COMMENCEMENT 2000

Chairman’s Corner

Bruce Koel, Chairman and Professor

Hello! Summer has arrived, and I am happy that I can bring you “up to date” since our Winter 99 issue of the Molecular View. We are trying to send out our newsletters twice a year, and this seems more feasible now that we have two new SGM office personnel. Welcome aboard to Robert Martin, who takes over for Paul Langford as Student Services Advisor, and Anahit Martirosyan, who just started as Secretary (and general do-gooder) for the Main Office on the SGM 4th floor.

You will find a number of Spring highlights inside this issue, including articles on our yearly Stauffer Lecture and Symposium and the 2000 Commencement. This latter topic is especially important because it reminds us of our central mission—provide students with excellent undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral education that qualify them for the best jobs and serve them well into the future. In this regard, I want to draw your attention to the announcement of the formation of our “Friends of the Department of Chemistry” club and you to help us move the Department forward.

Have a good summer!

USC’s First Annual Doctorate Hoarding Ceremony Crowns 14 Chemistry Students

On the morning of May 11th, a lively crowd of friends and family witnessed USC’s first annual Doctoral Hoarding Ceremony. Representing the Chemistry Department, fourteen Chemistry students received the Ph.D. degree alongside their colleagues from many other departments at the University.

While the University Commencement includes students receiving Bachelor and Masters degrees, the Doctoral Hoarding Ceremony was developed as a separate event from the University Commencement in recognition of the superior achievements of the doctoral candidates.

Lined up in a colorful procession and accompanied by orchestral strains of “Pomp and Circumstance”, the doctoral candidates marched in formation into Bovard Auditorium wearing cardinal gowns and caps with gold tassels. The doctoral hoods, the final element of their garb, were draped over their arms in anticipation of the official hoarding.

The procession of doctoral candidates was preceded by current USC faculty, including Chemistry faculty professors Bruce Koel, Chi Mak, Arieh Warshel, Thomas Flood, Mark Thompson, Hanna Reisler, Charles McKenna, and Myron Goodman.

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Loker Institute News

Loker Institute Senior Fellow and USC Adjunct Professor Peter Stang was elected to the National Academy of Sciences — the Academy announced on May 2. With Peter Stang’s recent election, the number of NAS members associated with the Loker Institute has grown to five: Arnett, Benson, Olah, Somorjai, and Stang.

Adjunct Professor and Senior Fellow of the Institute Karl Christe received the prestigious Moissan Award. The Award is the premier international award in fluorine chemistry and will be presented at the July European Fluorine Meeting in Durham (UK).

George Olah was presented with the Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Society of Chemistry (London). Professor A. Ledwith, President of the Society, presented Professor Olah the distinction at a ceremony at the recent ACS Meeting in San Francisco.

Reiko Choy Retires

Reiko Choy celebrated 20 years of employment at USC working as George Olah’s administrative assistant. And in April of this year, Reiko was the honored guest at her retirement luncheon.

Reiko was a very dedicated and hard-working person. When Professor Olah was named the recipient of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1994, she was actually on jury duty and talked her way out to come back and assist him in answering all the faxes, phone calls, and media attention that was flooding the office. Reiko has made many life time friendships from the numerous graduate students, postdoctoral research associates, and visiting scholars from throughout the world which have passed her door. This has whet her appetite to travel the world with her husband, Jake. She and Jake plan to reside in Honolulu where she has given everyone an open invitation to come and visit.

Upcoming Events

The George A. Olah Lecture in Chemistry will be held in October 2000. Previous lecturers have included Professor Istvan Hargittai, Budapest Technical Institute and Professor Ivar Ugi, Technical University of Munich.

Loker Hydrocarbon Research Institute will host 100 Years of Carbocations on January 4th and 5th, 2001.

Speakers will include:

- Per Ahlberg, Goteburg University (Sweden)
- Edward Arnett, Duke University
- Jerome Berson, Yale University
- F. Cacace, University Rome La Sapienza (Italy)
- David Forsyth, Northeastern University
- Kenneth Houk, UCLA
- Jean-Claude Jacquesy, Universite de Poitiers (France)
- Herberg Mayr, Universitat Munchen (Germany)
- John Roberts, CIT
- Martin Saunders, Yale
- Paul von R. Schleyer, University of Georgia
- Helmut Schwartz, Technische Universitat Berlin (Germany)
- Hans-Ulrich Siehl, University of Ulm (Germany)
- Jean Sommer, Universite Louis Pasteur de Strasbourg (France)
- Ted Sorenson, University of Calgary (Canada)
- Peter Stang, University of Utah
- Thomas Tidwell, University of Toronto (Canada)

And many others...
CHEMISTRY FACULTY AWARDS

Many of the faculty in the Chemistry Department received honors and awards this Spring. We extend a special congratulation to three faculty members whose dedication and achievement to the Department and the University resulted in the presentation of USC-wide awards during the past year:

**Surya Prakash** - The USC Associates Award for Creativity in Research, presented at the Academic Honors Convocation on March 7, 2000. The Associates Awards (one for Creativity in Research and the other for Excellence in Teaching) are the highest honors the University faculty can bestow on its members for distinguished intellectual and artistic achievements.

**Hanna Reisler** - The USC College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences Raubenheimer Outstanding Senior Faculty Award. This award is presented to only three college-tenured faculty each year in recognition of “balance and outstanding performance in the three areas of teaching, scholarship, and service within the University.”

**Stephen Bradforth** - The USC College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences Raubenheimer Outstanding Junior Faculty Award. This award is presented to one college tenure-track assistant professor in recognition of “potential for outstanding performance in the three areas of teaching, scholarship, and service within the University.”

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2000 STAUFFER LECTURER: IAN SMITH

USC and the scientific community welcomed Professor Ian WM. Smith, Fellow of the Royal Society, of the University of Birmingham, U.K. as the keynote lecturer of the 28th John Stauffer Distinguished Lecture in the Sciences. Speaking in SGM on the University Park campus on April 18th, Professor Smith presented his lecture entitled “Chemistry Among the Stars: Chemical Kinetics at a New Frontier” and dinner at Town and Gown. This was attended by over 200 members of USC’s scientific community. Departmental awards and recognition were bestowed upon many of our undergraduate and graduate students as everyone took advantage of an opportunity to step out of the laboratory and enjoy a relaxing evening of camaraderie.

The following morning, April 19th, the Department of Chemistry hosted the Molecular Reaction Dynamics Symposium in honor of Professor Smith. Lectures were given throughout the day on issues in molecular dynamics. Keynote speakers for this event included: Hanna Reisler, USC; C. Bradley Moore, UC Berkeley; Rudy Marcus, CIT; Stephen Leone, University of Colorado and NIST; David Chandler, Sandia; Amitabha Sinha, UC San Diego; and Curt Wittig, USC. Widely attended by USC faculty and students, the symposium concluded an exciting two-day event which catalogued a wide range of scientific exploration.
CLASS OF 2000 CHEMISTRY DOCTORATES


Ilia Bezel, “Near-Threshold Effects in Photo Induced NO2 Decomposition”, Advisor: Curt Wittig

Victor Belyaev, “Imaginary Time Quantum Monte Carlo Simulations of Many Fermion Systems”, Advisor: Chi Mak


Raymond Chi-Yuen Kwong, “Applications of Organotitanium Reagents in Organic Synthesis”, Advisor: Mark Thompson


Douglas E. Loy, “Molecular Organic Hole Transporting Materials for Use in Organic Light Emitting Diodes (OLEDs)”, Advisor: Mark Thompson

Chameli Panja, “Chemisorption on the (111) and (100) Faces of Pt-Sn Bimetallic Surfaces” (Material Sciences), Advisor: Bruce Koel


Yuk Yin Sham, “Calculation of Free Energies in Proteins”, Advisor: Arieh Warshel

Hong Shi Zhen, “I. Mechanistic Studies of a Novel Reaction and the Relative Migratory Aptitude of Methyl and Vinyl Groups to an (Ethylidene) RH Alkylidene Carbon. II. Synthesis of New Rhodium Alkylhydrides: Initial Evidence”, Advisor: Thomas Flood

Class of 2000 B.A. & B.S. Chemistry Graduates

Kristin Billinger, B.S.
Chen-Yin Chen, B.A.
Michael Cook, B.A.
Cindy Daigle, B.A.
Pedro DeLeon, B.A.
Joseph Giovanni Chu, B.S.
Alex Kang, B.S.
Diana Kogan, B.A.
Grace Lee, B.A.
Michael Lee, B.A.
Christopher Lindsey, B.S.
Thahn Nguyen, B.S.
Scott Sklenicka, B.S.
Dracena Smith, B.A.
Monica Snipes, B.S.
Thay Ung, B.S.
Adam Wingleman, B.S.

Class of 2000 M.A. & M.S. Chemistry Graduates

Shashi Kant Gupta, M.A.
Raymond Virgil Joggerst, M.A.
Yingke He, M.S.
Hooding: Continued from Page 1

The excitement of the event, upon concluding the arduous five to six years of work invested, added to the feelings of anticipation and relief of the participants. Before the beginning of the proceedings, a controlled chaos marked the seating area of the doctoral candidates, who congratulated each other, called out to their friends and family, and smiled as flash bulbs lit up the darkened interior of the auditorium.

The stately pomp of the ceremony came to order as Dr. Jonathan Kotler, Dean of the Graduate School, opened the proceedings with some introductory remarks. The poignancy of the event was set as Dean Kotler said, “Now is the time to take your leave from USC, and also the time for USC to take leave of you.” Since the Middle Ages, the doctoral hood has signified the highest level of academia, protecting its wearer from bigotry, superstition, and ignorance. “It symbolizes all that is pure and good in the pursuit of knowledge within the university and academic life,” Kotler concluded.

With the introduction complete, the official presentation of the doctoral candidates began. As their names and degrees were announced, each candidate approached the podium and was joined by the advising professor. The professor then read the candidate’s dissertation title, and took the doctoral hood and placed it over the candidate’s head and onto their shoulders. It was great to see professors and the candidates share in their achievement.

The large number of candidates and wide variety of represented disciplines resulted in the ceremony lasting about two hours, as each candidate received their own moment before the audience. At the conclusion of the proceedings, the audience rose to welcome the group of men and women into the highest level of academia. The faculty applauded as well, looking upon the newly-minted Doctors of Philosophy no longer as students, but now as colleagues.

The Department of Chemistry offers our heartfelt congratulations to our new graduates. Their excellence and achievements continues to define USC as a world-class University.

The Graduate Class of the New Millennium

The Chemistry Department is continuing on our drive to enhance the diversity and potential of USC. Our newest incoming graduate class, beginning in the Fall of 2000, contains 31 Ph.D. students, one of our largest class sizes ever.

Many of our incoming students already carry a Master’s degree in Chemistry, are frequent publishers to scientific journals, and have teaching experience under their belts. With a class-average GPA of 3.60 and GRE scores pushed to the ceiling, the Department is happy to welcome these new students.
ANNOUNCING
FRIENDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

The Department of Chemistry at USC has a proud heritage and a tradition of excellence. But no “winner” can hope to stay ahead by standing still. The Department can maintain its drive for success and achieve new heights with your support. To that end, the Department is announcing the formation of the “Friends of the Department of Chemistry”.

A department such as ours at a research university has important dual missions to bring teaching and research experiences, which are innovative and involve state-of-the-art technology, to the undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral students who attend USC. Of course, USC provides a budget to us for the basics (although the Department budget has been cut substantially over the last few years). But gift monies are always necessary to bring innovative projects and ideas to fruition.

By joining “Friends of the Department of Chemistry”, you will be providing increased educational opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, enriching and invigorating the faculty and staff, and contributing to the continual drive to upgrade equipment and instructional technology.

I encourage you to support this new development effort. Don’t forget to check out the enclosed brochure describing our program needs and giving options.

Your gift will greatly influence the future of the Department of Chemistry and USC. Accept the challenge of preparing the department for the year 2001 and beyond!

Alumni News

Class of 1960’s

Howard EINSPAHN (Ph.D., 1960’s, Donohue) logged into our alumni website with a request for a current address for former roommate Andrew LANE (Postdoc with Burg). Dr. Lane received his Ph.D. from Univ. of Strathclyde on Glasgow. If anyone has any info, please pass it along to us.

Class of 1970’s

George GOBEL (Ph.D., 1972, Ug) is now Professor and Director of the Bioorganic Chemistry Program, Department of Molecular Biology and Pharmacy at the Washington University Medical School in St. Louis, MO.

Barbara GONZALEZ (B.S., 1974; M.S., 1976) completed her doctorate at UCLA in 1998 and is now an Assistant Professor, Chemical Education at California State University, Fullerton.

Michael CHILDS (Ph.D., 1976, Weber) is teaching general and organic chemistry at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

Class of 1980’s

Kevin BRADY (Ph.D., 1982, Dunkerton) is the Chair-Elect of the Southern California Section of the American Chemical Society. Kevin has two teenagers at home, Pamela and Scott, and calls them a handful.

James NAMNATH (Ph.D., 1983, Adamson) is the CEO of two companies in the Bay area, Trinity Medical Group USA and JennerNet Software. Oldest son, Will, who Jim often took to the office and had sleep in the filing cabinet in Stabler Hall, will soon be 21 and is applying to USC for graduate school. Jim’s other children, Jon, Elysé and Dave will undoubtedly follow the Trojan path as well.

Richard A. BADKE, M.D. (B.S., 1986) is in private practice in Salinas and Santa Cruz, CA having graduated from Pitt Medical School in 1994.

Craig ARAKAKI (B.S., 1987) who still resides in the San Gabriel Valley is a pharmacist in Monrovia, CA.

Katherine L. TABOR (B.S., 1987) completed her Law Degree at Valparaiso in 1990 and is now an attorney with Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione, one of the largest intellectual property law firms in the U.S. Katherine’s practice focuses on all aspects of patent, trademark and trade secret litigations.

Karl JALKANEN (Ph.D., 1989, Stephens) is now a visiting scientist at the Laboratory of Physics, Helsinki University of Technology, Finland.

TO ALL ALUMNI:

If you would like to share your alumni news with us...

SEND US AN E-MAIL!

chemmail@chem1.usc.edu

And visit us at USC Chemweb
www.usc.edu/dept/chemistry
and login to the Chemistry Alumni section!

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ALUMNI NEWS CONTINUED...

Class of 1990’s

Jean Pierre BONGARTZ (Ph.D., 1990, McKenna) is currently working as a principal scientist at Janssen Research Foundation in Beerse, Belgium. As a medicinal chemist, he is involved in the design and synthesis of potential new drug molecules against human diseases.

Young Taeg PARK (Ph.D., 1990, Weber) is now an Associate Professor and Chairman of the Department of Chemistry at Keimyung University, Taegu (which is located 300 km south of Seoul, Korea). Park’s research is in the area of synthesis and properties of new functional polycarbolasile materials.

Roberta BURSI Buma (Ph.D., 1991, Stephens) is a Senior Research Scientist at the Department of Molecular Design and Informatics, N.V. Organon, The Netherlands. She is the proud parent of a beautiful little girl, Alessandra.

Patrick Scott POWERS (Ph.D., 1991, Wittig) is now President and CEO of Newport Thin Film Laboratory, Inc., which is a manufacturer of optical coatings and components. Carrie and Scott just celebrated their 14th wedding anniversary and have two daughters, Nicola and Alissa.

Todd TURNER (B.S., 1988; M.A. 1991) is completing his residency in Internal Medicine at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and is planning on moving back to L.A. to work at Kaiser in Woodland Hills.

George KASTANAS (Postdoc, 1992, Koel) is now a Senior Scientist with Hydrogen Burner Technology in Long Beach. The company researches and manufactures fuel processors that generate hydrogen from fuels (gasoline, natural gas).

Steve SARGEANT (Ph.D., 1993, Weber) is Manager, New Product Development, at Toray Plastics of America in Rhode Island.

Duane WHITNEY (Ph.D., 1993, Warshel) is currently a strategist for an institutional money manager in the Bay area.

Diankou (Dan) FU (Ph.D., 1994, Petasis) is now with Schlumberger, an oilfield service company located in Houston. Dan and his wife have settled into a suburban lifestyle; she is taking piano lessons and he has just joined a golf club where he can play almost all year long.

Gerard JENSEN (Ph.D., 1994, Stephens), the Associate Director, Product and Process Characterization at GILEAD SCIENCES (San Dimas, CA) arranged for a large group of chemistry alumni from Gilead to attend the April 2000 Stauffer Dinner. Also present were Claudine ASHVAR (Ph.D., 1998, Stephens), Scientist, Chemical Characterization Division; Ning HU (Ph.D., 1994, Amis), Associate Director, Pharmaceutical Development — who welcomed new son, Matthew William on June 14, 2000, weighing in at 7 lbs, 1 oz.; Bernard SHAMSAI (BS, 1992) Senior Process Development Engineer; and Michelle SULLIVAN (BA, (Biology/Chemistry), 1996), Research Associate, Formulation Development. Former coworker Don HODGSON (Ph.D., 1990, Amis), now Director of Product Development and Manufacturing with Pyramid Laboratones, Inc. and Lori HODGSON (Ph.D., 1993, Wittig) were also in attendance — but did not produce up-to-date pictures of their two daughters. Could Gilead Sciences be challenging Avery International (Pasadena, CA) — where an equally large number of USC Chemistry alumni are employed — for next year’s Stauffer attendance record?

Dan (Postdoc, 1995-98, Reed) and Tracie EVANS welcomed the arrival of their son, Derek Michael, on May 8, 2000 at 10:31 p.m. Derek weighed in at 8 lbs, 8 oz and “is an extremely good baby, i.e he doesn’t cry too much!” says new daddy, Dan. Baby, Mother and Father are all doing very well.

Mark TAPSAK (Ph.D., 1995, Weber) has accepted a new position as Senior Scientist at Dexcom, San Diego, CA. Dexcom is a biotech company working on continuous glucose monitoring systems.

James STASZEWSKI (Ph.D, 1996, Petasis) and Angela ZAGALA Staszewski (Ph.D., 1995, Hogen-Esch) are expecting their second child (a son) in November. Samantha (age 2) has been going to kindermusic (although she doesn’t pay attention, says Dad) and loves to swim in her pool. Jim is back with SynQuest, Inc. as the new R&D Manager. Angela is still at Nalco where she is a Senior Research Chemist.

John PECK (Ph.D., 1997, Koel) and Tabare Dupau were married on August 29. Both graduated NYU in May 2000 and are sitting for the bar in late July. John has accepted a position at Christie, Parker & Hale in Pasadena in the area of Intellectual Property Law.


Michael DULLIGAN (Ph.D, 1998, Wittig) is employed by ERC, Inc. as a contractor for the Air Force Research Laboratory (Edwards AFB, CA). He conducts research and development of novel thrusters for Air Force satellite missions.

Cathy DUTTON (Ph.D., 1998, Beaudet), Younsoo RA (Ph.D., 1997, Dalton), and Ye WEN (Ph.D., 1994, Wittig) will soon be joined by Victor ARISTOV (Ph.D., 2000, Reissler) at KLA-Tencor (Livermore, CA). KLA is the world’s leading supplier of process control and yield management solutions for the semiconductor and related microelectronics industries.

Continued on Page 8
ALUMNI NEWS CONTINUED...

Cindy KEPLER (Ph.D., 1998, Weber) is an Assistant Professor at Bloomsburg State University in Pennsylvania. She and Fred Reck were married in June 2000.

Tim LONDERGAN (Ph.D., 1998, Weber) completed his postdoctoral studies at the University of Washington and has accepted a position at Microvision (Bothell, WA).

Nathan SWAMI (Ph.D. (Mat Sci), 1998, Koel) is employed with Microsensor (Pasadena, CA) in the development of electronic sensing devices.

Jiang WANG (Ph.D., 1998, Koel) is now employed as a process engineer with Conexant Systems Inc. (Newbury Park, CA). He is responsible for the wet etching, plasma cleaning, and photo resist stripping.

Jyrí PAULASAARI (Ph.D., 1999, Weber) is a Research Chemist with Leiras-Oy, in Turku, Finland.

Najat SALIBA (Ph.D., 1999, Koel) is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Department of Chemistry at the University of California, Irvine.

Jonathan SARGENT (Ph.D., 1999, Weber) is a Product Chemist with GE Silicones in Albany, NY.

Yuk Yin SHAM (Ph.D., 1999, Warshel) is currently working at the National Cancer Institute in Frederick, MD as a postdoctoral fellow. His wife, Wai-Tak, works as an independent optometrist in a local hospital. Their son, Collin, has just turned 11 months old and is healthy and well. P.S. For those who know Yuk, he sends his greetings from Maryland.

Linda VALACHOVIC (Ph.D., 1999, Wittig) is currently a National Research Postdoctoral Fellow at the Aerospace Corporation in El Segundo, CA.

Class of 2000

Cindy DAIGLE (BA, 2000) is an Assay Chemist at the UCLA Olympic Lab. She and fiancee, Kurt Alberty, are planning a Spring 2002 wedding in Kurt’s hometown of Springfield, MO.

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FIRST CLASS
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