DEPARTMENTAL AND COLLEGE HONORS AND AWARDS

2007
Mia Lace T. Huang  Stanley G. Konkol Memorial Award, Chemistry and Biochemistry Service Award, CRC Press Handbook of Chemistry and Physics Award, Departmental Honors
Navea C. Pincus  Stanley G. Konkol Memorial Award, Departmental Honors
David Bokuloh  Ira M. Goldin Memorial Award, Departmental Honors
Maiang Z. Chen  Maxwell L. Edinoff Scholarship, Departmental Honors
Menasch S. Moskowitz  Maxwell L. Edinoff Scholarship, Departmental Honors
Michael H. Kirschenbaum  Trudy Rothman Chemistry Award
Jorge Luis Ubillus  Trudy Rothman Chemistry Award, Departmental Honors
Menachem S. Moskowitz  Maxwell L. Edinoff Scholarship, Departmental Honors
Miriam Ginzberg  Stanley G. Konkol Memorial Award, Chemistry and Biochemistry Service Award, 2008
Maung Z. Chan  Maxwell L. Edinoff Scholarship, Departmental Honors
Nava C. Pincus  Stanley G. Konkol Memorial Award, Departmental Honors
Polina Pinkhasova  The Kenneth Kupferberg Memorial Scholarship
Sara L. Burgdorf  Trudy Rothman Chemistry Award
Bithi Roy  Maxwell L. Edinoff Scholarship, Departmental Honors
The Molly Weinstein Memorial Award (speaker at College Baccalaureate Honors Convocation)

2008
Miriam Ginzberg  Stanley G. Konkol Memorial Award, Chemistry and Biochemistry Service Award, CRC Press Handbook of Chemistry and Physics Award, Departmental Honors, The Molly Weinstein Memorial Award (speaker at College Baccalaureate Honors Convocation)
Gina M. Moriarty  Jerome Schalman Award (new award—see Alumni News)
Bibi Roy  Maxwell L. Edinoff Scholarship, Departmental Honors
Sara L. Burgdorf  Trudy Rothman Chemistry Award
Polina Pekhlasava  The Kenneth Kupferberg Memorial Scholarship, Departmental Honors
Zaifor M. Ahmed  Departmental Honors
Ashana Karaluna Sestahl  Departmental Honors

Queens College
Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry
65-30 Kissena Blvd.
Flushing, New York 11367

The Newsletter returns after a one-year hiatus, following a busy and tumultuous period at both the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and CUNY. During the past two years the department has hired four new faculty members, the new chemistry building—known as the Remsen Annex—has risen, much new equipment has been installed, and CUNY has initiated major changes in the doctoral programs. Through all of this, the department has initiated major changes in its undergraduate programs, and is about to submit a substantial restructuring of its major.

New Faculty

The department has hired four new faculty members, with two more anticipated in the next two years; some of the new hires are replacements for two junior faculty who resigned and for one retirement. Dr. Jianbo Liu, whose expertise is in physical chemistry and mass spectrometry, joined us in 2006 as a CUNY cluster hire in analytical environmental chemistry. Dr. Sanja Kumbar and Dr. Uri Samuni were hired in 2007, Dr. Kumar as a bioorganic/biochemistry specialist, and Dr. Samuni as a biophysical chemist. Dr. G. Dale McLachlan, whose expertise is in biochemical NMR, joined us in August 2008. Prof. Cherice Evans was granted tenure by the college this past spring. Including Prof. Seogjoo Jang who was hired in 2003 and the two anticipated hires to come, we will have eight new faculty and 10 “old” faculty, considering that four of the “old” faculty were hired in the 1980s and 1990s, the rebuilding of the department from the early days is well under way.

The Remsen Annex

Construction of the Remsen Annex started in the summer of 2007. We have documented the construction in a photo journal, with many of the pictures posted on the departmental Web site; a few have been selected for this Newsletter. The steel structure is mostly complete, with the exception of a bridge between the second and third floors at the back of the Annex that will connect it to Remsen, and the concrete floor has been poured for the first and second floors. The construction manager believes we should be able to walk into the building by December 2008, but we do not anticipate moving in until next summer. As a reminder of what will be relocated there, all undergraduate labs will be moved to occupy seven rooms on the first and third floors, and four organic research labs will be moved to the second floor.

New Equipment

During the past few years the college has begun a systematic program of replacement of research and teaching instrumentation. In our physical chemistry/instrumental analysis laboratory, we now have new FT-IR, UV-Vis, and Fluorescence spectrophotometers, as well as a new capillary gas chromatograph. All are computer-controlled, and several other computers have been installed for our students perform well in ACS exams

For the past couple of semesters we have been giving the American Chemical Society standardized final examinations to our students at the end of some of their courses. These examinations are given across the nation, and statistics are available so that we can see how our students compare to those from different colleges and universities. The college is very interested in having some sort of independent assessment of teaching in all departments, and the use of such tests when they are available is one way to do this. The results so far have been encouraging. Queens students’ average scores have been above the national averages in all the examinations we have set so far. The results were truly spectacular for students who took the organic chemistry examination in December 2007 after their two semesters of sophomore organic chemistry with Professor Baker. The exam consisted of 70 multiple-choice problems, and more than 35% of our students who took the test made grades that place them above the 90th percentile nationwide! A total of 55 students took the test, with 14 (25% of the class) placing in the 95th percentile or higher, 19 (35%) placing in the 90th percentile or higher, 28 (51%) in the 80th percentile or higher, and 36 (65%) in the 70th percentile or higher. Only eight students (15% of the class) scored below the 50th percentile nationwide. Organic chemistry has a well-deserved reputation as one of the most difficult courses at Queens (as well as at any college), but most students who make it to the second semester of organic tend to pass. So the fact that 85% of these students at Queens College scored at or above the 50th percentile is quite an achievement. Congratulations to this class for their superb performance!
Installation of the new 500 MHz NMR: Dr. Gopal Subramaniam (with back to camera), Facilities Manager of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and Bruker engineer Dr. Olaf Kothmann discuss a part. The 500 MHz NMR magnet and sample changer are in the foreground, and Dr. Kohlmann is in the background, with Dr. Arthur Lerit, Pfizer Inc., and Dr. Robert Mande Corwin, Dr. Marc A. and Carole R. Dichter, Ely Lilly & Company Foundation. Dr. Lewis E. Allen, Proff. William F. Berkowitz.

NEW ACS-CERTIFIED DEGREE

For the past two years, the American Chemical Society has been soliciting input on changes to its ACS-Certified degree. We have closely followed these discussions and are ready both to institute changes that will keep all our graduates ACS-Certified and introduce a new degree track in Chemical Education, suitable for aspiring high school teachers. Some of the changes include taking calculus-based physics, biochemistry (which is required now but was not in the past), having all students take a research project-based physical or biological laboratory course in which they present their results to the department, and separation of all lecture and laboratory courses. These changes should go into effect in the fall semester of 2009.

THANKS FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

Last, no column from the chair could be complete without once again thanking you for your generous donations—these are listed elsewhere in this Newsletter. The flexibility that these funds provide us cannot be overestimated. For instance, when we buy a piece of equipment, as described above, we do not need to make compromises based on the amount of funds provided to us, because we can afford a bit more; sometimes the college will split the difference with us. These funds contribute to the smooth functioning of the department by evening out the budgetary bumps that occur. I hope you will continue to remember us in the coming year, and please send us news and keep in touch.

Bill Herb
OBITUARY

Donald Halpern 1937–2007

With profound sorrow we note the passing of Donald F. Halpern, PhD, who died April 19, 2007, following complications resulting from surgery.

Donald earned a BA degree from Queens College in 1959, majoring in Chemistry. He continued at CUNY, working as a graduate student with Professor George Axelrad, and was awarded a PhD degree in 1971 for his studies on organoboron chemistry. Prof. Axelrad remembers that Don showed a high degree of determination, diligence, and ingenuity in his years as a graduate student. Dr. Halpern worked in industry as a synthetic organic chemist, developing injectible anesthetics, muscle relaxants, sedative hypnotics, and anti-epilepsy agents. In 1993 he began a successful consulting practice based on his knowledge of pharmaceuticals and organofluorine chemistry. Dr. Halpern was survived by his son, Peter, and by his sister.

For more details, see the faculty profiles on our home page at http://www.qc.cuny.edu/Chemistry/
ALUMNI NEWS

1947, 1952, 1957 Mario Ceppi '47, Walter Ding '57, Sanford Saxe '57, and Mary Louise Ten Eick attended gradua-
tion at Queens on May 31, 2007, as
guests of the college 60 and 50 years after their graduations! Harvey Alter '52 also attended, courtesy of his wife, Cora Wolff Alter '57, and Department Chair Bill Hersh caught up with some of them at a lively luncheon hosted by President Jim Muzzikens after graduation.

1952 Dr. Harvey Alter gave an invited lecture at the College's School of Earth and Environmental Sciences (SEES) colloquium on October 3, 2007, titled "Regulatory Conundrums of Recycling." The talk was well-attended by members of SEES, and a number of chemists joined them for what was a lively and fascinating talk. Dr. Alter keeps turning up in unexpected places: the July 30, 2007 issue of Chemical and Engineering News carried a letter to the editor from Harvey, in which he identified three gentleman in an old news photo printed in a previous issue, studying output from an early IBM computer at the offices of Chemical Abstracts.

1952 Dr. Joanne A. Ursprung got her PhD at the University of Illinois in 1956 and taught Physical Science at Western Michigan University as an Associate Professor for 20 years. She retired in 1990, and she and her husband, a former Union Company Research Scientist, moved to Kauai, Hawaii, where they spent the next 14 years. They moved to Surprise, Arizona, in 2003, in order to be closer to family. They have two sons, Dave and Tim, and eight grandchildren.

1955 Prof. Kenneth Kurtin, Emeritus Professor at Brandeis University, co-edited a book published by the ACS Symposium Series, Vanadium: The Versatile Metal, which came out in August 2007. He recently donated a copy of the book to the department, and noted we should consider current undergraduates that it is "an example of something accomplished by a former student who continues to shine the same halls that you now occupy."

1962 Distinguished Prof. Robert Bittman introduced his close friend and a former adjunct professor at Queens College, Prof. Adam Heller, at Commencement on May 29, 2008. Prof. Bittman was a graduate student at Berkeley when Prof. Heller was a post doc there, and they met up again when Prof. Heller worked at GE in Bayside in the late 1960s. Prof. Heller received an Honorary Doctor of Science degree for his distinguished career in chemistry and chemical engineering. He developed a continuous blood glucose monitoring system that is used by diabetic people, and can be found in any drug store—look for the Freestyle Navigator (and the pictures above taken at his seminar given the day before graduation).

1964 Lynne Richards (nee Blakeley) is a Professor of Chemistry at York College in New York City. Her research area is transition metal chemistry.

1964, 1967 Dr. Marc A. Dichter ('67) is Professor of Neurology and Pharmacology at the University of Pennsylvania and Co-Director of the Pennsylvania Epilepsy Center. He received his MD and PhD at the New York University School of Medicine. His research has been continually funded by NIH since 1975, and he has won numerous awards. He gave the Sotomayor Lecture at the 132nd Annual Meeting of the American Neurological Association in Washington, D.C., in October 2007. He is married to Dr. Carole R. Dichter ('64).

1967 Dr. Alan R. Levy is in private practice in periodontology and serves as Assistant Clinical Professor at the State University College of Dentistry. Both of his children were chemistry majors: his daughter Gillian at Columbia before going on to medical school at Yale, and his son Samuel got his degree at Yale and recently fin-
ished a Fullbright in Biochemistry at the Pasteur Institute in Paris.

1970 Prof. Dennis Liotta gave a special alumnus presentation at Queens on October 23, 2007, titled "Pharmacological Synthesis, Development, and Patenting in Academia," in which he described his breakthrough HBV drug Enzartafibral and a variety of other drugs and drug candidates that have come out of his lab. Dennis worked in Bob Engel's lab as an undergraduate and then completed his PhD in Bob's lab in 1974, before setting off on a distinguished career; he is Professor of Chemistry at Emory University.

1972 Steven Fischkoff, MD has been appointed to the position of Vice President of Clinical Development at Palatin Technologies. Dr. Fischkoff has 15 years of experience in the pharmace-

tical industry as a Vice President of Clinical Science.

1973: Elliot Abemayor, MD is a Professor of Surgery at UCLA and is Vice Chief in the Division of Head and Neck Surgery. Dr. Abemayor’s practice focuses on the treatment of benign and malignant tumors of the head and neck and the surgical treatment of the orders of the thyroid and parathyroid glands.

1974: Dr. Samuel Daniel received his MD at Columbia University, special-

ized in internal medicine, and carried out research in Chronic Hepatitis C. He is President and CEO of North General Hospital in New York, and is also Associate Dean at North General Hospital/Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Dr. Daniel was the featured speaker at a special alumni roundtable discussion, sponsored by the Office of the President, at an event at Queens held for the benefit of pre-med students, on March 31, 2008.

1975 Dr. Paul G. Rothenberg is Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and Director of the Molecular Diagnostics Section at the University of Rochester Medical Center. Dr. Rothenberg got his PhD in Molecular Biology at SUNY Stony Brook in 1981.

1976 Dr. Joseph M. Ruggio carried out and published research as an undergrad-
uate in the department with Prof. Jerome Schulman. He graduated from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 1980, and went on to specialize in cardiology at Einstein. Dr. Ruggio is an invasive/ interventional cardiologist practicing in southern California, and is Founder and President of Pacific Cardiovascular Associates, one of the largest and most prestigious cardiology groups in the country—you can read more at www.paccardiology.com. This past year Dr. Ruggio established an annual award in honor of Prof. Schulman, to be given to a graduating student with an interest in physical chemistry who best exempli-
ifies Jerry’s character, intelligence, and intellectual curiosity. The award was given for the first time this year (see the Awards and Honors section of this newsletter).

1979 Amber A. Guth was the first woman to be appointed a faculty mem-
ber in the Department of Surgery at NYU Medical Center. She has practiced there since 1991, where she now holds the rank of Associate Professor of Surgery. Her research interests focus on benign and malignant diseases of the breast, and women’s health issues in surgery.

1993 Joseph Lawler, MD is a portfolio manager for MKM Longboat Capital Management. Dr. Lawler earned his MD and PhD degrees from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where his research on “DNA-Based Computers” was recognized with the Paul Ehrlich Award. Dr. Lawler has invested in and worked closely with biotechnology and medical device companies over the last several years.

As resources at the college become scarcer, the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry is looking outward to the people who know it best—former students and friends—to assist with the resources needed to maintain its position of leadership in the college, the university, and the country. Money donated to the department’s Special Fund has been used for the development of new courses, student activities, and colloquia. The department relies on people like you to help give its students the best education possible. Every dollar that the department receives from friends and former students is put to work to benefit our majors. Your gift is especially appre-

ciated by the department, the faculty, and—most of all—by our students. Please enclose your tax-deductible gift check to The Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry Special Fund and mail it to:

Queens College
Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry
65-30 Kissena Boulevard
Flushing, New York 11367-1597

To make a donation online: click on “Alumni & Donors” on the college’s home page, www.qc.cuny.edu and then click on “Make a Donation.” Some older versions of the Macintosh Web browser Safari will not work, but you can go directly to the alumni page by typing the following URL: www.qc.cuny.edu/alumni_and_donors.php

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Please enclose a news item about yourself for the Alumni Section of our Newsletter. We thank you for your support! For more information, visit www.qc.cuny.edu/Alumni_Affairs

Visit us on the Web at http://www.qc.cuny.edu/Chemistry
Bittman introduced his close friend Distinguished Prof. Robert student who once trod the same halls of something accomplished by a former undergraduates that it is “an example copy of the book to the department, August 2007. He recently donated a book published by the ACS Professor at Brandeis University, co-edited a book published by the ACS "Pharmaceutical Synthesis, Development, and Patenting in Academia," in which he described his breakthrough HIV drug Enfuvirtide and a variable of other drugs and drug candidates that have come out of his labs. Dennis worked in Bob Engel’s lab as an undergraduate and then complet- ed his PhD in Bob’s lab in 1974, before setting off on a distinguished career; he is Professor of Chemistry at Emory University.

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Visit us on the Web at http://www.qc.cuny.edu/Chemistry
Professor Jianbo Liu
started at Queens in 2006 after doing his PhD work at Tsinghua University and a postdoctoral at the University of Utah. His research focuses on adapting and using spectroscopy, mass spectrometry, and ion-molecule reaction techniques to probe biologically relevant processes in, for instance, isolated biomolecules and biomolecular ions, micelles, and aerosol particles/droplets of biomolecules. One such research effort is directed toward probing the reaction of biomolecules with singlet molecular oxygen and oxidative post-translational modifications of biomolecules. His group also uses ab initio electronic structure calculations and direct dynamics trajectory simulations to examine reaction coordinate and dynamical behavior. Professor Liu’s laboratory is equipped with an electrospray ionization (ESI)– guided ion-beam tandem mass spectrometer, a laser-ablation reflectron time-of-flight mass spectrometer, and a 6-node Linux computational cluster.

Professor Sanjai Kumar
started at Queens in 2007 following his PhD work at Wesleyan University and a postdoctoral at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. His research interests are in bioorganic and medicinal chemistry, including the design, synthesis, and evaluation of tight-binding inhibitors of clinically important enzyme targets using a combination of rational and combinatorial approach- enes, enzyme kinetics, and molecular modeling. For instance, protein phosphorylation by protein kinases, one such family of enzymes, plays a critical role in the control of cell cycle, a process that may be disrupted in cancer as mutations in critical genes alter normal programs of cell proliferation, differentiation, and death. A long-term goal of the Kumar group is the study of the so-called NIMA-related kinases (Neks), in part because about 25% of the human kinome (the “kinome”) encodes for this kinase family. His group intends to develop novel chemical tools (inhibitors, substrates, and sensors) that will be used for deciphering the precise biological function of Neks in human biology and cancer.

Professor Uri Samuni
also started at Queens in 2007. He has a doctorate in Physical Chemistry from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, and postdoctoral training at the Keck Biomolecular Laser Research Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine. His research is interdisciplinary in nature, involving physical chemistry, biophysics, photons, and nanophotonics. The main objective of his research is combining spectroscopy—specifically, resonance Raman and surface-enhanced Raman spectroscopy (SERS)—with sol-gel encapsulation of proteins. In sol-gel encapsulation, proteins are embedded in the inert and optically transparent sol-gel matrix and yet remain functionally active. This constitutes a unique platform for the study of protein conformational dynamics and the characterization of non-equilibrium conformations of the protein function. Depending on the preparative conditions, this novel photonic material also lends itself to a large range of applications, such as biosensors and sol-gel-based nanoparticles and their biomedical applications. Students in the Samuni lab have already been successful at generating nanogels, protein-encapsulated nanogels, and sol-gel-encapsulated metal-nanoparticles.

OBITUARY

Donald Halpern 1937–2007

With profound sorrow we note the passing of Donald F. Halpern, PhD, who died April 19, 2007, in his sleep at New York Presbyterian Hospital. Donald earned a BA degree from Queens College in 1959, majoring in Chemistry. He continued at CUNY, working with Professor George Axelrad, and was awarded a PhD degree in 1971 for his studies on organoboron chemistry. Prof. Axelrad remembers that Don showed a high degree of determination, diligence, and ingenuity in his years as a graduate student. Dr. Halpern worked in industry as a synthetic organic chemist, developing injectible anaesthetics, muscle relaxants, sedative hypnotics, and anti-epilepsy agents. In 1993 he began a successful consulting practice based on his knowledge of pharmaceuticals and organofluorine chemistry. Dr. Halpern is survived by his son, Peter, and by his sister.

JEANNIE DEUTSCH RETIRES

After a 20-year run, department secretary Jeannie Deutsch retired this past April. Ms. Deutsch started in 1988 tucked away in Rensern 15, where she was given a desk among the chemicals used for CHEM 113 and 114 lecture demonstrations, and was proud to finish her career as the senior department secretary. She had a brief hiatus in the English Department, but always considered the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry to be her home, not to mention the faculty in the Department of Computer Science. One of her favorite jobs was as department grandmother, helping and advising the undergraduate and graduate students who could often be found sitting in the chair beside her desk. A retirement party was attended by over 30 faculty and staff members of the department, and many of Ms. Deutsch’s co-workers throughout the college. A high point of the luncheon was a speech by Ms. Deutsch’s husband, who had been quite ill for some time; sadly, he passed away one month later. When last seen visiting us in June, however, Ms. Deutsch looked well and was her usual cheerful self, and we wish her a long and happy retirement.

RETIREE NEWS

PROFESSOR BURTON TROPP • 40 YEARS AT CUNY

It’s an inevitable fact that faculty retire from Queens College. Earlier this year Professor Burton Tropp announced that he planned to retire at the end of the Spring 2008 semester. We will all miss Burt, who has provided integrity, excellent teaching and research, along with the occasional bit of wry humor to our department and excellent probing questions at our departmental seminars. His own closing seminar during Spring 2008 was an excellent review of his recent efforts in a most interesting area of biochemistry. We hope that he will be able to maintain contact with his colleagues.

A native of New York City, Burt earned his BS in Chemistry at Brooklyn College in 1961, and then proceeded to Harvard University, where he received his PhD in 1966. Following two years as an NIH Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Harvard Medical School (Department of Bacteriology and Immunology), he joined the faculty of CUNY at Richmond College in Staten Island. Two years later he transferred to Queens College’s Department of Chemistry, where he has taught until today, currently Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry here and a member of the Doctoral Faculty of the CUNY Graduate Center in the PhD Program in Biochemistry.

During his tenure at Queens College, Burt has served as the mentor for an extensive series of graduate students who have completed their PhDs in his laboratory and gone on to productive scientific careers. He has also been a stalwart in teaching the various biochemistry courses, both at Queens and at the Graduate Center, providing excellence in his teaching and expecting the corresponding return from his students. Burt recently led the Department Curriculum Committee in the update for our majors curriculum, bringing it in accord with the latest guidelines of the American Chemical Society and providing our students with the best undergraduate preparation possible.

I had the pleasure of sharing an office with Burt for several years while we collaborated on research programs related to the effect of phosphonic acid analogues being used in place of the natural phosphate metabolites in bacteria. Whatever biochemistry I know I learned through working with Burt. I, and the other members of the department, wish him all happiness in his retirement. I know biochemistry will continue to have some part in his life, and we look to continued interaction, for our own edification, as well as the general pleasure of contact.

Bob Engel
Installation of the new 500 MHz NMR:
Dr. Gopal Subramaniam (with back to camera), facilities manager of the department of chemistry and biochemistry, and bruker engineer Dr. Otfried Kothmann discuss a part. The 500 MHz NMR magnet and sample changer are in the foreground, and Dr. Kothmann is changing the superconducting magnet, with 500 amps (but at zero volts when done), and 400 MHz NMR magnet and sample changer.

News continued from p. 1

continued from page 1 undergraduate (and departmental) use, for instance, in carrying out ab initio calculations using Gaussian. The newest and largest installation is occurring now in the NMR lab, where a new 500 MHz NMR is being readied for use in biological NMR and non-routine organic structure determination. The old reliable 400 MHz NMR is being rebuilt so that its lifetime will be extended by another decade, and outfitted with the same software that will be used on the 500 MHz NMR. For the foreseeable future, routine spectra will continue to be acquired at 400 MHz, and our instrument with its ability to run unattended spectra 24 hours a day is one of the best, if not the best, routine instruments in new york city.

New doctoral programs
CUNY chancellor Matthew Goldstein has instituted some major changes in the doctoral programs in biochemistry, biology, chemistry, and physics. Admission of students is now centralized, new graduate students will not teach in their first year but will focus on coursework, and stipends will be standardized at a more competitive level of $24,000 per year, with tuition and (finally) health insurance included. It is hoped that we will attract better graduate students, although I hasten to add that we at Queens have attracted first-rate students for many years. In addition to this, students who carry out their research at City College and Hunter College will receive what will be known as “joint degrees” from their home college and the graduate center. Queens is a close third to city in numbers of PhD students (Hunter has the most), and Queens could soon qualify for joint-degree status as research grant income rises. We in the department will be pressing the president of the college to help us achieve that goal, and indeed the hiring and retention improvements are a huge step in that direction.

New ACS-Certified Degree
For the past two years, the American Chemical Society has been soliciting input on changes to its ACS-Certified degree. We have closely followed these discussions and are ready both to institute changes that will keep all our graduate students ACS-Certified and introduce a new degree track in Chemical Education, suitable for aspiring high school teachers. Some of the changes include taking calculus-based physics, biochemistry (which is required now but was not in the past), having all students take a research project-based physical or bio-physical laboratory course in which they present their results to the department, and separation of all lecture and laboratory courses. These changes should go into effect in the fall semester of 2009.

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Bill Herb

News

ALUMNI DONATIONS 2007

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El Lily & Company Foundation
Mrs. Linda M. Hoffman
Dr. Joel Kabak
Mr. Emanuel G. Katsoulis
Mr. Kenneth M. Klein
Dr. George M. Kramer
Prof. Kenneth Kustin
Dr. Alan R. Levy
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Dr. Frederick Israel Mopsik
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Dr. Murray Robin
Mrs. Carol Ross
Dr. Paul G. Rotthberg
Dr. Gilbert R. Scalone
Mr. Steven Schechter
Dr. Harrison H. Sheld
Dr. Lawrence Silver
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Dr. Joanne A. Ursprung
Dr. Herbert D. Weiss
Mr. Marvin E. Wildfeuer

UP TO $99
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Abrahams
Albemarle Corporation
Mrs. Myrna F. Bassett
Dr. Diza P. Braksmayer
Dr. Marion Burg
Mrs. Doris C. Byrne
Mrs. Barbara M. Carpenter
Mr. Irwin J. Davis
Mrs. Helen Jane Ebe
Mr. Mithat Gunduz

ALUMNI DONATIONS 2006

$3,000 and above
Mrs. Camisna W. (Wojciechowski) Leo
Dr. Joan F. (Friedman) Newmark
$1,000 – $2,999
Mr. Kevin J. Bradley
Dr. Thomas C. MacAvoy
Joan F. (Friedman) Newmark
Prof. Ira S. Senter
IM Foundation Inc.
$500 – $999
Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation
Dr. George V. DeLuca
Mr. Walter H. Ding
Prof. Norman L. Goldman
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Dr. Ira M. Hubel
$300 – $499
Prof. William F. Berkowitz
ExxonMobil Foundation
Dr. Clifford M. Pratt
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Reass
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Prof. Eric Block
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Dr. George J. Burton III
Mr. Philip G. Mischler
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Research Foundation of CUNY
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Mrs. Dorothy B. Van Dillen
Dr. Michael H. Zudiker
$100 TO $149
Dr. and Mrs. Harvey Alter
The Baxter International Foundation
Dr. Stanley Monty Brown
Mr. Donald M. Stavis
Mrs. Dorothy B. Van Dillen
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UP TO $99
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Dr. Diza P. Braksmayer
Dr. Marion Burg
Mrs. Doris C. Byrne
Mrs. Barbara M. Carpenter
Mr. Irwin J. Davis
Mrs. Helen Jane Ebe
Mr. Mithat Gunduz

2007 TOTAL: $20,888.79

2006 TOTAL: $21,311.20

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2007

Mia Lace T. Huang  Stanley G. Konkol Memorial Award, Chemistry and Biochemistry Service Award, CRC Press Handbook of Chemistry and Physics Award, Departmental Honors

Nave C. Pincus  Stanley G. Konkol Memorial Award, Departmental Honors

David Borukhov  Ira M. Goldin Memorial Award, Departmental Honors

Maung Z. Chan  Maxwell L. Eidinoff Scholarship, Departmental Honors

Menachem S. Moskowitz  Maxwell L. Eidinoff Scholarship, Departmental Honors

Michael H. Karschenbaum  Trudy Rothman Chemistry Award

Jorge Luis Uribas  Trudy Rothman Chemistry Award, Departmental Honors

Olga Allayer  The Kenneth Kapfergber Memorial Scholarship

Jasmine Hatcher  The Ivan C. Daly Scholarship

2008

Miriam Gnadberg  Stanley G. Konkol Memorial Award, Chemistry and Biochemistry Service Award, CRC Press Handbook of Chemistry and Physics Award, Departmental Honors, The Molly Weinstein Memorial Award (speaker at College Baccalaureate Honors Convocation)

Gina M. Moriarty  Jerome Schulman Award (new award—see Alumni News)

Bibi Ray  Maxwell L. Eidinoff Scholarship, Departmental Honors

Sara L. Burgdorf  Trudy Rothman Chemistry Award

Polina Poklasowa  The Kenneth Kapfergber Memorial Scholarship, Departmental Honors

Zaikar Ahmed  Departmental Honors

Ashana Karishma Sontahal  Departmental Honors

Queens College
Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry
65-30 Kissena Blvd.
Flushing, New York 11367

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DEPARTMENTAL AND COLLEGE HONORS AND AWARDS

The Molly Weinstein Memorial Award (speaker at College Baccalaureate Honors Convocation)

The NewsLetter returns after a one-year hiatus, following a busy and tumultuous period at both the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and CUNY. During the past two years the department has hired four new faculty members, the new chemistry building—known as the Remsen Annex—has risen, much new equipment has been installed, and CUNY has initiated major changes in the doctoral programs. Through all of this, the department has initiated major changes in its undergraduate programs, and is about to submit a substantial restructuring of its major.

NEW FACULTY

The department has hired four new faculty members, with two more anticipated in the next two years; some of the new hires are replacements for two junior faculty who resigned and for one retirement. Dr. Jianbo Liu, whose expertise is in physical chemistry and mass spectrometry, joined us in 2006 as a CUNY cluster hire in analytical environmental chemistry. Dr. Sanjai Kumar and Dr. Uri Samuni were hired in 2007, Dr. Kumar as a bioorganic/biochemistry specialist, and Dr. Samuni as a biophysical chemist. Dr. G. Dale McLachlan, whose expertise is in biochemical NMR, joined us in August 2008. Prof. Cherice Evans was granted tenure by the college this past spring. Including Prof. Seogjoo Jang who was hired in 2005 and the two anticipated hires to come, we will have eight new faculty and 10 “old” faculty, believing that the new hires should be able to walk into the building by December 2008, but we do not anticipate moving in until next summer. As a reminder of what will be relocated there, all undergraduate labs will be moved to occupy seven rooms on the first and third floors, and four organic research labs will be moved to the second floor.

NEW EQUIPMENT

During the past few years the college has begun a systematic program of replacement of research and teaching instrumentation. In our physical chemistry/instrumental analysis laboratory, we now have new FT-IR, UV-Vis, and Fluorescence spectrophotometers, as well as a new capillary gas chromatograph.

The Molly Weinstein Memorial Award (speaker at College Baccalaureate Honors Convocation)

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THE REMSEN ANNEX

Construction of the Remsen Annex started in the summer of 2007. We have documented the construction in a photo journal, with many of the pictures posted on the departmental Web site; a few have been selected for this Newsletter. The steel structure is mostly complete, with the exception of a bridge on the back of the Annex that will connect it to Remsen, and the concrete floor has been poured for the first and second floors. The construction manager believes we should be able to walk into the building by December 2008, but we do not anticipate moving in until next summer. As a reminder of what will be relocated there, all undergraduate labs will be moved to occupy seven rooms on the first and third floors, and four organic research labs will be moved to the second floor.

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All are computer-controlled, and several other computers have been installed for teaching in all departments, and the use of such tests when they are available is one way to do this. The results so far have been encouraging. Queens students’ average scores have been above the national averages in all the examinations we have seen so far. The results were truly spectacular for students who took the organic chemistry examination in December 2007 after their two semesters of sophomore organic chemistry with Professor Baker. The exam consisted of 70 multiple-choice problems, and more than 35% of our students who took the test made grades that place them above the 90th percentile nationwide! A total of 55 students took the test, with 14 (25% of the class) placing in the 95th percentile or higher, 19 (35%) placing in the 90th percentile or higher, 28 (51%) in the 80th percentile or higher, and 36 (65%) in the 70th percentile or higher. Only eight students (13% of the class) scored below the 50th percentile nationwide. Organic chemistry has a well-deserved reputation as one of the most difficult courses at Queens (as well as at any college), but most students who make it to the second semester of organic tend to pass. So the fact that 85% of these students at Queens College scored at or above the 50th percentile is quite an achievement. Congratulations to this class for their superb performance!