

Sonntag

MC MURRY COLLEGE
Chemistry Department Newsletter

May, 1975

The Spring semester has moved at an unbelievably rapid rate this year and according to the calendar will end with graduation exercises on Sunday, May 4. Graduation at such an early date results from the transfer of the three-week January term to May, immediately following the close of the Spring semester. This change will facilitate courses offered off campus and will permit economies in utilities for dormitories and other campus buildings. We have difficultly also in realizing that this is the eighth in our series of departmental newsletters.

The overall head count at McMurry last Fall was just slightly below that of the preceeding Fall, but our enrollment in General Chemistry was quite a bit lower. This Spring the overall headcount exceeded that of last Fall and also that of Spring, 1974.

In late August, 1974, Dr. Jones returned to the campus after having enjoyed greatly his sabbatical leave of the Spring semester. During his time away from the campus, he studied some elementary geology, visited the chemistry department of several of the strong liberal arts colleges in the south central region and made a trip of several weeks with Mrs. Jones to El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Mexico City. The staff of the department this year has continued to consist of Drs. Harris, Jones, Klassen and Sonntag, and there has been no change in the overall program of the department. Drs. Klassen and Sonntag have continued their research work under a joint grant from the Welch Foundation. Dr. Sonntag and his assistant have prepared organic compounds that Dr. Klassen and his assistant have used as ligands in the preparation of new complex compounds of osmium and ruthenium. Rod Fabian and Tom Headstream have served as student assistants in this program and have enjoyed appointments to Welch Scholarships in consequence. An article by Dr. Klassen reporting some of the results of his research on osmium and ruthenium complexes has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Inorganic Chemistry and soon should appear in print.

Dr. Bill Dulin, chairman of the Department of Mathematics, has been promoted from acting chairman of the Division of Science and Mathematics to chairman. Dr. Dulin also serves as a member of the Planning Task Force that is charged with submitting to the faculty and administration of the college a plan for future development of the college.

Students who should graduate with degrees in chemistry this year are Robert Loyd, B.A.; Tommy Taylor, B.A.; Peter Morford, B.S.; Bill Webb, B.S.; and Randy W. White, B.S. Messers. Loyd and Taylor will receive ACS certified degrees and are bound for graduate school. Mr. Loyd received several good offers of graduate assistanceships. He has elected to accept the one made by the University of Kansas. Mr. Taylor has accepted an offer from Louisiana State University. Randy White has been accepted as a first year student for the Fall at Southwestern Medical School of the University of Texas in Dallas.

After serving as chairman of the McMurry chemistry department for 27 years, Dr. Jones will retire from the duties of that office on May 31 to devote himself to full-time teaching in the department. Dr. Roy

Sonntag has been named to succeed to the chairmanship and will take over his new obligations on June 1. The staff of the department will remain unchanged for the 1975-76 academic year.

Early last October Gamma Sigma Epsilon initiated four new student members: Carl Sulser, Jimmy Thomas, Bill Webb, and Tommy Taylor and one honorary member, Dr. Richard Garner, Chairman of the Department of Physical Sciences at Hardin Simmons University. The initiation dinner was held at Wyatts Cafeteria, and speaker for the occasion was Dr. Joseph Stamey, professor of philosophy at McMurry. He spoke on the scientific and philosophical contributions and outlooks of Joseph Priestly. This was particularly appropriate since 1974 marks the 200th anniversary of Priestly's discovery of oxygen.

During the academic year Gamma Sigma Epsilon and the ACS Student Affiliate chapter have sponsored jointly a variety of programs for students of the department.

Dr. Vernon H. Schievelbein of the Texaco Laboratories in Bellaire, Texas, spent April 17 with us under the auspices of the Industrial Visitor's Program of the Division of Chemical Education of the ACS. He visited with members of the departmental staff and with various students and in the afternoon presented a seminar on the tertiary recovery of oil from existing wells. We found his visit most profitable. Dr. Tommy McCord, chairman of the chemistry department at Abilene Christian College, presented to a joint meeting of the ACS Student Affiliate chapter and Xi Beta chapter of Gamma Sigma Epsilon an interesting report on research work currently in progress in his laboratory.

Students who graduated with degrees in chemistry during 1974 and their present occupations are:

Roger K. Allen, B.A.	chemist, Dow Chemical Co., Freeport, Texas
David R. Carver, B. A.	grad. student, Rice University, Houston
Donald W. McLaren, B. A.	student, U. Texas Med. School, Galveston
Toby Williams, B. A.	student, U. Texas Med. School, Houston
C. Randall Cotney, B. S.	grad. student, No. Texas State Univ., Denton
Dennis J. Smiley, B. S.	teacher, public schools, Big Spring
Ralph J. Turner, B. S.	student, Southwestern Med. School, U. of Texas, Dallas

The B. A. candidates all received ACS certified degrees. One other student, Ronald T. Cravey received a B.S. in science education with his major emphasis in chemistry. He currently is teaching in the Abilene Public Schools.

This Spring McMurry had six students apply for admission to medical school. Four of the applicants were chemistry majors and two were biology majors. All had excellent scholastic records (GPA's of 3.7 to 3.9+), and all had 3 to 6 interviews. Each was accepted to the school of his first choice. Three of the four chemistry majors are juniors. Their acceptance speaks well for them and for the department but will cut our list of graduates short in 1976. Two of the three indicate, however, that they will complete any lacking general requirements so that by submitting basic science courses from medical school they ultimately will qualify for conferring of the baccalaureate degrees from McMurry.

The students involved are:

Randy White, Abilene, Sr.	Southwestern Med. School, U. Of Texas, Dallas
Susan Arth, Abilene, Jr.	Southwestern Med. School, U. of Texas, Dallas
Tom Headstream, Abilene, Jr.	Southwestern Med. School, U. of Texas, Dallas
Alec Lindley, Austin, Jr.	Southwestern Med. School, U. of Texas, Dallas

As a substitute for its annual dinner the Division of Science and Mathematics held a dessert and recognition program on Friday, April 18, at the Abilene Public Schools Planetarium. On this occasion the name of Robert Loyd was added to the departmental honor plaque as the senior having the strongest record. Alice Ann Bledsoe was recognized for achievement in freshman chemistry, while Jim Thomas was signalized for his sophomore record, and Rod Fabian for his performane as a junior chemistry major.

During the past two academic years a number of alumni of the department have received advanced degrees. Among these are:

Ernest Hermann, M.D.	1973	Meharry School of Medicine
S. Bob Cole	Ph.D. 1973	University of Kansas
Charles Sanders	M.D. 1974	U. Texas Med. School, Galveston
Mary Jane Matthews	M.D. 1974	U. of Texas Med. School, Galveston
Jay Valkenaar	D.D.S. 1974	Baylor Dental School, Dallas
Edwin Shaddix,	M.S. 1974	Virginia Polytechnic University
Elinore Cutting South,	M.A. 1974	University of Texas, Dallas
Richard Gore	D.D.S. 1974	University of Tex. Dental School, Houston
Tim Faulkenberry	M.D. 1974	U. of Texas Medical School, Galveston
Tom McAninch	Ph.D. 1974	University of Texas, Austin

Several other alumni should receive advanced degrees during 1975.

Alumni who have visited us during the current academic year include: Paul Suddath, Dr. Bill Bynum, Jack Benton, Karen Pashman, Dr. Tommy McAninch, Lamar Taylor and his wife, the former Linda Cooper; Roger Allen, Dr. W. L. Magnuson, Lt. and Mrs. Ricky Quy, Toby Williams, Dr. Reynold Carlson, Jack Graham, Bob Collins, Lynne Cole (Mrs. S. Bob Cole), Edwin Shaddix, Tommy Spillman, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hudman, Dave Reeve, Steve Scannell, Elinore Cutting South, Dr. and Mrs. Robbi T. Foster, Ralph Turner, Carl Hudson, Flavio Vêiga, Don McLaren, Bob Collins, and Garry Coffman. We have enjoyed the visits with all alumni. If we have failed to note the calls of any of you who were kind enough to stop by, please forgive our poor memories.

During this year we have been able to accumulate some news concerning the activities of a number of former students in the department. We hope you will help us by keeping us informed of your respective activities and achievements.

Paul Suddath, who completed his stint in the U. S. Army some months ago, is now engaged in the graduate study of chemistry at the University of Texas in Austin.

Carl Hudson, also at the University of Texas in Austin, is now engaged in research work to be presented in his dissertation.

Dr. Karen Pashman moved, as of July 1, 1974, from work with the Scientific Laboratories in Los Alamos, New Mexico, to the Sandia Laboratories in Livermore, California.

Dr. Bill Bynum has taken a Ph.D. in the history of medicine from Cambridge University in England. Previously he had received an M.D. from Yale University and had spent a year studying the history of medicine at the University of Zurich in Switzerland. Currently he is still in England teaching at one of the medical schools in London.

Dr. Tom McAninch, upon graduation from McMurry, served several years as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. In August of 1974 he received the Ph.D. degree from the University of Texas at Austin and is currently engaged in organic research work at the laboratories of the Texas Eastman Company in Longview.

Carol Mason, who completed three years of work at McMurry before marrying Jim Pinson and moving to the Chicago area, currently is completing work for her baccalaureate degree at Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois. Jim took his degree at McMurry in physics and is working in the quartz crystal industry.

Jack Graham is still working for a government agency in Washington D.C. He reports that he spends at least 50% of his time in travel connected with his work. He and Mrs. Graham now have two children.

Linda Cooper Taylor currently is teaching at Evans Junior High School in Lubbock while husband, Lamar Taylor, does further graduate study at Texas Tech University.

Roger Allen, A.B., 1974, has taken a job with Dow Chemical Company in Freeport, Texas.

Dr. W. L. Magnuson visited with us in late August of last year. He serves still as chairman of the department of chemistry at Kentucky Wesleyan College in Owensboro and was on his way home from a trip to visit his parents. He reports that our former Dean Ramsey has left Kentucky Wesleyan to take a position in the trust department of one of the banks in Owensboro.

Lt. and Mrs. Ricky Quy have a daughter, Kelly, born April 6, 1974. They report life pleasant but expensive in Honolulu, where they have been stationed since Ricky completed his indoctrination training with the U. S. Army.

Kinnon Dail advised in a phone conversation that he continues to work in Cleveland, Ohio, with Harshaw Chemical Company in their Catalytic Division and that his wife, Ann Askins Dail, is director of technical information for Glidden-Durkee.

Dr. Ralph McClesky, after serving a stint with the U. S. Air Force, is now doing a residency at Southwestern Medical School and U.S. Veterans Administration Hospital in Dallas.

Dr. Larry Cooper has completed a residency in radiology in Dallas through Southwestern Medical School and currently is practicing his specialty at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth.

Dr. Jay Valkenaar has opened an office for the practice of general dentistry in Austin at 300 Huntland Drive, Building 113.

Dr. Reynold Carlson continues his duties on the faculty of a branch of Kent State University in Ohio. This year he is serving as chairman of the Educational Committee of the Akron Section of the ACS.

Bob Collins continues with Dow Chemical Company in Freeport. Currently he is doing supervisory work in plant construction and engineering. He has done his good deed in helping several of our graduates find jobs with the company.

Dr. S. Bob Cole, now a captain in the U. S. Army, continues to do research work at Edgewood Arsenal. He reports that his work is gaining in interest. Last Fall we had a very pleasant visit with Bob's wife, Lynne, who was in Abilene to visit her mother.

At Christmastime, Edwin Shaddix reported that he and his wife (Mary D. Langford) completed work for their master's degrees last summer. Edwin reported on 9/22 to Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland for his basic indoctrination as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U. S. Army. In April, 1975 he was assigned to the Army Depot in Anniston, Alabama.

David Reeve is completing the last year of his medical schooling at the University of Texas Medical School in Houston. Last summer he married Julie Holden, daughter of Jack Holden, Vice President for Promotional Affairs at McMurry.

At last fall's Homecoming we had a visit from Flavio Veiga, who has been teaching in Brazil and has married recently. Currently he and a group of other young teachers from Brazil are working toward master's degrees in the teaching of science at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

Steve Scannell, a chemistry minor-biology major, has been accepted for admission to dental school.

Toby Williams, Ralph Turner and Don McLaren of last year's graduating class report that medical school is demanding but much to their liking.

Elinore Cutting South continues to teach in high school in Richardson. As noted above, she has recently earned her M. A. degree from the University of Texas in Dallas.

The Joe Hudman's continue to enjoy life in Kansas. Mrs. Hudman is doing social work and Joe hopes to finish work for his doctorate this year. They were in Abilene to visit with Dr. Victor Hudman and his family during the Christmas vacation.

Dr. Robbie Foster and his wife, Nan, and one of their children were visitors to the department in the Fall of 1974. Thanks to their generosity

and to matching gifts from his employer, Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company, the department has an excellent new 0.001 gram Mettler top-loader. We appreciate this gift greatly.

Tommy Spillman is continuing his graduate studies in biochemistry at the University of Illinois. He hopes to finish his research work this year. He reports that his wife is working for the chemistry department.

Gary Coffman who did three years of his undergraduate work at McMurry has been awarded the Ph.D. degree in biochemistry by the University of Illinois. Presently he is a post doctoral fellow at Rockefeller University in New York City where he is studying the biochemistry of blood clotting.

The college has received a gift of \$23,000.00 from an anonymous donor for the purpose of building a greenhouse for the biology department. Dr. P. Lcher is, of course, delighted with this development. Construction should begin during the summer.

The college has received also a gift of \$300,000.00 from a foundation for addition to the endowment fund and is starting a drive which it is hoped will add several millions of dollars to this fund.

Letters from Dr. Wendell Hess advise that he continues to serve as Chairman of the Science Division of Illinois Wesleyan College. During the illness of the Dean of the College in the Fall semester of 1974 Wendell served as acting dean. On January 1, 1975, he became Associate Dean of the College. This advancement will necessitate his laying aside much of his work in chemistry and in the science division, but he reports that he hopes to be able to continue to teach one or more chemistry classes.

New officers for Xi Beta chapter of Gamma Sigma Epsilon for 1975-76 are: Rod Fabian, President; James Stewart, Vice President; James Thomas, Secretary-treasurer; and Carl Sulser, Sargent at Arms.

Richard Gore, who is practicing general dentistry in Albany, and his wife, the former Nancy Tillman, have a daughter who now is some 9 or 10 months old.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hudson visited the department on March 31.

David Carver, who currently is doing graduate work in chemistry at Rice University, and Vicki Carter (a former McMurry student) of Abilene were married on March 30, 1975.

Announcement was made in late April that Tom Headstream, a Welch Scholar working with Dr. Klassen, was the winner of the John F. Conn Research Award offered annually by the Grand Chapter of Gamma Sigma Epsilon to the college student presenting the best paper on original research work. This is the second consecutive year for a McMurry student to win this award. It includes a purse of \$75.00. Last year's winner was Toby Williams.

In late April Dr. Jones was the recipient of a Distinguished Alumnus Award from his alma mater, Hendrix College. He and Mrs. Jones

drove to Conway, Arkansas, for the Alumni Day events. At the McMurry Alumni Day dinner Dr. Jones, Dr. Tarter, and Mrs. Ruth Hodges received recognition for their years of service to the college.

For our reading room we continue to need the following journals:

Analytical Chemistry, Volumes 24-32 (inclusive)
J. American Chemistry Society, Volume 54 (1932) and
Volume 56 (1934)
J. Organic Chemistry from 1966 to present

We greatly appreciate gifts of journals made to us in the past by various donors.

As usual we need all of the good chemistry students we can get. If numbers of students decline too greatly, budgeting for operation of the department could decline to the point that it would be impossible for us to maintain our ACS approval. In consequence, we urge most strongly that each of you alumni make a special effort in your community to locate good potential chemistry students and to encourage them, in any way you can, to come to McMurry. If you will send us the names of likely candidates, we will match your efforts with our very best ones.

Keep us posted on your address and send us any news items that we can include in the next issue of the Newsletter. Also, if you can help us with current addresses for the following alumni please do so:

Mr. Glenn Morton	Mr. Oscar H. Spann, Jr.
Mr. Joe B. Weir	Mr. Eddie Sequeira
Mr. Gregg Mamikunian	

When you are next in Abilene come to see us. In the meanwhile, all good wishes to each of you from each of us.