

July, 2006

Dear Chemistry Alumni:

We want to tell you what is happening in the Chemistry Department at Valparaiso University, and we also want to let you know about your classmates.

Dr. Warren Kosman will be continuing research in odor abatement, this time holding down odors at dredging sites. Unfortunately a Phase II proposal to the USDA was not funded. It was to help continue a collaborative research effort with Purdue University with removing the odor from swine manure. **Dr. Steve Engerer** has junior student **Cathy Nelson** working with him this summer on the reaction of iron carbonyl halide with amines and comparing these results with those of previous students using manganese carbonyl halide. **Dr. Engerer** has two daughter attending VU, one of whom is a chemistry major. **Dr. Kevin Jantzi** on the synthesis of several epoxides and aziridines that can be used as precursors for the Pd(0)-catalyzed trimethylenemethane reaction that was developed by Barry Trost. **Dr. Martin Erhardt** is working to create micron-scale patterns on solid surfaces using “soft-lithographic” methods, in which elastomeric stamps and molds, rather than traditional photolithographic tools, are used to pattern surface features.

Dr. Tom Goyne is working this summer with VU senior **Deborah Steffen** and junior **Amanda Nosie** on a DOE-funded project elucidate the mechanism by which bacteria reduce plutonium ions. Once this team has successfully isolated peptide fragments from potential metal-reducing enzymes, they plan to collaborate with **Dr. Karl Wood** (VU '73) at Purdue University on the mass spectral analysis of these fragments. During the past two academic years, **Dr. Goyne** has taken his biochemistry lab students to Purdue Univ. to do mass spectral analysis of lactate dehydrogenase samples that the students isolated from beef or chicken muscle. This opportunity has been made possible thanks to **Dr. Karl Wood**, Director of the Purdue Campus-Wide Mass Spectroscopy Facility. **Dr. Jon Schoer** spent two and one-half weeks in China this summer with the VU Faculty Development Tour. He has two students, seniors **Shelly Schmeltz** and **Ashley Coulter**, working with him on a water quality project of the Valparaiso Chain-of-Lakes watershed north of town. This project is sponsored by the Indiana Lakes Management Society and the Indiana Division of Natural Resources. **Dr. Schoer** will be introducing a course on the *Introduction to Forensic Science* this Fall Semester. Although **Dr. Gil Cook** is officially retired from teaching, he still teaches some.

He taught the first semester of physical chemistry last Fall Semester while **Dr. Kosman** was on sabbatical leave, and he will be teaching second semester organic chemistry next Spring when **Dr. Goyne** will be on sabbatical leave. As Senior Research Professor he continues on with his research, primarily with enamines, but he recently submitted a paper on a Knoevenagel initiated reaction under microwave reaction conditions.

Dr. Mike Bradley, former VU analytical chemistry professor, is still working with Thermo where he is the Core FT-IR specialist. **Betty Conley**, office manager for Neils Science Center for many years, retired in July, 2005. Her place has been taken by **Lynn Wellsand**.

Graduating senior **Matt Augustine** was elected to the Academic All-District Baseball team. The VU chapter (Beta Sigma) of *Phi Lambda Upsilon*, a national Honorary Chemical Society, inducted 15 new undergraduate members at the annual **Chemistry Awards Banquet**. The new members are **Erin Arndt, Keith Aumend, Alexis DiSilvestro, Mayella Kuikhoven, Ariana Mankerian, Sara Mar, Ruth McAlonan, Steven McGreal, Jonathan Meyer, Catherine Nelson, Daniel Pernoud, Leah Phillippi, Michael Stachnick, Amanda Taticek** and **Ryan Vector**. The speaker this year was **Sharon (Drabik) Rockwell ('73)** who is a Regulatory Affairs Certified consultant with over 30 years experience in the medical device industry. She had worked as a Vice President of Quality Assurance and Regulatory Affairs for three companies. She spoke on "Plan to Pursue Your Passion". Other awards given at the banquet were as follows: **Kimberly Kolstedt** (Elburn, IL) received the **CRC General Chemistry Achievement Award**; **Petra Malova** (Bratislava, Slovakia) received the **Undergraduate Award for Achievement in Organic Chemistry**; **Stephen Holcomb** (Tinley Park, IL) received the **Undergraduate Award in Analytical Chemistry**; **Amanda Taticek** (New Berlin, WI) received the **Charles W. Wolf Memorial Scholarship**, awarded to the outstanding junior premed-chemistry major; **Erin Arndt** (Ft. Atkinson, WI) received the **American Institute of Chemists 2006 Award**; **Evan Roller** (Canton, MI) received the **Outstanding Senior Chemist Award**.

In addition to these awards, our chemistry majors received other honors. There were eight senior chemistry majors who were elected to the Eta of Indiana Chapter of the *Phi Beta Kappa Society*. These chemistry majors were **Erin Arndt, Matt Augustine, Pauline Campbell, Miriam Conces, Alexis DiSilvestro, Dana Hommel, Richard Humeniak, and Elizabeth Jagodinski**. The **Laurel Award** was given to **Evan Roller** (tennis) at the Student Athlete Academic Honors Banquet. The award is presented to the graduating senior with the highest cumulative grade point average. **Jessica Schultz**, a junior chemistry major who plays on the softball team, was selected by the NCAA to represent Valpo at the NCAA 2006 Leadership Conference. The following six seniors graduated *Summa Cum Laude* (GPA of at least 3.8/4.0): **Erin Arndt, Pauline Campbell, Miriam Conces, Alexis DiSilvestro, Elizabeth Jagodinski** and **Evan Roller**.

There were 12 chemistry alumni who came to the **27th Annual "Standup" Luncheon**. Be sure to stop by for the **28th Annual "Standup" Luncheon**, which will be held in the lobby of Neils Science Center on Homecoming Saturday, September 30, 2006 from 11:00 AM through 1:00 PM. Be sure to stop in and chat with us and with your former classmates. On the preceding day, Friday, September 29 we will be having the **10th Annual Premedical Lecture**. This year, **Dr. Annette Schlueter ('84)** will be the speaker. Annette obtained an MD and PhD from Univ. of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) and she is now Associate Professor, Assistant Medical Director, DeGowin Blood Center and Head of Transplant Services at Univ. of Iowa College of Medicine. Last year's speaker was **Dr. Stephanie Kapfer ('91)**.

The Chemistry Department Seminar meets weekly, and we have had some of our alumni as speakers this past year. These alumni speakers were: **Erica Duguid ('02)**, graduate student at the Univ. of Chicago; **Eric Kolodziej ('91)**, Vice President of Quality and Compliance, Perrigo Global Consumer Healthcare; **Karen Switek ('00)**, graduate student at Univ. of Minnesota; **Sandy Rosenthal List ('87)**, Chemistry Professor at Vanderbilt University. Sandy talked about her White Light Emitting Diodes discovery to an Interdisciplinary Seminar (biology, chemistry and physics). **Jonathan Carlson ('97)**,

who just received his PhD and MD from the Univ. of Minnesota, also gave a chemistry seminar this Spring.

The ISIS Program (Initiative for Schools, Industries and the Sciences) is continuing on with providing modern instrumentation to the middle and high schools in Northwest Indiana. The instruments that are being delivered to the schools are IR spectrometer, UV/visible spectrometer, gel electrophoresis, atomic absorption spectrometer, and gas chromatography with either a thermal conductivity detector or a mass spectrometer detector.

News from the classes is as follows: **Carl Brighton ('53)** is the recipient of the 2005 Distinguished Graduate Award (the highest award bestowed upon alumni) from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Carl was recognized for his extraordinary work in the field of orthopedics and his contributions to the study of orthopedic surgery. **Arlene (Leth) Camp ('55)** received an MA in education from Northern Arizona Univ. in 1992 and has been teaching at Mesa Community College. **John Poncher ('57)** received a 2005 Legacy of Service Award from the Greater Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce for his contributions to the community and to those in need. **Bob Horvat ('62)** received an M.S. in chemistry from Univ. of Kansas in 1969, and a Ph.D. in Curriculum & Instruction (Science Education) from Univ. of Wisconsin (Madison) in 1974. He spent 30 years teaching, 27 of them at Buffalo State College where he was department chair for 9 years. He taught mainly environmental science classes. Bob is now Professor Emeritus of Science Education at Buffalo State College. **Tom Evans ('62)** retired from Dow in 2005. **Roger Fuelster ('63)** retired as Senior Forensic Chemistry with the Drug Enforcement Administration in Chicago after working there for 42 years. **Jim Volk ('68)** has been practicing general pediatrics in Hendersonville, NC for the past 30 years. He and his wife have been to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan 5 times over the past several years. They serve with the mobile medical van which provides medical and dental care to children and pregnant women in some of the smaller cities near the capital – Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. There is a need for volunteers to work with the Kyrgyz medical and dental staff that operate the van on a daily basis. They need CME and encouragement to continue to provide care for a desperately poor population. Any dentists, pediatricians, or obstetricians who may wish to volunteer for this type of service can contact Jim at jvvolkmd@ioa.com or they can get info from LCMS World Missions. **Bob Clausen ('69)** is an allergist and immunologist in South Bend, IN. His practice, in addition to serving people with allergies, asthma and immunodeficiencies, also provides care for more than 250 individuals in North Central Indiana who are living with HIV.

From the 1970's comes the following news: **Robert Vedder ('70)** is a practicing dentist in Ohio. He wrote a book entitled "Some Physical Properties of Polyvinylsiloxane" in 1991. He is a member of the American College of Dentistry and the International College of Dentistry. **Ron Clark ('70)** died in 2004. **David Nunley ('71)**, after graduating from the Oregon Health Sciences Univ. and a lengthy surgical residency, practiced cardiac and thoracic surgery in Northern California for many years. He retired five years ago and now while away the hours motorcycling across the country, fiddling with computers, publishing two on-line newsletters, working around our small ranch, and his latest avocation – geocaching. **Gary Ahnquist ('72)** practices obstetrics & gynecology in Kentucky, is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha Honors Medical Fraternity, is a Fellow in the American College OB-Gyn, and is Assistant Clinical Professor at Univ. of Kentucky. As mentioned above, **Sharon (Drabik) Rockwell ('73)** spoke at the 2006 VU Chemistry Honors Banquet. **Kurt Kroenke ('73)** research concern best practices in the identification and treatment of psychiatric conditions, particularly those that co-occur with medical conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic pain. **Layne Gobrogge ('75)** is the vice president of marketing for Proliance International, a New Haven based manufacturer of automotive heating and cooling products. **Craig Backs ('78)**, practicing internal medicine in Illinois, was sworn in as president of the 14,000-member Illinois State Medical Society in 2005.

From the 1980's comes the following news: **Tim McCurry ('80)** spoke at VU's Premedical Arts Colloquium in 2006. His daughter will be attending VU this Fall. **Rich Trubey ('80)** works for

Sundstrand Corp. in Pomona, CA. He designed a mobile laboratory for the Dept. of Homeland Security. **Chris (Bruesehoff) Sturgeon ('82)**, along with being a forensic chemist with the Indiana State Police Lab in Lowell, IN, has been in the 14-16th Century Duneland Early Music Consort for 20 years. **Bill Schuh ('84)** practices internal medicine in Urbana, IL has written a new book entitled "Gathering Pearls" which is available through pdbookstore.com or Bill's web site parablesoftoday.com. I would encourage you to visit his web site. It is very interesting. **Mark Sutton ('85)** is Director of Environmental Affairs, Handy & Harman Electronic Materials Group in Indianapolis, IN. **Doug Franke ('85)** is practicing internal medicine with The Care Group in Indianapolis, IN. **Sandy (Rosenthal) List ('87)** spoke at a VU Interdisciplinary Seminar as described above. **Eric Bittner ('88)** is an associate professor of chemistry at the Univ. of Houston.

From the 1990's comes the following news: **Frank Jaksch ('91)** is first author on the "Handbook of Analytical Methods for Dietary Supplements" which was published in 2005 by the American Pharmacists Association. His company, ChromaDex, made the INC magazine 500 fastest growing companies in America at #305. **Erin Mangan ('91)** joined Searle as a medical sales representative in 2000 and was shortly acquired by Pharmacia. Since then we were acquired by Pfizer. Since that point she received a promotion out of sales into Pfizer Medical providing medical support for Pfizer's Pain and Arthritis portfolio. **Karen (Leonard) Looney ('91)** is the manager of several quality control laboratories at Eli Lilly in Indianapolis. **Jacob Hogue ('91)** has graduated from the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences with an M.D. **Matt Nelsen ('92)** practices internal medicine and pediatrics in Carmel, IN. **Tracy (Inskeep) Rahall ('92)** is on the teaching faculty for Ohio University School of Medicine in Columbus and is teaching emergency medicine to residents at Doctors Hospital. **Ann (Stien) Schwartz ('92)** is Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Emory University. **Brandon Epting ('93)** supervises the Technical Services Department of Hu-Fried, the worlds leading designer and manufacturer of hand held dental instruments. **Carmen (Mann) Hampson ('94)** obtained an ND (nursing clinical doctorate) from Rush in Chicago. She is serving as the Family Nurse Practitioner at the Chicago Christian Industrial League. The Visiting Nurses Assoc. granted her an award this year. **DeeAnne Goodenough-Lashua ('94)** is teaching biochemistry and bioorganic laboratories at Notre Dame. **Tracy (Weese) Mitchell ('94)** has tenure as a professor at Wright College in Chicago. **Patti (Disparte) Smykal ('94)** has finished her 10th year of teaching, and she is now teaching honors chemistry and regular chemistry at Neuqua Valley High School in Naperville, IL. **Karen (Getlinger) Kritsch ('95)** lives in Madison, WI, and is an outpatient transplant dietitian at the Univ. of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics. **Tamara Woodworth ('95)** completed her pediatric residency training at Indiana Univ. School of Medicine in 2004. This past year she has been working as a board certified pediatrician and clinical instructor of pediatrics in the emergency room at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. **Jeff Bakke ('96)** graduated from Michigan State Medical School, did a residency in family practice, and is now practicing in Minnesota. He married **Leanne Pettit ('96)** who obtained a Ph.D. in physiology at Michigan State. **Gail (Mullarkey) Valtier ('96)** is production control manager at Intel in Arizona. **Jonathan Carlson ('97)** as mentioned above spoke at VU Chemistry Seminar this Spring. **Brian Lenz ('97)** is a research chemist at Georgia Pacific Resins, Inc., Bedford Park, IL. **Suzanne Nutter ('98)** is on leave from Eli Lilly to obtain an MBA degree from Harvard. **Matt Chambers ('99)** is employed at Agdia, Inc. **Steve Boskovich ('99)** is in an emergency medicine residency at Midwestern University. **Tanya Smutka ('99)** obtained an M.S. from Univ. of Minnesota. **Nicole (Beauvais) Cornish ('99)** live in Chicago where Nicole works as an organ procurement coordinator at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Department of Transplant Surgery. **Mandy (Pencek) Dornfeld ('99)** has finished three years of residency at Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie, IN. **Andy Makowski ('99)** is emergency medical resident at the Medical College of Wisconsin and a graduate student in bioethics at Loyola University. **Chris (Schering) Pruis ('99)** is teaching organic chemistry at Arizona State University where she was nominated for the Dean's Distinguished Teaching award. She had to be nominated by the students.

From the 2000's comes the following: **Pam Kreeger ('00)** is doing postdoctoral work at MIT. Her project is to develop a model of how ovarian cancer cells integrate signals such as growth factors resulting in phenotypes such as proliferation/invasion. She will be getting married soon. **Karen Switek ('00)**, as mentioned above, spoke at a VU Chemistry Seminar. She got married in March, obtained her Ph.D. from Minnesota, and now is working for TransForm Pharmaceuticals in Boston. **William Porter ('00)** will be starting a postdoctorate at the Univ. of Michigan after obtaining a Ph.D from Washington University (St. Louis). **Nate Bowling ('00)** is doing a postdoctorate at Univ. of Illinois. **Allison (Witt) Sommers ('01)** is working as a research specialist in a genetics lab at Univ. of Illinois while her husband completes his work for a Ph.D. degree. **Neha Bhatnagar ('01)** is working for an Indianapolis company called Maetrics as a validation consultant. **Aster Kammrath ('02)** continues her graduate school work at Univ. of California (Berkeley). **Sarah (Much) Hinck ('02)** is a physical therapist at Courage Center in Minnesota. **Carly Kemmis ('02)** is a graduate student at Notre Dame. **Doug Knepper ('02)** is an analytical chemist at Accra Pac, Inc. **Lauren Urbanczyk ('02)** is attending Northwestern Univ. Graduate School. **Angela Kurtz ('02)** will start a family medicine residency at Mayo Clinic after obtaining a M.D. from Univ. of Utah. **Katrina (Steele) Towne ('02)** has finished pharmacy school at Purdue and took a job with CVS in Anderson, IN. **Leah (Keehr) Anderson ('02)** graduated from Mayo Medical School, had a baby boy, and will be doing a three year family practice residency in Duluth, MN. **Terry Medler ('02)** obtained an M.S. in biotechnology from Johns Hopkins Univ., and he is now working on a Ph.D. in cancer biology at Northwestern Univ. School of Medicine. **Elisha Robinson ('02)** is attending Univ. of Illinois College of Medicine. She has worked as a teacher's assistant and a student tutor in the Urban Health Program. **Allison (Broadstone) Bergdoll ('03)** will be graduating from dental school in about one year after which she plans to apply to a graduate school program. She is doing research and has had the opportunity to present at a couple of conferences including the American Association of Dental Research conference. **Mike Lindow ('03)** is attending Univ. of Minnesota Medical School-Duluth. **Claire Peeples ('03)** is attending Loyola Medical School. **Holly (Hepker) Little ('03)** will be joining her husband **Nate ('03)** this fall at Loyola Medical School. **David Kelley ('03)** is attending Loyola Medical School. **Julie Waddle ('03)** is continuing her studies at Indiana Univ. College of Medicine. **Nicole Paloncy ('03)** is a forensic scientist with the Indiana State Police Laboratory in Indianapolis. **Lisa (Holmes) Zittergruen ('04)** is attending Univ. of Iowa Medical School, and this summer she is in Guatemala learning Spanish and working in medical clinics. **Brian Linert ('04)** has just finished his second year of medical school at Indiana University School of Medicine. **Kristi (von Trebra) Weber ('04)** is in the middle of a three-year Doctorate of Physical Therapy at Marquette Univ, and her husband **Chris ('04)** is in his second year at the Medical College of Wisconsin. **Nicole Kenyon ('04)** finished her 3rd year as a pharmacy student at Midwestern University. **Chrissy Gnadl ('04)** is doing research at Brigham & Women's. **Kelly Lenehan ('05)** lives in Liverpool, England and has a position at the University of Liverpool Haematology Dept. doing leukemia research.

The future plans for some of the 2006 graduates are as follows: **Erin Arndt** will be attending graduate school in material science at Minnesota. **Matt Augustine** and **Pauline Campbell** will also be attending graduate school at Northwestern and Indiana, respectively. Attending medical school next year are **Alexis DiSilvestro** (Pennsylvania), **Dana Hommel** (Loyola), **Elizabeth Jagodinski** (Washington Univ.-St. Louis), **Evan Roller** (Cincinnati) and **Kerri Nanney** (Kansas).

Again, I encourage all of you to stop in to see us when you come through (or near) Valparaiso. At least drop us a note either written or by E-mail so that we know what you are up to these days.

Sincerely,

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