

# UMSL CHEMIST



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Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry  
Lawrence Barton, Editor

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### Chairman's Message (Christopher D. Spilling)

It is early 2007 and Lol has just reminded me that I have not yet provided the Chair's message for the UMSL Chemist. In spite of my procrastination this is something I enjoy doing, especially when I have good news to share. This year in particular I write with a new sense of optimism about the future of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and the University of Missouri-St. Louis. For the first time in several years, I feel that we are actually moving forward and have some momentum to continue to do so.

In Fall 2006, we hired Eike Bauer as an assistant professor of organic chemistry, George Gokel as a Distinguished Professor and Associate Director of the CME, and Jimmy Liu as a joint Professor of Physics and Chemistry and Director of the CME. In addition, we currently have a search underway for an assistant professor of inorganic chemistry; Lol Barton's replacement. George Gokel was honored in a special issue of the New Journal of Chemistry. Lol Barton is moving into a phased retirement, but those of you who know Lol well will realize that he will be with us for some time to come and editing future issues of the UMSL Chemist.

The ranks of Chemistry alum continue to grow. We have now graduated over 850 BA/BS, 230 MS and 125 PhD students. Our students continue to find employment locally and nationally in a competitive job market. Bill Neumann (PhD 1988) was recently announced as the winner of the 2007 ACS St. Louis Section Award following recent winners and colleagues Jim Chickos (2006) and Wes Harris (2005). The highly successful Biochemistry & Biotechnology BS and MS degrees (offered in cooperation with Biology) is in its 3rd year and has over 80 undergraduate and 30 graduate students without any related decline in chemistry majors.



We are hoping to finally renovate labs in Benton Hall in the very near future. The first students received the 4 new scholarships made possible by the generous donations of our alums during the fund drive in early 2006. The students are Sean

Whittemore (senior), Oscar Natwick (senior), Trang Truong (junior) and Christina van Preter (junior). All of the students are performing well in their classes and Sean and Oscar are doing research with me this semester.

You may have seen in the news that President Elson Floyd is leaving the University to join Washington State University. It is our loss. He was the first president who recognized that there was a funding gap between UM-St. Louis and the other campuses, and he and Chancellor George were working to alleviate the problem. Contrary to newspaper reports, we believe his loss may likely be ascribed to University and State politics rather than funding.

Finally we wish you all the best in your careers and hope that you will not forget your chemistry roots in the chemistry department.

Best wishes

## Alumni Information

### 1960s

**Donald Kaesser**, BS 1967 was in touch with us recently, looking for a contact for Charlie Armbruster, which we were able to provide. Don is a Licensed Psychologist with *Central Iowa Psychological Services* in West Des Moines, Iowa. He was a TA with me in Chemistry 1 and 3 in my very first semester at UMSL. He tells us that at 61 life seems better than it ever has for him. He loves his work, wife, daughter and two grand children.

**John Thompson**, BS 1968 lives in El Dorado AR. He owned a company, *T and T Chemical* for most of his career. He sold the company five years ago and has been consulting for the company that bought it since then. Much of his work has been involved with removal of sulfur from coal.



*Drs Wes Harris, Spilling and Winter at the Murray Banquet*

**Joseph P. Bono**, BS 1969 (MA Political Science, 1979) will be our Distinguished Alumni Lecturer for 2007. Joe is currently the Laboratory Director of the United States Secret Service Laboratory in Washington, DC. His previous position was as the Quality Manager of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Office of Forensic Sciences. He has been the Director of the following laboratories: the DEA Special Testing and Research Laboratory in Dulles, Virginia; the DEA Mid-Atlantic Laboratory in Washington, DC; the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) Regional Forensic Laboratory in Naples, Italy; and the St. Louis County Police Department Laboratory in Clayton, Missouri.

**James Reilly** BS 1969 contacted us in early August. He is teaching at an alternative school in Kansas City.

### 1970s

**Dennis W. Wester** BS 1971 was in town in August and stopped in to see me in the department. He had been consulting with colleagues at Mallinckrodt about a possible collaboration. Dennis has been with the Pacific Northwest National

Laboratory in Richland Washington for about 16 years. He is an adjunct faculty member at Washington State University Tricities Campus which includes Richland, Pasco and Kennewick. His son Adam worked at PNNL last summer doing software development – his first real job. Dennis was hoping that it would convince him that he does like science rather than his current major, business.

**Ronald Ackerman**, BS 1971, MS 1981 attended the Alumni Reception in April. Ron is Chief Chemist at Envirohealth Technologies Inc., in St. Louis. His oldest son graduated in music composition last June and his youngest son is going into evolutionally biology and intends to do his doctorate. Daughter Miriam is an Art graduate and is raising their only grandchild Norah.

**Sanford A. Asher**, BA 1971, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, University of Pittsburgh, won the 2005 *Sigi Ziering Award* for Outstanding Contribution of a Publication in the Journal, *Clinical Chemistry*.

**Daniel Kleypas** BS 1970 was at the Alumni Reception last April. He works at the Washington University School of Medicine.

**Harold R. Messler** BS 1970 also attended the Alumni Reception. Harold, in addition to his position as Director of the St. Louis Police Department Crime Laboratory, a role he has filled for 33 years, he has been an enormous resource to young people, running programs for the St. Louis Science Center and the American Chemical Society, for students and teachers in areas schools and colleges, in giving talks to community groups, and in mentoring summer intern students. He has served as a faculty member for the Medicological Death Investigator Training Course at Saint Louis University for 28 years and in other forensic programs at that institution.

**Michael D. Finkes** BS 1973, MS 1978, *Monsanto*, continues to serve on the Executive Board of the Alumni Association as co-Chair, Student Engagement & Retention Committee. He is currently working with **Barbara Brown** (BA 1984) and the editor on establishing the Alumni Advisory Board for the department.

**Kenneth Henderson** BS 1973 is Vice President, Technology for the *Cannon Instrument Company* in State College, PA. He has been with Cannon for about eight and a half years. Ken is the ASTM Committee D02 Chairman. The topic of this committee is petroleum products and lubricants which includes gasoline, jet fuel and diesel fuel specifications as well as a whole host of other things. He presented a paper at a Symposium on Automotive Lubricant Testing and Additive Development on *Viscometric Temperature Sensitivity of Engine Lubricants at Low Temperature and High Shear Conditions*. His wife MaryAnn is a staff assistant in the Penn State Electrical Engineering Department and has been there for about 5 years. Daughter, Hyland, was married in August and is living in Teaneck, NJ and son Kent is working for a defense contractor in southern Maryland as a software project engineer/programmer.

**Gregory Przygoda**, BA 1973 is a Quality Engineer at the *Boeing Company* in St. Louis.

**A Greg Wall** BA 1974, MS 1982 is retiring in early 2007 after 22 years with Sigma-Aldrich in St. Louis. After graduation in 1974, Greg taught for several years before returning to UM-St. Louis to complete his MS degree in chemistry. He went to SUNY-Albany with Eric Block when Block left UM-St. Louis to go there in 1981 and received a Ph.D degree in 1985 with Block. Greg has been teaching at Florissant Valley Community College and has plans for a number of activities on retirement.

**Daniel J. Claudy**, BA 1975 is with *Wyeth Pharmaceuticals* in Rouses Point NY and is living in Houston, TX.



*David Garin and Patricia L. Jones, widow of Tom Jones at the Murray Lecture Banquet*

**William Z. McCarthy**, BS 1975 (Ph.D 1984) spent a busy time last April during the strike (technically a lock-out) at the Mallinckrodt-Tyco Healthcare St. Louis plant. Most of the management and professional staff were working in production making batches of whatever. Bill was making x-ray contrast agents and MRI (gadolinium) agents. They were working shift coverage and lots of extra hours, generally 12 hour days.

**Victor Granat** BS 1977, **Phil Rexroat** BS 1977 and **Floris Homan** BS 1985 (Ph.D. 1989) all employed by *KV Pharmaceutical Co.*, in St. Louis visited the department last summer and had lunch with the editor. Vic is a methods development chemist, Phil is a supervisor and Floris is Director of the Analytical Research Department. It was the first time we had seen Phil since graduation 30 years ago!

**Cynthia K. Snoddy** formerly Benson, BS 1977, is a Principal Research Scientist at *Pfizer Inc.*, in St. Louis.

**Mollie Freebairn**, BS 1977 was at the Alumni Reception in April 2006 and it was great to see her looking so well and young after 30 years since she had been here! Mollie is a Chemist III in the Air Pollution Control Program - Air Quality Analysis Section with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources in Jefferson City, and is involved in several environmental projects in St. Louis.

**James J. Grib**, BS 1976 (MS 1982) is Senior Manager of Corporate Quality Assurance at Anheuser Busch in St. Louis. His responsibility includes both brewing and micro QA. After doing international QA for 18 years, and the associated traveling, he is happy to be where he is. He and wife Colleen have four children; two have left the nest and the other two are at UM-Columbia.

**H. Peter Kline** BS 1978, MS 1981 is Associate Director of Discovery Synthesis Services, Discovery Medicinal Chemistry in the Global Research and Development Unit at *Pfizer Inc.* St. Louis Laboratories. He was involved in a Green Chemistry Program in October at Pfizer which was attended by some colleagues from UM-St. Louis.

**Pauline Bellavance** Ph.D. 1979 moved to Greenville, SC. a couple of years ago and is teaching physics at St. Joseph's Catholic School in Greenville SC. We read on the web that this is a highly rated school and Pauline is appreciative of the high quality of the students there.



*Betsy Keath BA 1978*

**Betsy Keath** BA Chemistry and Biology 1978, who had been a faculty member in the Biology Department at St. Louis University for 13 years, was appointed Scientific Program Officer at the Science Foundation of Ireland in March 2005. Dr. Keath has a dual role, working on SFI's Research Frontiers Program, as well as providing support to its Biotechnology Division. She has a Ph.D from Washington University.

**Barbara Soltz** Ph.D. 1979 has formed a start-up company in Connecticut, *Conversion Energy Enterprises*, in the University of Connecticut incubator in Farmington, CT. It was founded in 1993 and has 5 employees. The company focuses on the modification of collagen for what they describe as a new generation of wound closure using laser tissue welding and sealing. Barb and her husband Bob have three grown children, each with graduate degrees in engineering.

### 1980s

**Debora Bergstrom** BS 1980, is now living in Frederick, MD. Her husband Wayne is working with Bechtel Corporation and she is consulting in advanced materials and related areas. Their three daughters are doing well. One was married recently, another is in graduate school at Princeton studying chemistry and the youngest is in high school fencing competitively and playing the viola.

**Steve Durban** BA 1981, we learned from his son who took a course with the editor recently, is working at Pfizer in St. Louis.

**Mike Hauser** BS 1981, MS 1986 was at the recent Community College Connection event held here on campus last fall.

**Greg Noelken** BS 1982 is Manager of the Chemistry Department Computing Facility at Washington University. He is responsible for the departmental e-mail and web servers and provides support for faculty computing needs. This includes over 300 PCs and several Unix workstations in the NMR facility, the Mass Spec Facility and radiochemistry. Greg was married in 2004 to Phyllis who also works in the Chemistry Department and we were fortunate enough to meet them at the Kennedy Lecture last fall. We had not seen Greg since 1982!

**James M. Timper** BS 1982, MS 1984 is back in St. Louis having retired from his position with the US government in pharmaceutical chemistry. He took early retirement to make a full commitment to study for the Ph.D in applied mathematics at UM-St. Louis. He now regularly attends department seminars. Jim also holds a BA from SIU-Edwardsville in sociology 1972 and a MS in applied mathematics from the Johns Hopkins University Wittig School of Engineering in 1997.

**Dawn Shiang**, BA 1983, Ph.D. 1988 and **Bill Shiang**, BA 1984, Ph.D. 1989 contacted us recently from Shanghai where they are working with the *Dow Chemical Company* and their move from Switzerland has been very good for the family. Dawn finds the city of 20+ million as sharp contrast to growing up as a farm girl in Missouri. She is Director for Asia-Pacific Research and has been busy building the research organization for Dow there - nearly from a blank sheet of paper! It involves working on technology strategy, lab planning and capital purchases for both the new Shanghai center to open in 2008, as well as the 45,000 sq ft rented lab space they currently occupy. And this year alone they are hiring 100 M.S. and Ph.D.s across nearly all disciplines of science. Bill is finally living in the part of the world where his job has been for the last 2 1/2 years, making his travel schedule more bearable. His life experiences and education seem to have been a prelude for this role and his effectiveness in it. He is Global Supply Chain Development Leader and is accountable for contract manufacturing in China with a focus on active manufacturing contractors, intermediate suppliers and developing new contacts in China manufacturing. His job is part technical, part commercial, and definitely part Chinese culture. Dow is ramping up greatly in the region, and one aspect of Bill's job is to help connect Dow into the technological and manufacturing resources there. The Shiang boys have adjusted well into the Concordia International School there. Young Wil started his freshman year, and hopes to study languages and history abroad when his university time comes; and Alexander is in the 6th grade, and doing very well.

**Steven Szymczak** BS 1983 is now at Director of Sales and Marketing at B. J. Services in Houston, TX. We heard this from Benjie Outlaw who was with Steve at Baker-Petrolite.

**Tom Reinsel** BS 1982, enjoyed the alumni reception in April. He enjoyed meeting some of the professors from years ago. He comments that *he knows that we hear this often, but time and patience spent by faculty here with students meant a great deal to many of us (alumni).*

**Barbara (Willis) Brown** BA 1984 received the 2006 Chancellor's Staff (professional/administrative) Award for Excellence. Barb is *Manager, Student & Special Services* for

the School of Optometry. She is also an optometrist and is close to achieving her Fellowship in the American Academy of Optometry.

**Dee (Lange) Bianca** BS 1983 (Ph.D 1991) and her husband Frank are still living in Henderson, Nevada and are having a great time. Dee is teaching at Nevada State College (as is **Liz Hansen** Ph.D 2000). It was supposed to be part time but this semester has her teaching 12 credit hours - two sections of general chemistry and a "baby" organic course for nursing majors. Frank still flies for United Airlines but is counting the days until his mandatory retirement date - about three years away. Dee's health has had some ups and downs in the last couple of years to include two spinal fusions and one botched one that left her with a paralyzed vocal cord but she has been essentially back on track since this past summer.

**Joan Raumschuh**, BA 1985 is a Research Manager at Anheuser Busch, leading a group of 4 degreed chemists in the Brewing Technical Center. Their work is primarily centered on short-term research projects to address business objectives. They work with advanced instrumentation: GC/MSD (coupled with numerous front-end introduction techniques), GC/SCD (sulfur detection), HPLC/DAD, and HPLC/MS/MS looking at flavor and aroma compounds in any brewing matrix.

**Shari Keith** BA 1986 is a Medical Technologist at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis and we were pleased to see her at the Alumni Reception

**Jia-Ji Gu** MS 1988 contacted us recently. In the 22 years since she entered graduate school here, life has been very exciting and challenging. She started as an analytical chemist working in *Missouri-Analytical Laboratory* in St. Louis and moved on to become a Senior Fellow working at *Novartis Corporation* in East Hanover, NJ for the past 12 years doing pharmaceutical and analytical development. She is living in Millburn, NJ.

**Ko-Chung Lin**, Ph.D 1988 is Chairman and CEO of *PharmaEssentia Corp.* He is the leading founder of the company. Previously at *Biogen* where, as a co-founder of the discovery chemistry team, he led the team to discover their first drug candidate that was later licensed to Merck Co. Prior to that, his work at Monsanto-Searle on a HIV protease inhibitor project resulted



*Ko-Chung Lin, Ph.D 1988*

in an AIDS drug on the market. Following his Ph.D. degree he did postdoctoral research at University of Michigan, before taking an appointment at Monsanto in St. Louis. We understand he spends time both at the company headquarters in Taiwan and also in Boston.

**C. Michael Drain** BS 1982 was at the ACS meeting in San Francisco. Mike told us that things were going very well for him at Hunter College NY where he is professor of chemistry.

He was expecting to publish 12 papers in 2006 and had been nominated for a Distinguished Professorship at Hunter.

**Hassan Saleh** MS 1985 is at the St. Louis City Water Company.

**Lisa (Mcchesney) Harris** BA 1985 went to the University of Kansas to do a doctorate in medicinal chemistry and now lives in the Chicago area. Here is a picture of Lisa through her employer's website. Lisa is doing well and now has 2 grandchildren from her daughter Kimmy whom we recall seeing running around the halls here when Lisa was here taking classes. Her middle son, now 18, is looking at walking on as a football player at Northwestern and her youngest is 15. Lisa joined Protocol Link in Vernon Hills, Illinois in 1994. The company provides regulatory compliance, quality assurance and validation services to FDA-regulated firms worldwide. Lisa, who is a Director, was selected as Protocol Link's Rising Star Award recipient for the first quarter of 2005. The Rising Star Award is bestowed to a deserving Protocol Link employee who



Lisa (Mcchesney) Harris BA 1985

*is on-the-move, consistently performed at a peak-level throughout the quarter and has made a significant contribution to the business. The citation reads: Dr. Mcchesney-Harris has amassed*

*considerable experience and accomplishments during her 12-year career in the pharmaceutical arena, and brings a unique blend of work experience, education, and a keen understanding of FDA agency guidelines and requirements relative to the industries that Protocol Link serves.*

**L. Jeannette Hencken** BA 1985 is still teaching chemistry and forensic science at Webster Groves High School.

**William L Neumann**, PhD 1988 is Principal Research Scientist in Biomedical Optics Discovery Research at *Mallinckrodt Inc.* in Hazelwood, MO. Bill currently consults at Saint Louis University Medical School to help the professors with chemistry issues relating to their research. Since many of the Principal Investigators in the Medical School do translational research, there tends to be strong chemistry components to their grant proposals. Some last minute news about Bill is that he will receive the 2007 St. Louis Award of the St. Louis Section of the ACS and you can read more about him and that on our web site.

**Ravi Kumar Laxman** Ph.D 1988 is now with *Air Liquide* in Fremont CA. He is Director for Business Development and is involved in marketing advanced electronic materials in the US. Since graduation in 1987 with a Ph.D under the direction of Gordon Anderson, and postdoctoral fellowships at Boston College, LSU-Baton Rouge and Guelph-Waterloo, he has spent his entire career working in the semi-conductor industry. His

first position was with *Air Products* in San Diego and he was with the company for 10 years. He spent two years with Novella Systems and most recently five years with *Advanced Technology Materials Inc.*, in San Jose before joining Air Liquide. He and his wife Vijai have two children. Daughter Chandrana is a first year pre-med student at Carnegie-Mellon University and son Ashwini is a high school senior getting ready to go to college.

**Susan D. (Corey) Frey** BS 1989 Susan Corey was living near Sundance WY but just bought a house near Spearfish SD, so we heard from Alicia Beatty

**Alicia M. Beatty** BS 1989 was our 2006 Distinguished Alumnae Lecturer. Details are given on later on. She is assistant professor of inorganic chemistry at Mississippi State University in Starkville, MS and we note she had a nice communication in *Chem Comm* earlier this year. A *SciFinder Scholar* search on her indicates that she has a very productive research record in her short career. We had an excellent visit and lecture from her last May and we are sure she has a great future.



**Gary Wester** BA 1989, MS 1992, is with *Pfizer, Inc.*, in Kansas City. The operation in KC is to be bought out so Gary has been exploring opportunities in the St. Louis area, although he is quite happy at Pfizer. His daughter was expecting his first grand child around Christmas so his wife is putting some pressure on him to move back to the St. Louis area!

**James R. Wheatley** BS 1989 is at *Kereos Inc.*, in the Center for Emerging Technologies in St. Louis now. He says he is doing well, having entered into marriage and child-rearing late in life. A young son and daughter (6 and 3) keep him busy, and the job at Kereos as an analytical chemist in method development (LC, LCMS) is something he really enjoys.

### 1990s

**Carl Von Till** BS 1991 was at the Alumni Reception in April. He is a chemist with *Intercon Chemical Co.* and does product development, process improvement and corrosion science.

**Shahidur Rahman** MS education 1991, who was a master's student with Dr. Barton prior to switching to the School of Education, is teaching chemistry at the Gateway Technological High School in St. Louis. He is a Bridge Program coordinator at UM-St. Louis. He spent a recent summer doing Alzheimer's research at Washington University. He served as an Advanced Placement Reader for chemistry in June at Clemson University.

**Stephen Fallis** Ph.D. 1992 is a Research Chemist in the Materials Chemistry Branch, Chemistry Division at NAVAIR in China Lake, CA. Steve was in the department in the fall.

**Jean (Huhmann) Vincent** BA 1992 (Ph.D 1997) who is with the *Research Laboratories at Air Products* in Allentown PA.,

had her second child this past year. Brady Christopher Vincent was born Friday, Feb. 10, 2006 at 5:30pm. He was 8lb 11 oz, 22in long, and looks just like his big brother Derrick.



*The old administration (Bellerive Country Club) building.*

**Sean A. Whitt** BA 1993 is with Pfizer Inc., in St. Louis.

**Timothy Desmond** BS 1994 is a Chemist I with the *American Bottoms Wastewater Treatment Plant* in Illinois. Tim and his wife Shannon and adopted a baby girl last April. Shannon was able to make it to the hospital in Winter Haven, FL for the birth of their daughter Allison last spring and they brought her home a week later.

**Sean Dingman** BS 1994 informed us that last year he had accepted a promotion at *Sigma-Aldrich* to Business Development Manager in their Fine Chemicals Division. He was to be working with Sigma-Aldrich's customers in the micro/optoelectronics and nanotech fields. His home base will be in St. Louis, so he and his wife are returning after over two years in the "rugged" climate of Milwaukee WI. However their move has been delayed. They have not sold their home in Milwaukee and his wife Renee is now doing an internship at UW-Milwaukee to finish her Masters in Rehabilitation Management. We saw Sean's picture in a Sigma Aldrich Brochure on solution-based molecular self assembly, which came in the mail last year.

**Dennis M. Kraichely** BA 1994 was recently promoted to Principal Research Scientist at Centocor Inc., near Philadelphia. When we heard from him he was busy as always, then teaching an on-line Chemistry course in the summer.

**Darrell Hastie** BS 1992, and his son Scott Hastie, a chemistry major here at UM-St. Louis, attended an ACS lecture in November 9 at St. Louis University and was able to meet Drs. Barton and Hal Harris, both of whom had both father and son in class.

**Christine Maupin** BS 1994 lives in New Orleans and is working for Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company in a Non-Metals Group. Her daughter Rylie is 7 months old now, and is very cute. She and her partner have a roofing business which has kept them very busy since the storm. She received a Ph.D degree at Michigan Tech with former UM-St. Louis faculty member Jim Riehl.



*Ted Windsor with high school students at ACS Career Day*

**Sohrab Abdollahi** Ph.D. 1995 is on the faculty at Payamnoor University in Iran. He returned to Iran after leaving UM-St. Louis and joined the faculty at Arak University. After 2 years he moved to the University of Payamnoor, one of the largest in Iran. In addition to his regular faculty duties, he has responsibility for interaction with petrochemical and other industries in Iran. He lives in Abadeh, a town in Fars County close to the famous and beautiful city of Shiraz, the city of the great poets Hafez and Sadi. This city is called city of followers.

**Abdul R. Khan** Ph.D. 1995, who received his Ph.D. at UM-St. Louis with Val D'Souza and then worked as a postdoctoral associate with Keith Stine and Val D'Souza, recently started a position at Tyco-Mallinckrodt following a long period of employment working for Mike Welch at Washington University School of Medicine.

**Cecilia Marzabadi** Ph.D. 1995 is Associate Professor of Chemistry at Seton Hall University. She was featured recently in Chemistry and Engineering News for her work in co-editing the book *Are Women Achieving Equity in Chemistry?: Dissolving Disparity, Catalyzing Change*.

**Siu Wa Au-Yeung** BA 1996 founded a small start-up company with his cousins in Toronto about six months ago, focusing on research on biomaterials. He enjoys Toronto finding it peaceful, clean and energetic.

**Eric L. Bruton** BS 1997, Ph.D 2003 is a Technical Lead at *Crosslink* in St. Louis. Crosslink, a leader in electroactive polymer materials, authored a presentation on its SuperFlex™ flexible lighting solution that was selected in January as one of the top five "Hot Talks/Cool Papers" at the *Materials Research Society* 2006 Fall Meeting. Eric presented the award-winning paper at the meeting among a total of about 5000.

**Susan Keenan** BA 1997 is Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Northern Colorado. She received a Ph.D. in Pharmacological and Physiological Sciences from St.



Susan Keenan BA 1997

Louis University Medical School in 2001 and spent 5 years doing postdoctoral research with former UM-St. Louis Chemistry colleague Dr. William J. Welsh at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. She describes her research interests as *Computational*

*Approaches to Questions of Human Disease* and she had been quite a

productive researcher, as indicated in her web page [http://www.unco.edu/nhs/biology/faculty\\_staff/keenán\\_susan.htm](http://www.unco.edu/nhs/biology/faculty_staff/keenán_susan.htm)

**Nathan R. Borgmeyer** BA 1998 is living in Cary, NC. After graduation he worked for *Progressive Inks* as a chemist. In 2001, he went to work in Racine, Wisconsin for *SC Johnson Polymer* as a technical service chemist. While there, he attended and graduated from Loyola University of Chicago with an MBA in international business in 2003. He then took a job in North Carolina in 2003 with *Reichhold Chemical* as a Technical Manager, and recently was promoted to Global Business Manager. He says he has left the technical side and gone to the "dark side" (business side). He misses the technical side, but the windows in the offices are bigger on his side of the building and the pay is more, so he says he may end up staying there!



Yana Levchinsky Grimmond BS 1997, MS 2000, Juan Mareque, Ph.D. 1999 and his wife Lyn in Edinburgh

**Isabel Vasconcelos** Ph.D 1998 was with Ecolab in Brazil but left and has been doing consulting work for them and some of their industry customers. She is also working in technical translation. Husband Luis and her children Lucas (5) and Maria Eduarda (2) are doing well.

**Elizabeth A. Amin**, BA 1996, Ph.D. 2002, has been a Research Assistant Professor in the Chemistry Department at the University of Minnesota, and a PI at the Minnesota Supercomputing Institute, however she was scheduled to begin a tenure-track position in the Department of Medicinal Chemistry (College of Pharmacy) there in January 2007, when her contract expires. Husband Massoud and she are enjoying life in the Twin Cities area; they find it similar to St. Louis in many ways. When we heard from her she was getting ready for her new position. She was planning to hire two postdocs this spring: one from startup funds, to work on a zinc metalloproteinase force field project, and one from her NIH R01 grant that got funded. She published two papers in 2006 and has been very busy applying for research grants.

**Yanina (Levchinsky) Grimmond**, BS 1997, MS 2000, come to the department with her husband Brian Grimmond, Ph.D. every year near the Thanksgiving Holiday. They live in Clifton Park in upstate New York; Brian is with *General Electric* in Schenectady and Yana is with *Regeneron Pharmaceuticals*, in Rensselaer. They visited Brian's family last summer and also **Juan Mareque**, Ph.D 1999 in Edinburgh. (see photo).

**Antonette de la Cruz** Ph.D. 1997 was in the department last fall. She is an Instructor in organic chemistry at Creighton University. In addition to her teaching, she is involved with the group WIMS (Women in Medicine & Science ) at Creighton. She also is very involved in professional tutoring, advising and mentoring programs and helps out in planning programs activities for women and their families.

**Hossein Shabbany**, Ph.D. 1998 attended the Alumni Reception in April. He is a Principal Scientist at the *Fleming Company* in St. Louis doing drug development work and we are pleased to see more of him these days

## 2000s

**Edyta Schranz**, MS 2001 and **Ingo Schranz**, who was here as a graduate student with Joyce Corey, had their third baby last year, this time a boy, Michael Brian. Ingo is an assistant professor of Chemistry at Henderson State University, in Arkadelphia, AR., and absolutely loves his job. Edyta's job is a bid harder than his because she is raising the children, running the household and home schooling them. They also have daughters Nicole who must be about 7 now and Emily who must be about 4 now. Ingo and Edyta have green cards now so Edyta is able to work outside the home and is teaching one lab a week.

**Robert A. Stockland** Ph.D 1999 presented a seminar in the department in March, titled "New targets for estrogen and androgen receptors". Robert is Associate Professor of Chemistry at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA, achieving tenure this past year. He has been very successful in his research at Bucknell; for example he published eight articles in the past two years.

**Michelle (Sharp) Toal** BA 1999, MS 2001 is at Pfizer in St. Louis and is married to Kevin Toal.

**Melissa Stuchell Brereton**, BS 2000, whose name we misspelled last year and for which we apologize, was to graduate this last December with a PhD at the University of Utah in Biochemistry. She visited the department in April and presented a seminar. We understand she has taken a postdoctoral position at Washington University.

**Paul B. Webb** Ph.D. 2000 was at the USDA lab in St. Louis but we understand he moved recently to *Reliable Biopharmaceuticals Inc.*, also in St. Louis. Paul won an award for some work he did with the USDA. As a consequence of 9/11 the laboratory was charged with getting assays up and running for several potential biological/chemical agents such as ricin, strychnine, etc. Paul was assigned to the ricin compound, which is a protein isolated from a type of bean. He ultimately used an ELISA method to assay for this compound, which he had to learn on the fly, but it did eventually work. They were able to assay down to pictogram amounts and for this work he earned an award from the government.

**Donna Andrauskas**, Ph.D 2000, who did her degree with Keith Stine, spent time as a Postdoctoral Researcher at Penn State, and then was in industry with Bio-Rad Laboratories, in Randolph, Massachusetts, with Newport Corporation, Irvine, CA, with EQ & EP Associates in San Jose, CA and most recently as a Contract Product Specialist with Intevac Corporation, Santa Clara, CA. We understand she is also doing some teaching now.

**Ricardo Delgado** Ph.D. 2000, who was teaching at Duchesne High School in St. Charles as well as at the St. Charles Community College and UM-St. Louis in the summer, has taken a position at Lindenwood University, effective fall 2006.

**Zhepeng Wang**, Ph.D 2000 is doing mass spectrometry at Washington University Medical School.

**Linyong Mao**, Ph.D. 2001 is now in the Electrical Engineering Department at Iowa State University as a postdoc working with Professor Julie Dickerson. He is doing computational systems biology for plants by integrating transcriptomics, proteomics and metabolomics.



*Rick Hoyt, BS 1975 with his wife Joan and Dr. Barton at the Murray Lecture Banquet last March.*

**Katherine Block**, BS 2001 is taking the Arizona heat in stride. She is in graduate school at the University of Arizona, working with Bogdan Olenyuk in the Chemistry department. He is a biological chemist who completed his postdoc in Peter Dervan's lab. Her work involves trying to block angiogenesis using small molecules as molecular switches to control transcription.

**Shiyue Fang** Ph.D. 2001 enjoys hearing news from news from the Chemistry Department. He is a faculty member at Michigan Technological University. He has taught three different classes so far and his student evaluations for these classes are all very good. A patent and a paper from Purdue where he did postdoctoral work just came out and two papers have been accepted from his work at MTU. These latter are important since they are his first ones resulting from his independent research.

**Henghu Zhu**, Ph.D. 2001 has been working for Pfizer as a Scientist since October, 2005 in Chesterfield. He is doing pharmaceutical R & D work in the Global Biology Department. He is pleased that he and his family obtained "Green Cards" in 2005.

**Justin W. Linsman**, BA 2002 lives and works in Caruthersville MO.

**Mesfin Janka** Ph.D. 2003 and his family have settled well in Kingsport, TN. They enjoy the small town environment. Their son is almost three and goes to pre-school twice a week. Mesfin really likes Eastman Chemicals. The work environment is very good. He says he is involved in high priority and highly confidential company projects and also supports the acetic anhydride plant. He tells us that his family is doing well and about to expand. His wife will give birth to their second child, by Cesarean section on February 12. They also moved in to a new house in January 2007.

**Peter Kpere-Daibo** BA 2004 is now living in Lexington KY doing graduate work with Dr. Hollie Swanson in the biomedical and molecular Pharmacology Department in the College of Medicine at the University of Kentucky. He was working on AHR receptors and ligand binding techniques when he contacted us last year.

**Jyothi Swami** Ph.D. 2004 is now at Sigma-Aldrich in St. Louis.

**Claire Brook**, Ph.D. 2004 was in the department recently. Since graduation she went home to England for a few months - her mother lost her strong fight against cancer in Oct '04. She found a temporary (contract) optional practical training position at Novus International (off-shoot of Monsanto, about 15 years ago) and worked the summer of 2005 for them, looking at metals in their animal feed supplements in quantifying them. She bought a house in Belnor, next-door to Jim Chickos and was married (to Frank) in Burbank, CA (Nov 2005). Her Green Card was approved so she started work back at Novus International last May. She says she is been learning lots and using GC, GC-MS, LC-MS, FT-IR in addition to the metal work she started earlier. She will be learning how to do ICP in the coming months and is really enjoying it - a steep learning curve but very rewarding. She just returned from a couple of weeks in the UK and hadn't been home for in 2 years due to the



immigration application process. She hopes to do some work with Wes Harris, her Ph.D advisor, measuring binding constants for her company's new feed supplements.

**Steven Lichtenberg** BS 2004 is at *Pfizer Inc.*, in St. Louis according to Mike Petetit



Chancellor George with Chung Wong and Peggy Hermes at the third annual Demchenko Chemistry Halloween Party

**Joseph Van Artsdalen** BS 2005 is working at *Reliable Pharmaceutical Co* and is in the MS program in chemistry at UM-St. Louis.

**Yoon Young (Eunice) Chung**, BS 2006 is working at *Mallinckrodt-Tyco Healthcare* in Hazelwood as an analytical chemist.

**James S. Banto**, BS 2006 is working at *Vijon* in St. Louis doing quality control work. After four months he moved to *KV Pharmaceutical Company*.

**Joy Duff** BA 2006 was pleased to hear that some of the undergraduate research work she did with Dr. Stine was published. Her home is in Yuma, Arizona, but because of a military transfer she is currently living in Florida, close to Destin and the Fort Walton Beach area, as a military wife. Her husband is there for training until June and then they will go back to Arizona. She is currently working in a temporary job, which isn't chemistry related.

**Anchalee (Thanavaro) Trankler** Ph.D. 2004 and **Kevin Trankler** BS 1998, Ph.D 2004 enjoyed the Alumni Reception. They live in Defiance MO and outside work they have been spending much time working on their house. Kevin is a Project Leader at *Chemir Analytical Services* in St. Louis and Amy is a Scientist II at *Steris Corporation* in St. Louis.

**Shu Yao** BS 2005 is now doing graduate work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Michael Petetit** BS 2005 was at *Steris Corporation*, in St. Louis, following graduation and then he spent six months at *Tyco-Mallinckrodt Healthcare* as an analytical chemist in the medical imaging pilot plant in Hazelwood. He has been at

*Monsanto* since and really enjoys it. He is working on Roundup chemistry.

**Kristina (Alderman) Thompson** BA 2005 is at Spectrum Brands and is considering applying to Pharmacy School. She was admitted to the MS degree program in chemistry here.

**Rachel Andrews** BA, 2006 is teaching chemistry at Bayless High School in South St. Louis County. She enjoys teaching and says she has learned so much from her first semester. To add to the stress of being a first year teacher, she is in her second semester of graduate school at Saint Louis University.

**Brett Cothran** BA 2006 is now in the MS degree program and working with Janet Wilking.

**Peng Xiong** Ph.D 2006 is doing postdoctoral research at Northwestern University with Professor Brian M. Hoffman.

**Bingli Yan** Ph.D 2005 continues her postdoctoral research with Dr. Kay Brummond at the University of Pittsburgh but is looking around for something else since the money will run out in May 2007.

**Pornsuriyasak Papapida** Ph.D 2006 is doing postdoctoral work with Dr. Demchenko, her doctoral adviser.

**Pallavi Badkar** Ph.D. 2007, the eleventh doctoral student to graduate from Chris Spilling's group, is working at *Sigma-Aldrich* in St. Louis

**Mehda Kamat** Ph.D. 2007 is doing postdoctoral research at Emory University in the Department of Surgery in the School of Medicine. She is working with Dr. Elliot Chaikof in glycoprotein engineering.

**Colin White** Ph.D 2007 is at Keele University in the English Midlands doing teacher training, and enjoying it.

**Hui Zhao** Ph.D. 2007 who completed her degree with Jim Chickos is working at *Monsanto* and also teaching in the department.

### Alumni Reception, April 2006.

A successful reception was held last April at the Alumni Center. Among those present were Chancellor George, several faculty colleagues, some University staff members and the following alumni. **Harold R. Messler** - BS, 1970, - **Mollie K. Freebairn** - BS, 1977, **Shari Keith** - BA, 1986, **Todd R. Boehlow** - BA/BS, 1991, Ph.D 1997, **Robert L. Dittrich** - BS 1976, **Michael Finkes** - BS, 1973, MS 1978, **Ronald Ackerman** - BA 1971, MS 1981, **Donald G. Hesse** - BS 1984, Ph.D 1988, **Kevin Koeller** - Ph.D. 1994, **Daniel Kleypas** - BS 1970, **A. Gregory Wall** - BA 1974, MS 1982, **Hossein Shabbany** - Ph.D 1996, **Carl Von Till** - BS 1991, **Janet B. Wilking** - BA 1985, **Patricia J. Barton** - BA 1977, **Justin W. Linsman** - BA 2002, **Steven J. Kolodziej** - BA 1987, Ph.D 1993, **Thomas Reinsel** - BS 1982, **George Limpert** - BS 1979, MS 1995,

**Kevin Trankler** - BS 1998, Ph.D 2003, **Amie Thanavaro** - Ph.D 2003 and **Bradley J. Rowe** - BS 1995, Ph.D 2003.

## Graduates, Dec. 2005 through Dec. 2006

### DECEMBER 2005

Jesse Meinhardt, BS

Patamaporn Umnahanant MS

### MAY 2006

Rachel Andrews, BA  
James T. Banto, BS  
Yoon Young Chung, BS  
William Hanshaw Ph.D  
Greg Papadakis MS  
Charulata Prasanna MS  
James D. Simpson, BA  
Mark Ulrich MS  
Kristine Witzel MS  
Nongnuch Sutivisedsak MS

Saibal Bandyopadhyay MS  
Aileen Bongat MS  
Adam Dion, BA  
Jonathan Laughlin, BA  
Pornsuriyasak Papapida Ph.D  
Archana Ramakrishnan MS  
Baljeet Singh, BS  
Chris Vaughn BS  
Fuquin Xie MS

### AUGUST 2006

Deepa Ajit, MS  
Nikkliana R. Crouse, MS  
Maria L. D. Udan, MS

Pallavi Badkar, Ph.D  
Sun Tao, MS

### DECEMBER 2006

Alan Bauer, BA  
Mark Chase, MS  
Leslie Manofsky, BA  
Hui Zhao, Ph.D.

Chloe Bryant, BA  
Medha Kamat, Ph.D  
Colin White, Ph.D

## The UMSL Chemistry Club

It has been an exciting year for the **UMSL Chemistry Club**. The group renewed its ACS Affiliate status and was chosen for an Honorable Mention Award that will be presented at the March 07 National ACS meeting in Chicago. The Chemistry Club was very active during 2006 year hosting 4 Student-Faculty Lunches, multiple National Chemistry Week events, co-sponsoring of the Heifer Project Halloween Party, and volunteering at the St. Louis Science Center. Members of the Chemistry Club prepared and presented a "Magic Show" chemical demonstration at two schools this past year. A year-end social event was held at the AMF Strike and Spare Lanes Bowling Alley. In Fall 2006 the Chemistry Club also organized a meet-and-greet hot dog BBQ on the Science Complex back patio.

## New Faculty Members

**Dr. Eike B. Bauer** joined the faculty in fall 2006 following a one-year position as Visiting Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Illinois Wesleyan University. Prior to that he was a postdoctoral researcher and group coordinator in the research group of Professor. Keith Hollis at the University of California,

Riverside. Dr. Bauer received his Diploma (M.S. thesis degree) and his Ph.D from the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg; the latter under the direction of Professor John A. Gladysz. He is an organic chemist with interests in organometallic chemistry, principally olefin- and alkyne-metathesis in the coordination spheres of transition metal complexes and phospho-metallocenes.



**Dr. George W. Gokel** also joined the department this fall as Distinguished Professor, Associate Director of the Center for



Molecular Electronics and Professor of Biology. Formerly he was Professor and Director of the Chemical Biology Program in the Department of Molecular Biology & Pharmacology at the Washington University School of Medicine. He has held appointments at the Central Research Department, *E.I. DuPont*

*de Nemours Co.*, Wilmington, DE., and faculty positions at Penn State, Maryland and Miami (FL). He received his BS degree at Tulane University, his Ph. D. degree at the University of Southern California with I. K. Ugi, and did postdoctoral research with Nobel Laureate Donald J. Cram at UCLA. He describes his research interests as chemical biology, using synthetic organic chemistry to prepare novel compounds that can serve as supramolecular receptors or that can function as do more complex natural molecules. They have designed and prepared a family of compounds that function as cation channels in phospholipid bilayers. Another family of structures mediate anion transport through membranes. In addition, they have prepared receptors that permit examination of weak intermolecular forces that pervade chemical and biological phenomena.

**Jingyue (Jimmy) Liu** joined us as Director of the Center for



Molecular Electronics and Professor of Physics and Chemistry. Professor Liu received his B.Sc. (Hons.) degree from Beijing University of Science and Technology, and his Ph.D. degree from Arizona State University. He was formerly Senior Science Fellow and Senior Research Manager at

*Monsanto*. He describes his research as nanoparticles or nanoparticle systems and advanced nanocharacterization techniques. Nanoparticles are defined very broadly here: metal and alloy clusters, semiconductor quantum dots, oxide nanocrystals as well as proteins, viruses and other nanoscale components of biological systems. Nanoparticle systems include

catalysts, displays, nanocomposites, nanosensors, etc. These advanced nanocharacterization techniques refer to electron microscopy, X-ray scattering/diffraction as well as a variety of spectroscopy techniques for characterization of nanophase materials and devices.

### Chancellor Thomas F. George's Message

I want to thank Dr. Lol Barton for allowing me space to report on the achievements of the university this fall. However, I would like to start off by welcoming George Gokel, Jingyue Liu, and Eike B. Bauer to the department and campus. Also, kudos to the chemistry department staff for securing more than



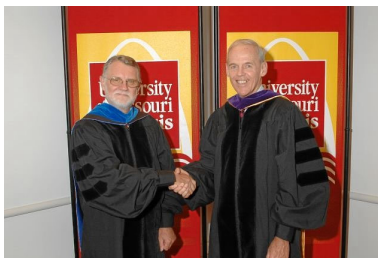
*Chancellor entertaining guests at the Governor's Mansion.*

\$2.4 million dollars of funding for their research. We've been busy too! UMSL has been "breaking new ground" in economic development, civic engagement and expansion efforts. In the past year, we've seen a significant increase in external funding due to enhanced donor support and equity funding. Donor support has doubled to \$14.6 million and the university is seeing progress in equity gap funding thanks to UM System President Elson Floyd, State Sen. Chuck

Gross and other state officials. The campus will receive funding totaling \$2.5 million during FY06 and FY07. External funding for research totaled \$29 million in 2006. At the end of the 2005-06 academic year, 3,000 students graduated from UMSL - that number included 862 master's degrees and 58 doctoral degrees - all record highs for the university. Oak Hall, a \$26 million, 228,000-square-foot residence hall, is the first residence hall built from the ground up on the UMSL campus. On-campus housing is vital to the sustained success of higher education institutions, and Oak Hall will give more students the chance to experience campus life at UMSL. We now have the capacity to house 1,400 students. In other developments, the International Center for Tropical Ecology at UMSL has been renamed the Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center at UMSL in recognition of Anna and Whitney Harris' support of the campus. The Harris' \$1.5 million will be used to implement and expand the mission of the center. The St. Louis Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will relocate its headquarters to Normandie Hall on the UMSL campus. The chamber relocation could result in new educational and business opportunities for the campus. And finally, construction continues on UMSL's Business, Technology and Research Park. The first tenant, Express Scripts Inc., expects to open its headquarters in April 2007. So again, I thank you for your hard work -- our economic development and civic engagement outreach only serves to strengthen the educational, career and social benefits of our students.

### The Faculty

**Lawrence Barton** is beginning a phased retirement in March 2007. He will continue teaching, undergraduate student advising and doing the alumni/external relations work for the department for at least three more years. Last year was an active and busy year. He still has research work to write up and in the summer he presented a paper and chaired a session at the *Tenth Boron in the Americas Conference* in San Juan Puerto Rico. He also presented a research seminar to the department in March. He chaired the successful search for a Director of the Center for Molecular Electronics and was pleased to have an important role in bringing both Jimmy Liu and George Gokel to the department. A highlight of the year was his introduction of



*Dr. Barton congratulates Senator Wayne Goode, honorary degree recipient in August 2006.*

former State Senator P. Wayne Goode at the Commencement where Goode received an honorary degree. Goode was the person who introduced the legislation that led to the founding of the UM-St. Louis campus. A statue of Wayne Goode, an avid cyclist, now stands in the plaza in front of the

Student Millennium Center at the confluence of a series of bike trails. Barton will be presenting an invited lecture and chairing the opening session of the ACS Inorganic Award Symposium in Chicago in honor of his friend, Sheldon G. Shore who received the award this year. He is still active in campus affairs and in the ACS both at the local and national level. Barton recently wrote a series of articles for the *Chemical Bond* on the award-winning tradition of the Local Section and he plans to write other articles as part of the celebration of the centennial of the St. Louis Section. The Bartons now have five grandchildren. Daughter Hilary, who currently lives in Ames Iowa, had a daughter Avalyn last June. Golf continues to be important and he and Pat spent a few days recently in Phoenix where fortunately he was able to play to his 17 handicap!

**Eike Bauer** has been with us for one semester and he certainly has added to the cosmopolitan nature of the department. He was born in Nuremberg, in Bavaria, where, he tells us, there is the highest concentration of breweries in Germany. He has taught regular and advanced organic chemistry and is working hard to get his research program going. Thus far he has recruited a graduate student and three undergraduates and even had crystal structures determined for some of his compounds. He presented a paper at the ACS meeting in San Francisco last fall and gave a talk at the University of Cologne in 2006. He lives near the University City-St. Louis border and sometimes takes MetroLink to work. He enjoys alternative rock music, movies and riding his mountain bike in the mountains in Germany.

**James S. Chickos** as the youngest of the old-timers in the department continues his most productive research program.

For example he published 13 research papers in the period 2005-2006. In July 2006 he gave an invited talk at the Thermo International 2006 meeting which was a joint meeting sponsored by NIST, ASME, AIChE, IUPAC and IACT in Boulder CO. During 2006, he biked along the Potomac River



Jim Chickos, receives the check from chair Alexa Serfis for the ACS St. Louis Award.

from West Virginia to near DC, he lost his first canoe on the Jack's Fork River, and lost power three times for a total of two weeks. Of course the highlight of the year was that Jim won the 2006 St. Louis Award of the St. Louis Section of the American Chemical Society and was honored with a symposium and banquet (see page 17).

**Joyce Y. Corey** spent a busy year with several travel misadventures. She attended the annual *Organosilicon Symposium* in May in Frankenmuth, Michigan and of the 4 flights to and from Midland she wasn't on a single scheduled flight. Since she was leaving the next day for France she was nervous about getting back to St. Louis. She spent two weeks in France traveling with friends who worked in the lab in Montpellier where she and Gene spent a sabbatical leave in 1982. She had a really good time seeing things that most tourists do not see. She spent her usual four weeks in Maine doing some more writing while making sure the tide came in an out each day and returned to St. Louis the day after the big wind storm, eventually arriving by bus about ten hours late. She was scheduled to leave for Spain for the 22<sup>nd</sup> *International Organometallic Chemistry Conference* (in Zaragoza) the following morning and had to pack her bag using a flashlight. That flight was substantially delayed by bad weather and re-routed. Wouldn't you know but the bad weather followed delays caused her to miss the last train from Madrid to Zaragoza. The conference attendance was expected to be about 600 but ended up with 1200 participants and thus had to be moved to a conference center about 20 miles away from Zaragoza. She and Janet Wilking spent about two and a half days in Madrid seeing 5 museums and 2 botanical gardens and walking – a lot. The rest of the year was relatively uneventful except for "the Ice Storm" the week after Thanksgiving which caused a lot of damage to the trees on the campus and power was out for many homes and businesses again.



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**Valerian T. D'Souza** carries a heavy teaching load these days leaving very little time for

research. He recently received an instructional technology grant to video tape techniques in the organic lab and put them on the web and the podcast server. He is teaching three sections of the organic lab this winter. He recently moved into a new house in Belnor, up the street from colleagues Demchenko and O'Brien. This past semester break he went to Dubai for a family reunion and last summer he went trekking in the Himalayan Mountains.

**Alexei Demchenko's** research program in the area of synthetic carbohydrate chemistry is going well. In 2005-6 his work resulted in 14 publications in top journals including *Journal of Carbohydrate Chemistry*, *Organic Letters*, *Letters in Organic Chemistry*, *Angewandte Chemie*, *European Journal of Organic Chemistry*, *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry*, *Chemistry European Journal*, *Journal of Chemical Education*, and *Carbohydrate Research*. In 2006, he gave 12 lectures at other universities and conferences, among which were invited talks at the 232<sup>nd</sup> *National ACS Meeting* and the XXIII<sup>d</sup> *International Carbohydrate Symposium* in Whistler (Canada). He serves as Member-at-Large of the Executive Committee of Carbohydrate Chemistry Division of the ACS and was invited to serve on the Editorial Advisory Board of *Carbohydrate Research* (Elsevier). Following the development of a symposium based book on "Frontiers in Modern Carbohydrate Chemistry", he was invited by Wiley to edit a comprehensive book on Chemical Glycosylation. His research program is currently supported by grants from the ACS-PRF, NSF, the American Heart Association, and the NIH. Currently, his research group (Glycoworld) consists of three post-doctoral fellows including **Papapida Pornsuriyasak**, (Ph.D 2006), six Ph.D. students, and several undergraduates. Members of the Demchenko laboratory, Glycoworld, delivered 13 posters at regional, national, and international meeting.

**Cynthia Dupureur** was busy this year giving lectures. She gave seminars at the University Vermont School and Medicine and stayed an extra day to try snow skiing for the first time. She also gave lectures at the University Louisville and Saint



Cindy with former colleague Don Becker

Louis University. She also attended two summer conferences, the FASEB Summer Conference on Nucleic Acid Enzymes in southern Vermont and the Enzymes Gordon Conference on held in Biddeford, Maine. She gave a poster talk there and also

spent time with former UMSL faculty member Don Becker (see picture). She was able to combine the meeting with vacation time at Acadia National Park and a quiet weekend eating lobster and visiting with Joyce Corey at her cabin in Friendship, Maine (see photo p. 15). In October, the Dupureur lab attended the *Gibbs Conference on Biothermodynamics* held in Carbondale, IL where two of her students presented posters of their work. Dr. Dupureur went west instead to give a talk at a regional NMR conference held in Lawrence, KS. Dr. Dupureur also found a new way to get published: a photo she took at Grand Teton National Park won Honorable Mention in the *2005 Post-Dispatch Travel Photo Contest*. She continues to be very busy serving as chair of the graduate recruiting and admissions committee in the department.

**Thomas F. George** in addition to a busy load running the campus also is an active researcher. He is a theorist and studies, in his spare time, laser-induced chemical physics, nonlinear optics, molecular collision dynamics, chemical reactions, energy transfer, molecular clusters/nanostructures, fractals, surface and solid-state chemistry/physics, high-temperature superconductivity and polymers. In 2006 he co-authored two books and edited another. He was co-author of 14 articles or book chapters, seven conference abstracts, gave four research seminars and was a co-PI on two grants, one from the NSF and the other from the Army Research Office. He is also editor of the *International Journal of Theoretical Physics, Group Theory and Nonlinear Optics*.

**George W. Gokel** presented several invited lectures in 2006 including the Keynote Address at the *International Study Group of Tryptophan Research* in July in Tokyo, Japan, a lecture in the *Symposium on Nano-medicine* at the ACS National Meeting, San Francisco in September, a lecture in the *Abbott Series in Synthetic Chemistry* in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Notre Dame in November and Departmental Colloquia at the University of Texas-Austin in September, William Jewell College, Liberty, MO, and Marquette University, both in November. He visited Tulane University in November as a member of the Science and Engineering Advisory Council. He is completing a three-year term as Editor of the *New Journal of Chemistry* but will remain on the Editorial Board and he is also a member of the Editorial Board of *Chem. Comm.*

**Harold H. Harris continues** to run the Chemical Education Resource Shelf for the *Journal of Chemical Education*, working with undergraduate chemistry majors. They are updating all of the bibliographic listings for the nearly 2000 books and software items in the archive in anticipation of the deadline for the annual Buyer's Guide, which appears with the April issue and are also getting ready to move the collection to the *Journal's* server at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The work will continue to be done at UMSL, but the archive will be produced using a more advanced database management system. Hal spoke about the Resource Shelf at the ACS National Meeting in San Francisco, as part of a symposium on pseudoscience in chemical education. Over the years, pseudoscience has been one of the featured topics of selections in Hal's Picks of the Month. Hal's

Picks also provides many of the selections for the *Journal's* "Summer Reading" recommendations, to which Hal has been



*Hal Harris works on his SKILL Project with teachers*

contributing since 1997. This year's recommendations will appear in the June 2007 issue. Hal's Pick for March, 2006 was a biography of Fritz Haber by Dietrich Stoltzenberg. A longer review by Hal was published in the November issue of *JCE*. His review of "Elegant Solutions" by Philip Ball, appeared in January, 2006. Hal and John Burroughs School teacher Mary Harris have a publication "Sorting Recycled Trash: An Activity for Earth Day 2007" expected to be published in the February, 2007 *JCE* issue. It is about recycling and is a contribution for the Earth Day focus issue. Hal is also Principal Investigator of a project to improve the teaching of science in "high-need" school districts in the St. Louis region. Working with co-PI's Charles Granger (Biology) and Wendy Saul (Education), Project SKILL (which stands for Science Knowledge through Inquiry Learning and Literacy), the project has enrolled nearly sixty 4-6 grade teachers. The goal is to improve the teachers' knowledge of physical science and their ability to incorporate literacy skills along with the science they are teaching. The project has been funded for the past two years by the Missouri Department of Higher Education, and Hal and his colleagues hope to obtain funding for at least another year or two.

**Wesley R. Harris** and his two current Ph.D. students, Sujittra Srisung and Rashmi Sharma attended the regional ACS meeting in Quincy, IL last November, where Sujittra presented a poster and they will be attending the National ACS meeting in Chicago in March, where Rashmi will be presenting a poster. Last April, he and wife Marion traveled to Vancouver, where he presented an invited talk in a symposium on Metal Ions in Blood. The symposium was associated with a new Blood Research Center at the University of British Columbia. Vancouver is one of their favorite cities, so it was nice to have a good excuse for another visit. In October, he and Chris Spilling traveled to Lexington, KY, to meet with collaborators in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Kentucky. Having collaborators in Kentucky has some ancillary benefits. In addition to discussing the ongoing project, he made a couple bucks betting on the horses, then promptly spent it all (and more) on a visit to a Lexington-area bourbon distillery. He recently heard from former group member **Rashmi Kaithavalappil**, MS 2005, who has moved

with husband Sachin and one-year-old daughter Riya from Memphis to Raleigh, N.C. In January of 2006, he became the Director for the B.S. and M.S. degree programs in Biochemistry & Biotechnology. The programs are doing well, which is putting more students into chemistry courses such as organic, quant, and biochemistry.

**Jingua (Jimmy) Liu** professor of chemistry and physics, delivered an invited presentation titled "Understanding the nature of nanostructured catalysts" at the 5<sup>th</sup> *Brazilian Materials Research Society Meeting*, which was held in Florianópolis, Brazil in October 8-12, 2006. Liu delivered an invited presentation titled "Nanotechnology and nanobiotechnology" at the 53<sup>rd</sup> *Midwest Solid State Conference*, which was held in Kansas City, Missouri in October and delivered an invited presentation titled "Nanoscale science & technology research in the Center for Molecular Electronics at the University of Missouri-St. Louis" at the 3<sup>rd</sup> *Missouri Nanotechnology Alliance Meeting*, which was held in Columbia, MO in October. One of his articles, "Scanning transmission electron microscopy and its application to the study of nanoparticles and nanoparticle systems", which appeared in the *Journal of Electron Microscopy (Tokyo)* in 2005 was the second most read article in that journal in October 2006.



Dr. Spilling with some of his doctoral graduates, left to right, Amy Thanavaro, Brad Rowe, Kevin Koeller, Hossein Shabbany and Todd Boehlow

**Rensheng Luo** is in his second year in the department and continues direct the departmental NMR laboratory. He has also been busy with preparing a proposal to the National Science Foundation for funding a new high-field NMR instrument. He co-authored two papers in 2006. One of which is in *Inorganic Chemistry*, where he implemented a new selective decoupling technique to identify the structure of new metallocarborane. The other one, in *Journal of American Chemical Society*, is from his previous work at St Jude. For outreach activities, Rensheng attended the GRASP Biomolecular NMR Conference at the University of Kansas and lectured on NMR at the *Solae Co.*

**Michael Nichols**, is in his third year on the faculty and is continuing his work on the biophysics and biological activity of the Alzheimer's amyloid beta peptide. Two new PhD students, Geeta Paranjape and Laura Adelsberger, will join current PhD

students Deepa Ajit, Nikkilina Crouse, and Maria Udan, and current undergraduate Rokas Juodeska in the laboratory. Graduating seniors during the year were Baljeet Singh and Rachel Andrews who both presented their research at the UMSL Undergraduate Research Symposium. Two-year lab member, Darcy Denner completed her MS in Biochemistry/Biotechnology and entered the SLU Medical School Biomedical PhD program in the Fall after working in the lab this summer. The Nichols Lab also hosted an undergraduate summer researcher, Kelly Watters. In 2006, Mike gave presentations at the FASEB summer conference, the Society for Neuroscience, and Truman State University. Mike and his group attended the Midwest ACS meeting in Quincy, IL where Deepa, Nikkilina, Maria, and Kelly presented their research. In July, Mike was awarded a 2-year national Alzheimer's Association New Investigator Research Grant.

**James J. O'Brien** received a grant from the Experimental Physical Chemistry program at the National Science Foundation to support the study "Spectroscopy of Pd and Pt Catalytic Mimetics". The work is a collaborative study with Professor Leah C. O'Brien at SIU-Edwardsville with a total budget of \$340,000.

**Nigam P. Rath** has been spending his time collecting data, solving structures and teaching regular and informal courses. With two available single crystal diffractometers the x-ray facility is able to provide the ability for the students to collect their own data, both for teaching and research purposes. Last summer he presented a poster titled "Solid State Structure of 1,2,3-Selenadiazole Derivatives" at the *American Crystallography Association Annual Meeting* in Honolulu. He has been trying to extend the collaborative research efforts to local academic and industrial researchers.

**Christopher D. Spilling** is continuing his research in the synthesis, reactions and synthetic applications of non-racemic hydroxy phosphonates. He received a 4 year grant of \$1+ million from the National Institutes of Health entitled "tetrahydrofurans, tetrahydropyrans and 2H-furanones". This grant uses the chemistry developed by Spilling and his group to synthesize some enzyme inhibitors targeted to hormone sensitive lipase and some furan containing anti cancer marine metabolites. He graduated the 11<sup>th</sup> Ph.D. student (**Pallavi Badkar**) from his research group last year. Pallavi is now working *Sigma Aldrich*. Graduate students Saibal Bandyopadhyay, Nongnuch Sutivisedsak, Donnie Smith, Hillary Goode, Raj Malla and Shobha Malgireddy continue in the research group. Spilling or his group made several presentations last year at venues including *Missouri Organic Day*, the *ACS National Meeting* in Atlanta and the *ACS Midwest Regional Meeting* in Quincy. Chris gave presentations at University of Texas Arlington and Texas Christina University. He also gave an invited presentation at the *Great Lakes ACS Regional Meeting* in a symposium honoring retired phosphorus chemist Sheldon Cremer.

**Keith Stine** was very pleased this year to receive funding of an NIH R21 proposal together with Alexei Demchenko concerning developing the use of porous gold as a support for carbohydrate synthesis and also for enzyme immobilization. Two

postdoctoral associates were hired over the summer to work on the project. Dr. Olga Shulga, who received her Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from University of Toledo and originally



Faculty colleagues Chung Wong and Rensheng Luo chat with Eike Bauer, a department guest at the Murray Lecture Banquet

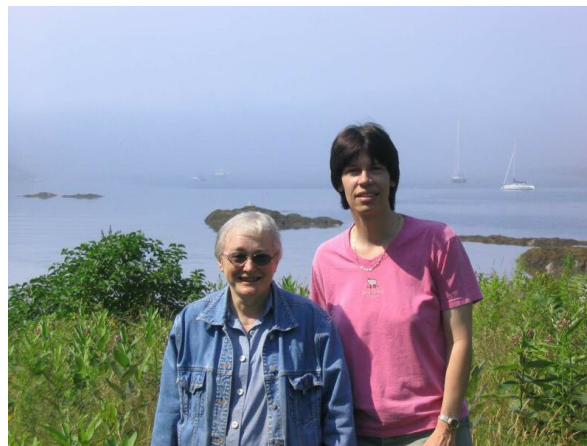
from Ukraine, is working on the physical and materials chemistry aspects. Dr. Maria Cristina Parlato, who received her Ph.D. from University of Siena in Italy, is working in the Demchenko lab on the synthetic aspects. Kenise Jefferson, who joined the department and then Dr. Stine's lab in 2005 as a Ph.D. student, will also be working on aspects of this project for her dissertation. A poster concerning initial results of porous gold preparation and characterization using SEM and AFM and enzyme immobilization was presented at the recent Midwest ACS meeting in Quincy. At the same meeting, graduate student Barry Walker presented a poster on his recent results on the interaction of glycoalkaloid compounds with monolayers. A paper concerning this research was published in *Journal of Physical Chemistry B*. Keith also presented a talk on studies of monolayers of triarylbenzene derivatives carried out by M.S. student Frank Dover that had been prepared by former UM-St. Louis graduate student **Mayuri Dighe** working with former departmental colleague **Chris Pigge**, both now at University of Iowa. Keith was able to visit Chris Pigge at the Quincy meeting and on a subsequent trip to University of Iowa. Over the summer, Elizabeth Bolton from Clayton High School, was a student in the STARS program in his lab. Earlier this year, Keith moved into the house previously owned by Chris Spilling and is thus now his neighbor since Chris moved to the larger house next door on Knollwood in Belnor, thus becoming the sixth chemistry faculty member in that neighborhood. Keith completed a fifth year as Secretary of the Local Section of the ACS and will become Chair-Elect of the Local Section in 2007.

**Janet Braddock-Wilking** had her first doctoral student graduate in August 2006. Colin White who formerly worked with Gordon Anderson was co-directed by Joyce Corey. Janet is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board for *Organometallics* and at the San Francisco ACS meeting in September she attended a special ceremony honoring the 25<sup>th</sup> year of *Organometallics* with editor, Dietmar Seyferth. She also presented papers at that meeting and at two other meetings this

year: 39<sup>th</sup> *Silicon Symposium* in Frankenmuth, MI, May, 2006, and the 22<sup>nd</sup> *International Conference on Organometallic Chemistry* in Zaragoza, Spain. She gave invited lectures at Missouri State University, University of California-Davis and Brock University in March-April 2006. She also participated in the NFTS (New Faculty Teaching Scholar program) during the 2005-06 academic year – a UM system wide program to support new faculty.

**Chung F. Wong** had a teaching break and took a research leave in the fall semester 2006. He took this opportunity to get more research work going, especially after his postdoctoral fellow Mingliang Wang took up a faculty position at Shenzhen University in China. Dr. Wang had a good start in his new job this fall and already received a grant from the Chinese National Science Foundation. Last summer, Drs. Zunnan Huang and Snehasis Chowdhuri joined the group as postdocs. This summer, Mary Jo Miller, an undergraduate from Truman State University, also spent some time working in the laboratory. She is planning to pursue further study in a pharmacy school and we wish her the very best in finding a suitable one to go to. Dr. Wong received a grant from the National Institutes of Health in July to support the study "Computer-aided Design of Anti-cancer Drugs targeting Protein Kinases". He also published two articles in the *Journal of Physical Chemistry* in 2006.

**Zhi Xu** and **David W. Larsen** have achieved another success in developing "Ultrasensitive Spectrophotometer." Their second commercial instrument was introduced into the worldwide market in spring 2006.



Drs Dupureur and Corey at the cabin Joyce has rented in Maine for 30 years.

### Former Faculty and Staff Colleagues

**Gordon K. Anderson** continues as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at East Tennessee State University. He continues to enjoy the variety of activities involved in his position. He has participated in delegations to China and Ecuador within the past 18 months aimed at developing student and faculty exchange programs. Gordon and his wife, Jayne, enjoy living close to the mountains and being within a few hours' drive of the ocean. He and the editor continue to correspond regarding football (soccer) events in the UK.

**Charles W. Armbruster** received a visit recently from **Don Kaesser**, BS 1967. Charlie tells us that he has now adjusted to living in a condominium after being in a house for so long and tending to his garden, etc. The editor and his wife Pat look forward to visiting Charlie next year when the editor is supposed to have more time for such things! We shall see!

**Eric Block** was on leave at Cambridge University from his position at SUNY-Albany, where he is *Carla Rizzo Delray Distinguished Professor of Chemistry*. He sent us a picture of him with wife Judy punting on the Cam.

**James P. Riehl** continues as Dean of Science and Engineering at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, and also as McKnight Presidential Leadership chair. He visited St. Louis on a golf trip last June and to the dismay of the editor beat him soundly on the golf course!

**David L. Garin** was one of 14 ACS local section Government Affairs Committee chairs invited to Washington in November to meet with Congressional representatives. During the two days, Garin attended presentations by ACS staff including President-Elect Catherine Hunt, and congressional staff members. He also had an opportunity to attend a farewell party for the outgoing chair of the House Science Committee. The purpose of the trip was to lobby for the American Competitiveness Initiative and to encourage lawmakers to pass the appropriations bills that fund science agencies during the "lame duck" session of Congress. They didn't. Garin claims it was the most fun he has had in Washington since he was a Congressional Science Fellow twenty five years ago.

**Robert W. Murray**, we are sorry to say, has had some health problems recently. However we are pleased to note that Bob and Claire were able to take their annual cruise with their Irish friends in January 2007. The Murrys and the Bartons occasionally get together for lunch and look forward to doing that again.

**Rudolph E. K. Winter** says that the highlights of 2006 were the birth of his fifth grandchild Robbie and the award of a Ph.D.



*The four doctors Winter: Wil, Rudi, Paul (Ph.D Chemistry, Colorado) and Margaret*

degree in political science to his son Wil in political science. Wil is also the father of the latest addition to the Winter clan. Rudi was proud to give us a photograph, shown here, which includes the four Doctors Winter. Rudi continues to run the Mass Spectrometry Facility and recently spearheaded, with chair Chris Spilling, a proposal to the NSF to upgrade the facilities. Although he spends much of his time in the department, continuing his research collaborations and doing mass spectrometry, he and Margaret are able to spend some time in Sarasota, Florida where daughter Liz lives with her family.

**Stuart W. Weidman**, who was here in the 1960s and is now living in Memphis, contacted us recently. He has had some heart problems and wife Marilyn has had both knees replaced but they still have been able to do some traveling including a couple of recent cruises.

**Gordon Kershman** is living in Harlingen, near Brownsville Texas. He was in the department earlier last year, He is enjoying retirement and doing volunteer work

### Adjunct Faculty

**James k. Bashkin** has been working hard to fund his program in prevention of cervical cancer with antiviral agents for human papillomavirus (HPV). He and his colleagues, who include **Kevin Koeller** Ph.D 1994, have designed DNA-binding molecules that recognize part of the HPV genome in a manner that should block viral replication. When human cells carrying HPV DNA are treated in culture with their DNA-binding compounds, they observe a dramatic decrease in the viral DNA per cell. They are working to extend this success to other clinically-important forms of HPV and to begin pre-clinical drug development in collaboration with NanoVir, LLC of Kalamazoo, MI and its Director of Biology, Dr. Chris Fisher. For this work Bashkin and Fischer received the "2006 National Roland Tibbetts award". And we just heard in that a major NIH grant for "Pre-clinical HPV 16 Antiviral compound Development" was funded. He also currently has two other NIH grants.

### The Robert W. Murray Lectureship

This departmental function continues to be the major event of the visiting speaker program and it enters its tenth year in 2007. We have been able to host some very distinguished chemists and again the past year was no exception. The speaker Fredric M. Menger, *Charles Howard Candler Professor of Organic Chemistry* at Emory University who spoke on "An Alternative View of Enzyme Action". This year Dr. Chad A. Mirkin, George B. Rathmann Professor of Chemistry at Northwestern University, will give the Tenth Annual Robert W. Murray Lecture on Monday, March 12, 2007.

### The Lawrence Barton Scholarship

This Scholarship is designed primarily for junior chemistry majors who are first generation college students and who have



some financial need. The endowment provided a stipend of \$1,500 and the 2006-2007 recipient was **Adele L. Pacquette**.



*Vally D'Souza with his friend, Murray Lecturer Fred Menger.*

### The M. Thomas Jones Memorial Fund

This Fellowship is the only endowment that recognizes performance by graduate students. It was initially funded through contributions from family, friends and colleagues of Dr. Jones and recently his widow Patricia Jones has made substantial contributions to allow us initially to endow it and very recently to improve it. Currently it is used to fund an annual award for the top graduate student seminar. The graduate students vote on this award and in 2006 the award went to **James Smoot** and **Colin White**. If you are interested in supporting graduate students, you are certainly welcome to designate your contribution to this fund.

### The Barbara W. Brown Fellowship for Women in Chemistry

This fellowship is designated for women students over the age of 24 and **Barbara (Willis) Brown** (BA 1984) established it.



*Bob Dittrick, BS 1975 and Mollie Freebairn, BS 1976 with Harold Messler, BS 1970 behind, at the Alumni Reception in April*

The 2005-2006 fellowship went to **Nicole A. Lubanowski**. Again, this is the only fund that is dedicated to the support of women students and you can designate your contribution to this fund if you wish.

### The Eric G. Brunngraber Undergraduate Research Fellowship

This Fellowship, which has existed since the late 1980s but was recently endowed by the family of the late Dr. Eric G. Brunngraber, supports undergraduate research. If you are interested in supporting this important aspect of the department's activities, you may designate your contributions to this fund. For 2005 the fellowship went to **Rachel Andrews** and for 2006 to **Kara M. Kinzel**



*Jim Smoot receives one of the M. Thomas Jones Awards from Dr. Spilling*

### The William and Erma Cooke Memorial Scholarship

This, the major endowed award in the Department, is designed primarily for sophomores. Dorothy and Al Greco endowed it in honor of Dorothy's parents William and Erma Cooke. **Dorothy (Cooke) Greco** received her BS degree in chemistry and **Alfred O. Greco** graduated with a degree in biology, both in 1971 and both went on to medical school and are now physicians. The Fellowship had provided support for two students annually now since 1992. In 2006 fellowships went to **Erin Brooks** and **Trang Truong**

### ST. LOUIS AWARD SYMPOSIUM

Again this past year a UM-St. Louis faculty member was honored with the ACS St. Louis Section Award. This spectacular event, sponsored by the St. Louis Section of the American Chemical Society and the University of Missouri-St. Louis, held in honor of the 2006 recipient, **Professor James S. Chickos**, took place on Friday April 22, on the campus in Benton Hall. Welcome and general introductions were made by Dr. Alexa B. Serfis, Chair, St. Louis Section. The editor introduced Dr. Chickos who served as symposium moderator. Jim made some introductory remarks and then introduced the

speakers. They were **Dr. William E. Acree**, Professor of Chemistry at the University of North Texas, who spoke on "*Applications involving and predictions of phase transition enthalpies*", **Dr. Joel F. Liebman**, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Maryland – Baltimore County, who spoke on "*What does thermochemistry tell us about chemistry?*" and **Dr. Timothy A. Keiderling**, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Illinois-Chicago who spoke on "*Isotopic substitution, conformational variation, spectroscopy and theoretical modeling; held together by thermodynamics*". The event was completed very nicely with a reception hosted by Chancellor Thomas F. George and his wife Dr. Barbara Harbach at the chancellor's residence. About 50 attended the symposium and about 30 the reception. On the following evening at the ST. Louis Award Banquet at Kemoll's Restaurant, Jim was formally presented with the award which consisted of a plaque and an honorarium of \$1,500. Jim is the eighth UM-St. Louis faculty member to win the award. The others are Bob Murray in 1972, Tom Jones in 1983, Joyce Corey in 1985, Lol Barton in 1991, Jim Riehl in 1992, Bill Welsh in 1998, Gordon Anderson in 2000 and Wes Harris in 2006.



Pat Barton BA 1978, Jim Chickos, Don Hesse BS 1984, PhD 1990, and Joyce Corey.

## Departmental Awards - 2006

### Undergraduate

The award for the **Outstanding Student in Introductory Chemistry** went to **Brooke Hess** who received a certificate and the Handbook of Chemistry and Physics from the Chemical Rubber Company. The **Award to the Outstanding Student in Sophomore Chemistry** went to **James B. Carroll** and the **American Chemical Society Award for Analytical Chemistry** went to **Christopher R. Vaughn** who received a certificate and a one-year subscription to *Analytical Chemistry*. The **American Chemical Society - St. Louis Section's Outstanding Junior Award** went to **Kara M. Kinzel** and **Rokas Juodeska**. The award was presented at the annual Awards Night during the ACS St. Louis Section's Chemical Progress Week. **Rachel J. Andrews** received the **Alan F. Berndt Outstanding Senior Award** and the **American**

**Institute of Chemists-Student Award Certificate**. William and Erma Cooke Scholarships for 2006-07 went to **Erin Brooks** and **Trang Truong**. The 2006-07 Undergraduate **Chemistry Aid to Education Awards** were given to **Erin M. Brooks**, **Rokas Juodeska**, **Kara M. Kinzel**, **Michael J. Lantzy**, **John J. Schmitz**, **Adele L. Pacquette**, **Trang Truong**, **Mary R. Anderson**, **Kevin J. Gaffney** and **Jennifer N. de Sotel**. The 2006-07 **Barbara Willis Brown Scholarship for Women in Chemistry** went to **Nicole A. Lubanowski**, the 2006-07 **Eric G. Brunngraber Undergraduate Research Fellowship** went to **Kara M. Kinzel** and the 2006-07 **Lawrence Barton Scholarship** went to **Adele L. Pacquette**. Finally **Certificates of Commendation for Outstanding Service** went to **Rokas Juodeska** and **Holly Pope**.



Dr. Spilling presents Rachel Andrews with the 2006 Alan F. Berndt Outstanding Senior Award

### Graduate

The 2005-06 **M. Thomas Jones Memorial Fellowships** went to **Jim Smoot** and **Colin White**. The 2005-06 **Graduate Student Research Award** went to **Medha Kamat**. A **Commendation for Excellent Performance by a Teaching Assistant** was awarded to **Saibal Bandyopadhyay** and **Maria Udan** and the 2005-06 **Graduate Teaching Assistant Award in Memory of Jack Coombs** was awarded to **Hui Zhao**. **Kristine Witzel** was the **Outstanding MS student**. Recognition to **Graduate School Fair Research Poster Winners** was accorded to **Colin White** for first place and **Ngamjit Praingam** for second place and to **Graduate School Dissertation Fellowship Recipients Medha Kamat** and **Hui Zhao**.

### Distinguished Alumni Lecture

The 19<sup>th</sup> **Annual Distinguished Alumni Lecture** was presented by **Dr. Alicia M. Beatty** BS 1989 who is now Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS. She spoke on *From "Dimethyl Tar" to Clay Mimics: a Sticky Path to Crystal Engineering*". Details about her can be found on our website under *Alumni News and Events*

Our Distinguished Alumni Lecturer this year will be **Mr.**

**Joseph P. Bono** BS 1969, (MA Political Science, 1979). Joe is currently the Laboratory Director of the United States Secret Service Laboratory in Washington, DC. He has had a distinguished career in forensic and related chemistry and will speak here on April 30. His topic will be *Forensic Science and the United States Secret Service Laboratory*. You are welcome to attend the Department Awards Function which begins at 3:30 pm in 451 Benton Hall followed by the lecture at 4:00 pm.

### Editor's Message (Lawrence Barton)

This will be a very different "Editor's Message" than the usual one since it is the last one I will write as a full-time regular faculty member. I am beginning a phased retirement this spring which formally will last three years although I expect the complete phasing-out will involve a much longer period of time. I presented the chair and the dean an offer that if I were to be replaced with an inorganic chemist, and be allowed to phase out my activities rather than stop them abruptly, I would retire. This was accepted and my duties will involve at the minimum some teaching and advising of undergraduates, alumni activities and external relations and other departmental service. Of course I will be writing the UMSL CHEMIST and maintaining contact with you all - to the extent that you allow it. We have identified my colleague Janet Wilking as the one who will eventually take over this latter task. With the exception of my contemporary old time colleagues, Hal Harris, Joyce Corey and Jim Chickos, the only others who came here in the period 1966 – 1970 and are still not retired, Janet has the longest history in the department, having graduated from here in 1985. When she does take over, I hope you will be as nice to her as you have been to me!

Having been in the department longer than anyone else and having served as chair for so long gives one a sense of ownership. However, as I begin this phased retirement it is very satisfying to see that the department is really moving in the right direction after some problems in recent years. We lost too many valuable colleagues between 2000 and 2006 but since then we added some new strength, many colleagues have been doing really well, we have excellent leadership and enrollment,



Alums Dan Kleypas, BS 1970 and Shari Keith BA 1986 at the Alumni Reception. In the background are Janet Wilking BA 1985 and Greg Wall BA 1974 (MS 1982).

at least at the undergraduate level seems to be climbing again. I recently communicated with a couple of students I met when I first came here. **Don Kaesser** was a TA with me in my first class and **John Thompson** was in the same group of students although he graduated a year later. Vignettes on them appear elsewhere but suffice it to say how wonderful it is to hear from them. Similarly I had some nice surprises at the Alumni Reception last April. To see **Mollie Freebairn** and **Tom Reinsel**, after so many years was a real pleasure. I have been cleaning out some file cabinets recently and came across about a foot's length of files of letters of recommendation for students. It is remarkable how many such letters I have written over the years. Anyway, after looking through them, I decided not to throw any away. In the early years here, I used to follow the fortunes of the soccer and basketball teams. In mid January the basketball court here was renamed, after it had been damaged and refurbished, in honor of Chuck Smith our first basketball coach and athletic director. Many of his earlier players were there to help honor him. They all had two things in common. They were certainly not young and most of them were very tall. One with whom I spoke for some time reminded me of something more than basketball but I could not recall him. Anyway, I found a letter I had written for him in the files I mention above. He had received two A grades with me while playing on the first basketball squad in the 1960s. Those who had me for courses, especially in those early years know that he must have been a very good student. Anyway, that is enough of reminiscing. I will be around for many more years.



Tom Reinsel, BS 1982

We have some important events coming up soon. On March 12 we have the tenth Annual Robert W. Murray Lecture. The speaker will be Chad A. Mirkin from Northwestern U. He was the 1999 winner of the ACS Award for Pure Chemistry. At the ACS meeting in Chicago we will hold a reception for alumni, faculty and

friends of the department, and in April we will have another Alumni Reception on campus. We expect that the chancellor will attend both events. A recent addition to our schedule will be the 2007 ACS St. Louis Section Award symposium in the department in honor of **William L. Neumann**, Ph.D 1988 – we just heard that my nomination of him was successful! And then on April 30, we have our Annual Departmental Awards Function and the Distinguished Alumni Lecture. This year the speaker will be **Joseph P. Bono**, BS 1969, Director of the US Secret Service Laboratory.

I continue to try to get our Alumni Advisory Board going but it has taken a back seat recently to other projects but I am determined to do it this year, with the help of **Barbara Brown**

BA 1984 and **Michael D. Finkes** BS 1973, MS 1978. If anyone is interested in participating, please let me know. Anyway, please keep in touch and let us know how you are doing. We appreciate hearing from you and reporting on your successes only furthers the good reputation of the department. Anyway here's to success in your personal and professional lives.



### Contributors 2006

Below we list all the individuals, chemistry alumni and friends of the department who made contributions to the department this past year. The list is very impressive and we are most grateful for your support. It appears that the number of contributors has gone up by 11% over last year and for that we thank you all. We have done our best to assure that the listing is up-to-date. If we missed out your name, we apologize and hope you understand that we are fallible. Recent gifts will be listed next year. We have included industrial matching funds and other such gifts but the listing of those contributions may be less accurate because that list is more difficult to assemble. Often the match comes in at a very different time from the original contribution.

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I wish to thank to **Patricia J. Barton**, BA 1978 and **Jim O'Brien** for taking many of the photographs, others for photographs, and **Professor Vally D'Souza** for help with the formatting, the Graphics and Printing and Services Office for being so cooperative and helpful over the years.



The collage, for want of a better word, shown above was put together in about 1987 by a group of graduate students who called themselves the Fabulous Four. They plagued me with a series of practical jokes and it was never quite clear who they were. I got into trouble for suggesting that Bill Shiang was one of them. My list of suspects includes Steve Fallis, Bill Neumann, Humy Ateeq and Jim Roble. I may be wrong and if so I apologize. Anyway, I challenge readers to see if they can identify those depicted above. They include Elvis Presley, Joyce Corey, Gene Corey, Jim Chickos, Dave Larsen, Gordon Anderson, Bill Shiang, Rudi Winter, Lol Barton, Steve Lawrence, Dave Garin, Hal Harris, Bob Murray, Charlie Ambruster, Jim Riehl, Mike Sworin, Bill Neumann and Tom Jones. In the background, somewhat obscured, are possibly Dawn Shiang, Kathy Fallis, Dee Lange, Jim Roble and Jane Miller.

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 University of Missouri-St. Louis  
 St. Louis, MO 63121

**INFORMATION UPDATE 2007**

Please respond to this questionnaire. We have mentioned previously how important it is for us to keep track of what you are doing, both professionally and personally.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ UMSL Degree \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Current mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Recent Activities: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Other News: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

News of other alumni: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_