White, Abilene, and sophomore—Larry Sears, Abilene. The senior receiving recognition this year and having his name added to the departmental honor plaque is Paul Suddath of Las Vegas, New Mexico. Paul has been the honor man in the department for each of his four years at McMurry. He has served this year as president of the local student affiliate chapter of ACS and has made an enviable overall academic record. Others of our seniors have given him very close competition, however.

During the year the department has had several distinguished visitors. Dr. Joe Dennis, former chairman of the chemistry department and currently professor of biochemistry at Texas Tech visited in October and gave the principal talk at the initiation dinner of Gamma Sigma Epsilon. Dr. Reeder from Baylor visited during the winter and gave a talk to a joint meeting of the student Affiliates and Gamma Sigma Epsilon. Dr. Joseph Brannen of the Los Alamos Laboratories visited in February and during his stay addressed a joint meeting of the student scientific organizations and the faculty of the Division of Science and Mathematics on mathematical models of scientific systems. Dr. Calvin Vander Werf, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Florida and former chairman of the department of chemistry at the University of Kansas visited with us on March 16 and 17. During this time he presented the three lectures of the Willson-Bennett series for 1972. His excellent talks were well received by both student and faculty members.
Professional meetings attended by staff members during the year are:

May, 1971 Dr. Jones attended award banquet of Texas Chapter of AIC in College Station

December, 1971 Drs. Klassen and Jones attended annual south-western regional meeting of ACS in San Antonio

April, 1972 Dr. Klassen attended annual national spring meeting of ACS in Boston, Massachusetts

During the year the department has had visits from quite a few of its alumni. Among those were Bob Browder '68, Curtis Hudman '68, Bob Collins '70, Larry Cooper '61, Bill Calhoun '68, Bob Cole '69, and Frank Lane '60. Letters from other alumni have advised of their doings. Alumni who should receive advanced degrees in the near future are Carolyn McCoy '69, Ph. D., Rice; Karen Pashman '68, Ph. D., University of Arkansas; Bill Calhoun '68 and James Duff '67, M. D., U. of Texas at San Antonio. There probably are others who should be included in this list who have not kept us informed of their plans.

The following news items have come to our attention during the year. Please keep us supplied with news of your activities so that there will be grist for the mill next year.

Drs. Don DuBois '65 and John Fowler '65 are the authors of articles appearing in fall issues of Inorganic Chemistry.

Richard Gore '70 and Nancy Tillman (a McM. alumna) were married in Albany on June 12. They are living in Houston where Richard is a student of dentistry.

In December '71 Steven McGaughey '68 received the M. S. degree in organic chemistry from Texas Tech.

Dr. Wendell W. Hess '57 who has served as chairman of the department of chemistry at Illinois Wesleyan University for a number of years has been named Director of Science Programs and Chairman of the Division of Science at that institution. He reports that he and his family visited in the fall with Dr. and Mrs. W. L. Magnuson '59 in Owensboro, Kentucky where Dr. Magnuson is chairman of the chemistry department at Kentucky Wesleyan College.

Leslie Albin '62 reports that as of September 1, 1971 he is instructor in chemistry and biology at the new junior college in Snyder, Texas, and is at home with his family at 2213 44th St., Snyder 79549.

Larry Scott, ex-'71 and Jean Coleman '71 were married in July '71. They have moved to U. T. in Arlington where Jean is doing graduate study and Larry is completing work for the baccalaureate degree.

Joe Hudman '71 and Karen Simpson (McM. '71) were married in Abilene at the First Methodist Church in late August. Their wedding brought Victor and Curtis Hudman and their families to town. Dr. Victor Hudman '63 has a new son and is doing a residency in neurology at Parkland Hospital in Dallas.
Curtis Hudman '68 and his wife also have a new son. Curtis reports
difficulty with his doctoral research at Texas A. & M. University because
of the insolubility of some of the compounds he has made. Nevertheless,
he hopes to complete work for his degree within the year.

Irvin Hamilton '71 and Shirley Bull, an alumna of North Texas State
U., were married during the past summer and are living in Austin where
Shirley is working while Irvin does post graduate study at the U. of Texas.

Mary Jane Matthews '67 is coauthor of a research report on work in-
volving the thymus gland and appearing in one of the national journals.
She is a student in the U. T. medical school at Galveston.

Bob Browder '68 and Ruth Beth O'Connor were married in 1971 and are
at home at 2415 Idlewood in Odessa where Bob is a member of the Ector
High School faculty.

Steven Sample '66 of Abilene after extensive graduate work involv-
ing both chemistry and work with computers is taking special training
with Aileen, Inc. and will begin work with the chemical portion of their
business when their expansion of the Abilene plant is completed during
the summer.

Kinnon '64 and Ann Askins '66 Dail have moved from Dallas to Port-
land, Oregon where Kinnon is director of new products development at
Gregg's Food Products, Inc. They are living at 6555 S. E. Division
Street, Apt. 5, Portland 97100.

Dr. Larry Cooper, who has been practicing medicine in Hale Center,
Texas, reports that he is returning to Dallas for further study leading
to specialization.

Terri and Jerri Lindsey, who majored in biology at McMurry, were
visitors to the department recently. Jerri expects to receive the
Ph. D. degree in microbiology from N. Texas State U. in June. Terri
has received the M. S. in the same field from the University of Oklahoma
and should receive her Ph. D. from N. T. S. U. in '73.

Students inducted into Xi Beta Chapter of Gamma Sigma Epsilon in
October '71 were Toby Williams, Jack Benton and David Carver all of
Abilene, and Don McLaren of Anson. Carl Hudson and Paul Suddath re-
ported on the trip they made to the national convention in Columbus,
Mississippi in the company of Bill Caffey and Dr. Sonntag. Dr. Sonntag
continues to serve as Grand Recorder of the national chapter.

Our appeal last year for donations to our Alumni Fund brought in
a few dollars for which we are most thankful. We still need, however,
further infusions to bring the total up to the point that the annual
interest on it will buy a token award for the graduating senior who has
made an outstanding record in chemistry. We know all too well how dif-
ficult it is to squeeze a few extra shekels out of the family budget,
but we hope you will send us a contribution to help this cause along.
No donation is too small.
Again we would like to solicit the contribution of back journals for our reading room. We need

JACS    1964 to date, inclusive
J. Org. Chem.  1966 to date, inclusive
Analytical Chemistry  Vols. 22 to 32 inclusive

The number of well qualified high school students applying for special honors scholarships seems to be increasing from year to year. Three of these scholarships have been offered to would-be chemistry majors as have two Jesse Jones scholarships. We hope and expect that the freshman class for fall 1972 will be a good one. Your aid in helping us find good students still is sorely needed. One of the winners of an honors scholarship for fall was ferreted out by Larry Cooper '61 and brought to the campus to visit. Our best thanks go to him.

Keep us posted on your address and on news items concerning yourself and others of our alumni. We still are in need of addresses for:

Dr. Billy Don Burke        Mr. Harry Bistritzky
Mr. Glenn Morton           Mr. Greg Mamikunian
Mr. Joe B. Weir            Mr. Eddie Sequeira
Mrs. Gail Hart Long        Mr. Mohammad Dareshori

Please help us on these.

We hope that you will come to see us when you are next in Abilene. Until we have an opportunity to visit with you either in person or by letter we wish you the best of everything both professionally and personally.