

MCMURRY COLLEGE

ABILENE, TEXAS 79605

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

NEWSLETTER

May, 1969

Since both our ambition and our energy have borne up well during the past academic year, we are going to be able to get out a second newsletter.

Unfortunately, we do not have any news of the impact of that of last year to report; nevertheless this has been a generally good year at McMurry and in the chemistry department. The staff has remained constant and has consisted of Drs. Norton Jones, Lyndol Harris, W. L. Magnuson and Roy Sonntag. The 1968 graduates of the department and their current occupations are:

Leta Allen	graduate study SMU
Curtis Hudman	graduate study Texas A.& M.U.
Karen Pashman	graduate study U. of Arkansas
Bob Browder	graduate study Texas Tech
Will Calhoun	medical study So. Tex. Med. Sch. of U. of Texas
Stephen McGaughey	teaching Texas public schools
Larry L. Taylor	teaching Texas public schools

During the academic year Drs. Magnuson and Sonntag had their Welch Foundation grants renewed, and Dr. Harris continues work on his Welch Foundation grant. Each of these three men has working with him as assistants two students each of whom receives a Welch scholarship for the year. Students currently receiving these scholarships are Bob Cole, Richard Gore, Jack Graham, Joe Hudman, Richard Collins, and Sharon Duboise.

In 1969, we should have nine students graduate with majors in chemistry and five with teaching fields in chemistry. Some of these people already have received appointments for further study and others have made application for such study. The candidates are:

Chemistry majors:

Bob Cole	graduate study U. of Kansas
Richard Collins	graduate study La. State U., N. Orleans
Sharon Duboise	
Clark King	
Carolyn McCoy	graduate study Rice University
Charles Sanders	medical study U. of Texas, Galveston
Bob Swindle	
Jack Graham	U. S. Navy, officers training in aviation
Jay Valkenaar	dental study, Baylor University

Chemistry teaching field:

Tommy Burrus
Ralph Meixner
Robin Middleton Garland High School
Connie Vaughn Danley
Kathy Wills

The annual dinner of the Division of Science and Mathematics has become something of a tradition at McMurry. This year, underclassmen recognized for outstanding performances in chemistry were: freshman-Larry Scott, sophomore - Joe Hudman, junior - Ricky Quy. The senior making an outstanding record and being recognized by having her name added to the departmental honor plaque was Carolyn McCoy. In token of her achievement of this honor, she received a technical book for her library.

A special award of a book for his library was made to Bob Cole who has done an outstanding job this year as president of both the ACS Student Affiliate chapter and our chapter of Gamma Sigma Epsilon. Awards of this type will be purchased in the future from the interest on funds which you have contributed and to which we hope you will make additions from time to time.

During the year the department had a number of distinguished visitors who spoke on various occasions. Dr. Royston Roberts of the University of Texas spoke at the annual initiation dinner of Xi Beta chapter of Gamma Sigma Epsilon at which time four students - Richard Collins, Richard Gore, Kathy Wills, and Joe Hudman - and one honorary member were welcomed into the organization. Speakers for meetings of the student affiliate chapter of the ACS were Dr. Tommy McCord of Abilene Christian College, Dr. Reinecke of TCU and Dr. Larry Schaad of Vanderbilt University. Our visiting scientist provided by the Division of Chemical Education of the ACS became seriously ill and had to cancel his complete roster of visits, but we were sent an industrial visitor, Dr. E. R. Brownscombe of the Atlantic-Richfield Company. Dr. David Klassen of the University of North Carolina gave us an interesting seminar on some of the luminescent complexes of ruthenium (II).

During the year we had an unusually large number of visits from alumni of the department. Among these visitors were: James Moss, Eddie Massey, Ph.D., Earl Beaver, Lewis DeMent, Joe Loter, Ann Joyce, Wendell Hess, Ph.D., Steven Sample, Tommy McAninch (who should finish his stint as a Marine Corps officer in December after which he hopes to begin graduate study), Jerry Sides, James Duff, Dwayne Bennett, and Lonnie Cundieff. Larry Cooper, M.D. has left the U.S.P.H. Service and hung out his shingle at Hale Center, Texas. Victor Tsang, M.D., who spent three years at McMurry working on a chemistry major prior to entering Tulane Medical School, completed a residency in surgery at Temple University and practiced a year in California, was a recent visitor to the campus. He has been commissioned a major in the U.S.

Army medical corps and was on his way to his first assignment as surgeon at the base hospital at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Clement Butt, M.D., (McMurry 1961), after completing a residency has hung out his shingle as a pediatrician at Cupertino, California. Reynold Carlson, (McMurry 1963), received his Ph.D. at Ohio State in 1968 and in the fall of that year joined the staff of Phillips University at Enid, Oklahoma.

Activities of the staff during the year include:

- Dr. Sonntag to Welch Research conference in Houston in November, 1968
- Dr. Jones to regional ACS meeting in Austin in December, 1968
- Dr. Magnuson to Comanche High School Career Day in February, 1969, to LaMesa Science Fair as judge in March, 1969, and to the national ACS meeting in Minneapolis in April, 1969
- Dr. Sonntag to New Mexico State University on two occasions as a member of the McMurry committee on audiovisual education.

During the year Dr. Sonntag has done quite a bit of what has turned out to be successful experimentation with the use of cassette tape recorders to give students in the general organic course supplementary instruction in selected aspects of the work.

A gift of the year was an excellent photo-electric colorimeter presented by the Dow Chemical Company of Midland, Michigan.

In March, 1969, Dr. Jones was named one of the Piper Foundation professors of the year and presented by the foundation with an award of a thousand dollars. Also, in April his new freshman text, Textbook of General Chemistry was published by the C. V. Mosby Company of St. Louis, Missouri.

The college will begin operation on a 4-1-4 plan in 1969-70 with the fall semester starting in late August and concluding with the Christmas recess. This new calendar and revisions being proposed by a special curriculum study committee may necessitate some changes in the chemistry program. For next year we propose to have freshmen chemistry majors take their physics then, to move the first semester of quantitative analysis back to the sophomore year and to reduce the biology requirement to one semester except for premedical students. Also, the catalog will list for the first time a course entitled Independent Study. This will carry one hour of credit and will be open to seniors. It should be of special value to those students who will go on to graduate school. It will not be required of majors but will be available on an elective basis. For the first time in many years the department will not offer Chemical Calculations. Freshman preparation in mathematics is now much better than it used to be so that many freshmen begin their calculus during their first semester. When aid in solving the problems of first-year chemistry is needed we hope to provide it through a series of scheduled help sessions.

Dr. W. L. Magnuson will leave us in August to become head of the chemistry department and chairman of the natural sciences division at Kentucky Wesleyan College, Owensboro, Kentucky. We hate to lose him.

but would not want to stand in the way of his progress. In his new work we wish him well. He will be replaced in the inorganic-physical area by Dr. David Klassen who did his undergraduate work at S.M.U. and the University of Texas at El Paso. He received the Ph.D. degree in inorganic chemistry from the University of New Mexico and has had two postdoctoral appointments - the first at the University of Frankfurt am Main in Germany and the second at the University of North Carolina. His research interests lie in the general area of the complex compounds of the transition metals. To date he has published six papers.

We always need and have room for potentially good students of chemistry, and we believe that we can do a good job for them if they are willing to make an effort in their own behalf. We hope that you will help us by identifying such students in your community and getting them interested in coming to us. If there are financial problems, we have some scholarships and other types of financial aid available.

Keep us posted on your address and on changes of address for others about whom you may know. Currently we are in need of addresses for:

Dr. Billy Don Burk
Mr. Glenn Morton
Mr. Joe B. Weir
Mr. Servando Treviño
Mr. Eddie Sequeira

Mr. James W. Tingle
Mr. Jack Schulze
Mr. Mohamad Dareshori
Mr. Kinnon Dail
Mrs. Ann Askins Dail