



Le Chimiste
The Newsletter of the Department of Chemistry, UL-
Lafayette

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If you have been an avid reader of *Le Chimiste*, you have probably started to notice a trend. Every year it arrives about a month later than the year before. Sorry about that. Either I am getting lazier, or I am getting busier. I'll try to get it to you next year a little earlier.

At the end of the Spring semester, 2003, Dr. Jimmie D. Fitzpatrick retired. Many of you learned organic chemistry from him. He taught at the university for many years. I understand that he and his wife are enjoying their retirement. He is definitely missed. Jimmie had been a member of our faculty since June, 1968.

Dr. Fitzpatrick was replaced this fall with Andrea Dupre. Some of you will remember that Andrea was one of our best undergraduate students. After graduation from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, she attended LSU in Baton Rouge, where she obtained the M.S. in chemistry before returning to us as an instructor. Shortly after her arrival she was married (in December) and is now Mrs. Andrea Leonard. She has already become an active and valuable member of our faculty. Among other things, she has assumed responsibilities for our website and has taken over Son Do's former responsibilities on the governing board of the Regional Science Olympiad.

During the past year we were saddened to learn of the deaths of two of our former faculty members and past department heads. Dr. Charles A. MacKenzie died in June, 2003 and Dr. J. D. Edwards died this past fall. Both gentlemen were organic chemists.

We are still waiting to learn the results of our five-year evaluation by the Committee on Professional Training CPT of the American Chemical Society. In September we were sent a letter describing the preliminary findings. The response to the letter was sent to the CPT on October 2, along with the requested supporting materials. It is my understanding that we will be notified of the committee's decision by May.

Nearly two years ago we introduced two new courses to our curriculum. CHEM 405 is titled "Chemistry of Materials" and is a rigid course deserve praise for their successful efforts.

describing the properties of solids based upon their atomic and molecular structure. It was introduced at the urging of the Department of Chemical Engineering and is a required course for chemical engineering students in the spring semester of their senior year. The course also can be chosen as a chemistry elective by our majors. The second new course is CHEM 405, Internship in Chemistry. This course was introduced to provide our upper division chemistry majors with industrial work experience prior to graduation. It can be taken for 2-3 credits each semester for a total of no more than 6 credits. In part it was introduced as a result of your survey comments of several years ago which stated that we could do a better job of preparing our students for work in industry. Both CHEM 402 and CHEM 405 are becoming major successes. If you have any other suggestions that might improve our curriculum, please do not hesitate to send those suggestions to me (R. D. Braun). We always value and appreciate your suggestions and comments.

For the first time, this semester, we are pleased to welcome two French visiting scholars to our department. The two young ladies, Ms. Annie Tudryn and Ms. Julie Rondeleux, are enrolled in an internship program in the department of chemistry of the University Institute of Technology-Polytechnic IUT in Poitiers, France. In light of the increased security requirements imposed by the events of 9/11, we had a great deal of trouble obtaining Visas for the ladies, but with the help of Mr. Leroy Broussard from our Admissions Office and the faculty sponsor of the students in France, Dr. Nelly Bregeon, the applications were completed and accepted by the consulate in Paris just in time for their departure. The purpose of the internship is twofold. First, the interns are gaining experience working fulltime in the research laboratories of Dr. Sorensson and Dr. Gallo, and second, the interns are improving their English language skills.

The faculty of the department had a banner year in terms of research publications. I believe last year was the best year ever in terms of number of accepted and published research papers for the department. The research faculty of the department A few physical changes to our building have taken

place during the last year. Dr. Sorensson has had a new hood installed in the biochemistry laboratory which will allow her and other workers to handle infectious organisms safely as well as to perform tissue cultures. This improvement will significantly increase the biochemical research capability of the department.

Plans have been finalized for improvements to the stockrooms and the organic chemistry laboratory. We are hoping funding for the projects is imminent and work should start within the year.

You might recall that last year I told you of the conversion of room 139 to a small classroom. We are trying to improve the quality of that room. We have just received 12 office chairs which will be used in the room. Within the next year we plan on adding tables to replace the individual student desks that presently are in the room. We are also planning on improving the A/V capabilities of the room.

Last year I reported to you that enrollment in the College of Sciences had decreased. I am happy to be able to report that enrollment in the College increased during this past fall term. The increased enrollment coupled with increasing entrance standards for the University are encouraging signs pointing to the higher quality of the University and College.

Fortunately the department's graduation rate also has increased in comparison to last year. At the spring commencement we had three graduates, and at the fall commencement we had five graduates. More details about our graduates can be found later in the newsletter.

For those of you interested in athletics, the football team had yet another disappointing season, however, the basketball team appears to be well on its way to becoming conference champions. The ladies' softball team is off to another great start and are nationally ranked.

We continue to try to offer two, small departmental scholarships to chemistry majors. Each scholarship carries an award of \$500/year. Even though the awards are small, they are appreciated by the students. Last year we were unable to award both of the scholarships owing to poor returns from investments in the UL Foundation. We substituted funds from another source for one small scholarship. This year earnings from the Foundation are improved but still less than that necessary to offer the scholarships. We would like to be able to award

the scholarships, however, we do not have sufficient



funds to allow this to happen. If you have a few extra dollars lying around, we would appreciate donations to the scholarship fund so that we could again start to award the scholarships. If your employer matches your contributions, that would be even better. The name of the scholarship fund is the "Cora May Savoy Memorial Scholarship in Chemistry (19151)". The number is the fund's designation in the UL-Lafayette Foundation. You can make donations to the fund through the University of Louisiana-Lafayette Foundation, P.O. Box 44290, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, LA 70504-4290. Their office telephone number is (337)235-5206 and their FAX number is (337)235-4028. If you do choose to donate, perhaps it might be wise to inform the Department of the donation so that we can check to be certain the donation has gone into the proper fund. You can rest assured that any donation will be greatly appreciated by our chemistry majors.

As usual, we like to hear from you. If you have any information to be included in the next edition of the newsletter, or if you have any other comments, questions, or suggestions, please send them to

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Additionally we would appreciate it if you would keep us informed of any changes to your address or e-mail address. If you know of a former chemistry major who is not receiving a copy of the newsletter, please send us the name and current address of the former major and we will get a copy to her or him. Each year when we mail the newsletters, many are returned to us because the alumna/us has moved and left no forwarding address.

We invite you to visit with us when you are in the Lafayette vicinity. We love to see former students and friends and would like to visit with you. When you come to visit, park in the visitor's lot near Rougeau Hall and we will validate your parking ticket.

Faculty News

Dr. R. D. Braun has not spent much time doing research. Instead, most of his time has been used in teaching, performing the duties associated with department head, and doing other nonresearch duties. He is a reviewer for J. Chem. Educ., a member of Project ChemLab for the Journal of Chemical Education, one of the directors of the annotation reviews for the project, a member of the editorial review board of Analytical Biochemistry, and an occasional reviewer for two or three other journals. As you might expect he spends a considerable portion of time reading manuscripts.

Mr. Son Do has revised the CHEM 212 course (for elementary education majors) and continues his efforts to improve the quality of the course. He also continues to visit K-12 classrooms in Acadiana to make presentations and demonstrations. He is the sponsor of our local section of the Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society SAACS. The section continues to be highly active. Over the past year he supervised three graduate independent study students from the College of Education. In addition he directed a summer workshop for science teachers in the use of CBL Technology and continues as a prepharmacy advisor. All of this is accomplished while maintaining a high teaching load.

Dr. August A. Gallo had one research paper published during the last year and has submitted a second paper for publication. He also had an equipment grant proposal funded. He was chosen freshmen professor for the year by Alpha Lambda Delta and continues to serve as the president of the local section of Sigma Xi, the research society. He is the departmental safety coordinator. During the past year he supervised four undergraduate research students, was on the thesis committee of an honor student, and the member of the dissertation committee of an MS student from McNeese State University. He also is a chemistry and premed advisor.

Dr. Kathleen Knierim served on the thesis committee of an MS student from the department of chemical engineering. She is actively pursuing interdisciplinary research with chemical engineering faculty. She is the Regional Science Olympiad director, the faculty advisor to the Canterbury Club, and a science education advisor.

As mentioned earlier, Mrs. Andrea Dupre Leonard has only been with us as a faculty member for one semester. Nevertheless, during that short period she has become a valuable member of the faculty. She is a member of the Regional Science Olympiad steering committee and the new webmaster for the department. She has already become one of the more popular teachers in the department.

Mr. Alan Levine continues to concentrate his efforts on teaching. He has one of the highest teaching loads in the department while continuing to maintain high standards for students in his classes.

Dr. Salah S. Massoud is turning out to be one of our more active researchers as well as a good teacher. Although he has only been a member of our faculty for 1 ½ years, he has already established an inorganic chemistry research laboratory, has had two research manuscripts accepted for publication in scientific journals and submitted a third manuscript to a peer reviewed journal. This spring he will be presenting a paper at the 227th ACS National Meeting in Anaheim, CA. He was a judge at the Regional Science Fair. During the past year he served on the Graduate Faculty Committee of the Graduate School.

Dr. Richard S. Perkins published three research publications in peer reviewed, high quality journals during the past year. He also was awarded two grant proposals and has submitted two more proposals to granting agencies. During the past year he served on the departmental hiring committee and on two tenure review committees. He was our webmaster for 2003 and is generally agreed to be one of the very best teachers in the department.

Dr. Melinda Sorensson has submitted one research manuscript to a scientific journal. She is actively preparing a second manuscript. She has spent considerable time revising the biochemistry instructional laboratory (CHEM 319), made two oral presentations at scientific conferences, and supervised undergraduate research students during 2003. She was a judge at both the Regional Science Fair and at the Regional Science Olympiad. She was mentor to an award winning high school student who went on to receive national honors in science fairs. Additionally, she is an active member of the University Academic Planning Committee which is highly time consuming.

Dr. Radhey S. Srivastava was our most productive researcher during the past year. He had five published papers in peer reviewed research journals and has submitted an additional manuscript to a journal. He has served as co supervisor for an MS student's thesis from the department of chemical engineering. He has been a member of the thesis committee for three MS students from chemical engineering. He also is the faculty advisor to the Indian Student Association.

Dr. Eric Taylor had one research manuscript published in 2003. He continues to be a nationally recognized expert in chemical and biological terrorism. He prepared a computer seminar course for continuing education students in nursing and allied health sciences. He had one policy paper published by the well known Cato Institute, and a second policy paper submitted to the Cato Institute.

During the past year he has had numerous radio, television and print media interviews related to terrorism, including an appearance on the CBS program 60 Minutes. He is a consultant to the University Police and the University Safety Office on methods to prepare for terrorism, and is a member of the University Biohazard committee.

Dr. Fred Walters published one research paper in 2003. He also had an equipment grant funded. He continues to be a member of the editorial board of Analytical Letters, the research journal. During 2003 he supervised one undergraduate research student, and was a member of one tenure review committee. He also served as a Regional Science Olympiad event organizer and judge.



Recent Graduates

Chemistry major graduates for May, 2003 were Kaci Kosztolanyi, Claudia J. C. Ramos and Valerie P. Thompson. The December, 2003 graduates were Luis A. Echeverria, Jessica S. Kachian, Dorothy L. Nguyen, Julie K. Sandlin and Paul H. Sewall. Paul Sewall is working on a second B.S. degree in chemical engineering. Dorothy Nguyen continues to work at a local testing laboratory and hopes to attend graduate school in the near future to study flavor chemistry. Julie Sandlin has moved to Utah to be with her fiancé.

She is living with her brother and his family. She will soon start searching for a new position in Utah. Jessica Kachian was awarded the David Andrew Award at the December graduation as the outstanding academic achiever in the College of Sciences. She also was awarded a second B.S. degree in chemical engineering. She is applying for graduate school in chemical engineering. Claudia Ramos is working for Southern Petroleum Laboratories her in Lafayette. Valerie Thompson resigned from her job at the National Wetlands Research Center and has been seeking a position out-of-state.

We wish all of our recent graduates well and welcome them to the ranks of alumnae/i of the Department of Chemistry of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.



Alumni News

Charnell Oxford now has a daughter named Catherine Deshauna Oxford.

Renee Godley is working as a member of the faculty of the Department of Geology at UL Lafayette.

We have incorrect mailing addresses for the following alumni. If you know the correct address for any of these folks, please let us know so that we can send them a copy of our newsletter. Thanks.

Mrs. Siti Mahani Adnin
Errol J. Ardoin
Tina Benoit
Elizabeth Billera
Mr. Jeffrey W. Bolyer
Melvin W. Carter, Jr.
Robert Thiel Casanova, Jr.
Dorothy (Dugas) Cook
Ms. Amanda F. Courvelle
Stephen Darbonne
Christopher T. Dargin
Kirk E. Elliot
Christopher M. Domingue
Henry C. Enenmon
Robert Faul

Dr. James D. Fontenot
Gerard J. Guidry
L. E. Guidry
Eric A. Hayes
A Hossein Heydari
Homayouni Abdali, Hossein
Mr. Peter A. Keller, Jr.
Ellen Lancon
Julian R. Little
Paula Matherne
Michael S. Mathis
Teri Gillett McBride
Darryl Monceaux
Mr. Hong Chun Qui
Fatimah Rozihan W-Muhamma
Dale J. Naquin
Anne M. Reynders
Mr. Antonio Santiago
John S. Sibille
David L. Silar
Ms. Sherri D. Stringfellow
Lena Su
Gayani Weerasekera
Ms. Ping Xu

We enjoy hearing from alumnae/i. If you intend to be in the Lafayette area, please stop in for a visit. News for the Alumni section of the Newsletter should be addressed to R. D. Braun at Dept. of Chemistry, Box 44370, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, LA 70504-4370, or e-mailed to RDBraun@Louisiana.edu.

The Chemistry Department web page can be found at <http://atom.louisiana.edu/>. You can be listed on the alumni page of the website and can include your clickable e-mail address and/or a link to your own website by contacting Mrs. Andrea Leonard at her e-mail address (andrea_leonard5@yahoo.com), or you can send mail to her at the department address. Andrea has asked me to tell you that you can look for a refurbished web page in the coming months.