

# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

## Department of Chemistry

### University of Pittsburgh 1971



August 23, 1971

Dear Chemistry Alumni:

As I promised last year, we are sending each of you a copy of the 1971 chemistry alumni news letter. In it you will find remarks about (1) *The Department: Its Staff and Programs* by Joe Taber (Ph.D. '55, associate professor and administrative officer of the department); (2) *The New Building* and (3) *Report on the University Science Development Program* by Dick Howe (executive assistant to the chairman of the department) and (4) news notes about the alumni and the faculty by me.

As I am sure you all know, many new Ph.D.'s, including our own, are finding it very difficult to get jobs in the current market. We would greatly appreciate it if you would let us know of any openings you hear about so that we can call them to the attention of our students.

A self-explanatory form, which will give us up-to-date information about you is enclosed. Please fill out and return it to me at your earliest convenience.

We have scheduled a Pitt Social Hour at the Washington ACS meeting. THE DRINKS ARE ON THE DEPARTMENT.

PITT SOCIAL HOUR  
WASHINGTON ACS MEETING

Tuesday, September 14, 1971  
5:30 - 7:00 p.m., Suite 400  
Pick-Lee House

We hope to see many of you there.

With kindest best regards,

*Bob Levine*  
Robert Levine

Professor of Chemistry

The Department: Its Staff and Its Programs  
by

Joseph J. Taber, Ph.D. '55;

associate professor, administrative officer

On September 1, 1971 the Chemistry Department will be made up of 35 faculty members, 130 full-time graduate students, about 300 undergraduate majors and almost two dozen supporting staff members. The latter includes a business manager (executive assistant to the chairman) and one part-time and seven full-time secretaries. All of these people are now working, researching and learning in eight buildings on the campus. For example, chemistry now occupies the major part of the top four floors in Engineering Hall, but Alumni Hall continues to be the center of the activities in the department.

Three of our faculty members are now deans in the University. They are: *Dr. J. L. Rosenberg*, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences; *Dr. R. H. McCoy*, associate dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and *Dr. T. H. Dunkelberger*, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. A number of new appointments were made this year to enhance the department's strength in the major branches of chemistry. These are: *K. E. Daugherty*, associate professor, Ph.D., 1964, University of Washington, Chelates, detergents and silicate chemistry; *P. A. Grieco*, assistant professor Ph.D., 1970, Columbia University, Synthesis of natural products; *Mrs. C. W. Maricondi*, assistant professor, Ph.D., 1968, University of Pittsburgh, Optically active metal complexes; *J. W. Rabalais*, assistant professor, Ph.D., 1970, Louisiana State University, Electron spectroscopy; *V. U. S. Rao*, assistant professor, Ph.D., 1968, University of Bombay, Solid state chemistry; *G. Ryan*, assistant professor, Ph.D., 1969, Columbia University, Protein synthesis and DNA synthesis; *P. E. Siska*, assistant professor, Ph.D., 1970, Harvard University, Molecular beam chemistry.

In addition to the research in most of the traditional areas of chemistry, we have two new programs which may interest alumni. For example, we now offer a Master's Degree in Forensic Chemistry in cooperation with the Pittsburgh and Allegheny County Crime Laboratory. Master's and Ph.D. degrees can also be obtained in the area of Air Pollution. The latter program is a joint effort with the Graduate School of Public Health.

**Report on the New Building  
and the University Science Development Program**

by  
**W. Richard Howe,**  
**executive assistant**

**to the chairman of the department**

After years of dreams, plans and frustrations the new Chemistry Building pictured on the cover of this newsletter is about to become a reality. Although the Chemistry faculty realized the need for such a facility back in the '50s it was not until the early 1960s that the University made a definite commitment to the new building. It was at that time that the late Chancellor Edward Litchfield undertook the demanding task of expanding the University both in size and national stature. One of his stated objectives was to transform the University into a National Center for the Sciences. His realization that the Chemistry Department held the key to this transformation as well as the key to the overall expansion of the undergraduate program resulted in a favorable reply to the requested chemistry building program as submitted by former Chairman Henry S. Frank and Dean Richard H. McCoy. Following Litchfield's approval in 1962 a momentous planning effort was initiated. Under the direction of newly appointed Chairman W. E. Wallace and the Building Planning Committee diligently chaired by Professor Robert L. Wolke, the Department spent over five years in projecting future building requirements and communicating these specifications to the architectural firm of Kuhn, Newcomer & Valentour.

Originally approved by the Pennsylvania General State Authority on January 15, 1964 construction was to have begun in August, 1969 and to be completed by August, 1971. An unfortunate series of delays due to various financial problems and external pressure groups postponed the start of the actual construction until May of this year. These delays resulted in a loss of several years and a cost escalation from \$7.9 million to the current contract

Justification for a new building of this magnitude can be readily established by surveying the current situation. The Chemistry Department, the University's largest, presently operates in eight different buildings plus a trailer complex. This dispersal of the faculty and facilities has made faculty interaction difficult and has also severely handicapped the undergraduate instructional program. The space situation has become so critical that this summer the University was forced to undertake the expensive conversion of an office area in Engineering Hall into temporary undergraduate Organic laboratories.

The current building program will consolidate departmental activities in two adjacent structures connected by a covered walkway. One of these buildings is the new structure which will consist of a 2-story, 500-seat lecture hall attached to a 14-story tower. The other building will be Alumni Hall which has been the main Chemistry Building for the past 25 years. The 200,000 sq. ft. of space contained within the new building has been meticulously designed to accommodate 42 faculty members, 44 staff members, 50 postdoctoral research associates, 250 graduate students and 4800 undergraduates.

***Science Development Programs***

According to the general contractor, Graziano Construction Company, construction is presently on schedule with the completion date now scheduled for December, 1973.

The Chemistry Department has recently completed the second year of a \$1.6 million University Science Development Program. Sponsored by the National Science Foundation this program is intended to further develop departments designated as science centers of excellence. Our program is aimed at improving the Department in the following five areas: 1) Correction of existing deficiencies in support personnel (machine, electronic, and glassblowing shops); 2) Improvement of facilities (instrumentation and library); 3) Development of existing faculty; 4) Faculty additions (materials expert, bio-organic chemist, photoelectron spectroscopist and an environmentalist); 5) Curriculum innovations and developments (implementation of computer-assisted instructional programs and increased emphasis on modern instrumental methods

Our Department is extremely fortunate in receiving one of the last Science Development Programs awarded by the NSF. This program has enabled Pitt's Chemistry Department to increase its degree of "excellence" at a time when most of the country's major chemistry departments are being forced to cut back their staffs and operations due to the decrease of available funds from federal, state and private agencies.

How readily and rapidly we become a "Center of Excellence" depends not only on our faculty but to a very great extent on the quality of our graduate students. We are hoping to attract outstanding graduate students by having available several NSF-Center of Excellence Fellowships as described in the following announcement.

#### WANTED

#### Outstanding graduate students

Through our NSF Center of Excellence Grant, we are able to offer several \$5,000 graduate teaching fellowships to outstanding applicants each year. If you know of any distinguished college seniors who might be interested in applying for one of these awards please submit his or her name to Dr. J. J. Taber, Administrative Officer, Department of Chemistry, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213.

Editors remarks: *The alumni of any institution represent another source of funds for supporting institutional programs. DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION CAN BE ALLOCATED DIRECTLY TO THE CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT? This can be done very simply on the card which is sent to you from the Alumni Office by placing on the last line of the third column an "X" before the word, other, and inserting "chemistry" after the word, other.*

*You might immediately raise the question as to why the chemistry department is interested in contributions from its alumni when it appears to be rolling in clover with a big new building in progress and a Center of Excellence Grant. As you no doubt know Pitt is a state-related institution. This means that we receive large amounts of money from the legislature in Harrisburg. The grim facts are that Pitt has so far received only half of the funds which were promised for the fiscal year 1970-71. Furthermore, although the fiscal year started July 1, we do not yet know how much money will*

*departments of the University, including chemistry. So you can see why we in the Chemistry department are interested in alumni contributions.*

#### News Notes about Faculty and Alumni

by

Robert Levine

*Theodore Cohen (professor) spent the academic year 1970-71 on sabbatical leave at Yale University . . . . Bodie Douglas (professor) was on sabbatical leave from September 1970-February 1971. He was visiting professor at Osaka University at the invitation of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. During the spring of 1971 he visited Simmons College in Boston and Rosary Hill College in Buffalo as part of the ACS-NSF Visiting Scientist Program . . . . Robert Levine (professor) gave an invited paper before the Second International Conference on Raman Spectroscopy in Oxford. In April, 1971, he was on an 11-stop ACS speaking tour to local sections in the southwest . . . . Alfred Moye (assistant professor, Ph.D. '68) is one of three Pitt professors who, on May 1, 1970, was honored with the first presentation of the College-Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award. He received an award of \$1,000 . . . . W. Edward Wallace (professor and department chairman, Ph.D. '41) is now on sabbatical leave at the Institute of Experimental Physics, University of Bochum, Bochum, West Germany . . . . Robert L. Wolke (professor) was on sabbatical leave from December 1969-June 1970 at the University of Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rico Nuclear Center.*

*Adolph G. Anderson (Ph.D. '40) is now the president of Hartwick College, Oneonta, New York . . . . Nancy A. Acara (M.S. '50) writes that she teaches high school math and chemistry in Buffalo, New York and that during 1967-68 she taught chemistry and math in Kenya as a Peace Corps Volunteer . . . . Manuel Aven (Ph.D. '55) has been elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society . . . . Wayne T. Barrett (Ph.D. '51), who has been President of Foote Mineral Co., has been made chief executive officer of Foote . . . . David Boodman (Ph.D. '50) is associated with Arthur D. Little, Inc. in Cambridge, Mass. where he heads a group of 36 professionals who are trained in the physical and mathematical sciences and are applying their technical methods to management problems in industry and government . . . . Donald E. D. Hunt (Ph.D. '39) has been with*

be budgeted for Pitt in Harrisburg for the fiscal year 1971-72. Such an uncertainty in funds has resulted in the tightening up of the budgets in all

. . . . Bernard F. Daubert (Ph.D. '59) has been with General Foods Corp. in White Plains, New York for a number of years and before retiring I believe

he was vice president in Charge of Research. Bernie writes that he retired on June 1, 1970 and he is now acting as a consultant to the corporation . . . . Milton N. Donin (Ph.D. '48) writes that he is director of clinical services at E. R. Squibb and Sons, Inc. He has been at Squibb ever since he left Pitt . . . . Morton A. Fineman (Ph.D. '48), who is married to the former Mary Zoza (M.S. '48), is chairman of the Department of Physics of Lycoming College, Williamsport, Pennsylvania. He was president of the Central Pa. Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers during 1970-71 . . . . Thomas D. Fontaine (Ph.D. '32) is retiring from the NSF where he has been employed for many years and he is to teach at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

John H. Nair III (M.S. '48) is manager of toxicology research at Syracuse University Research Corp. He is interested in air pollution research, especially the combustion products of plastics . . . . Frank A. Norris (Ph.D. '40) who is director of research administration for Kraftco Corp. (Glenview, Illinois) is also co-author of *Bailey's Industrial Oil and Fat Products* 3rd Edition and a past treasurer of the American Oil Chemists' Society . . . . Richard Obrycki (Ph.D. '67) who is a research chemist with Koppers Co. writes that he is still associated with Pitt as assistant director of our band . . . . Howard L. Pilat (Ph.D. '52), who has had several different positions with Celanese, is now director of external technical relations with Celanese Chemical Co. . . . Joseph J. Rothermel (Ph.D. '48) writes that he is senior engineering associate at Corning Glass Works and his wife, Daphne, who obtained her M.S. degree at Pitt, is working in the research department at Corning . . . . James K. Sneed (Ph.D. '51) informs us that he has been a duPont employee for many years and that he now manages the technical activities of duPont's textile fibers plant in Old Hickory, Tennessee . . . . Charles H. Springer (Ph.D. '68) writes that in addition to teaching chemistry courses at Earlham College, he has conducted a seminar on nonviolence and is doing draft counseling . . . . Eugene P. Stefl (Ph.D. '47) an employee of Raybestos-Manhattan since 1952, has been appointed to the position of Group Vice President-Operations . . . . K. H. Sun (Ph.D. '40) is very active at Westinghouse Electric Corporation in Pittsburgh as manager of the Radiation on Nucleonics Laboratory . . . . Forrest A. Trumbore (Ph.D. '50) was the first recipient (1970) of the newly established Electronics Division Award of the Electrochemical Society . . . . Rev. Joseph L. Walter (Ph.D. '55) writes that he has been at the University of Notre Dame since 1961 in the division of inorganic chemistry and has been doing research in molecular spectroscopy as well as teaching courses in inorganic chemistry . . . . Philip H. Wilks (Ph.D. '66), who is a senior project engineer with Humphreys Corporation in Manchester, New Hampshire, writes that he is working on high temperature chemical reactions in plasmas . . . . We have another celebrity among our alumni in the person of Oscar Woolfolk (Ph.D. '49), vice president of Academic Affairs at Central State University at Wilberforce, Ohio . . . . We now close these news notes on a very happy note by extending our belated congratulations and best wishes to

Newton N. Goldberg (Ph.D. '53), who has been employed at Westinghouse since receiving his degree, writes that he is now manager of the Chemical Products Plant at Manor, Pennsylvania . . . . John T. Goodwin (Ph.D. '48) writes that he is director of chemistry and chemical engineering at the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, Texas . . . . W. Keith Hall (Ph.D. '56) who has been a senior fellow at Mellon Institute, has been named a senior scientist at Gulf Research and Development Co. in Harmarville, Pennsylvania . . . . Francis J. Honn (Ph.D. '51) is vice president of technical services and development at Olin Corp. in Stamford, Connecticut . . . . William D. Johnstown (Ph.D. '53) is director of research of Pittsburgh Corning Corp. and has been president of the Pittsburgh Section of the ACS during 1971 . . . . Marwan R. Kamal (Ph.D. '61) writes that he is dean of sciences, College of Petroleum and Minerals, Dharan, Saudi Arabia . . . . C. G. King (Ph.D. '23) writes that he is professor emeritus at Columbia University and that he has been very active in the Union of Nutritional Scientists and the International Council of Scientific Unions . . . . Alfred D. Miller (Ph.D. '57) has been promoted to supervisor of medicinal chemistry in the Medicinal Research Department of Atlas Chemical Industries . . . . Charles J. Martin (Ph.D. '51) is professor of biochemistry and assistant dean of academic affairs at the Chicago Medical School . . . . Thomas F. McGrath (Ph.D. '55) has been promoted to professor of chemistry at Susquehanna University, Selingsgrove, Pennsylvania. Tom has been at Susquehanna since 1963 and is head of the Chemistry Department.

James P. McKaveney (Ph.D. '57) formerly with Crucible Steele Co. in Pittsburgh, is now manager of analytical services for Garrett Research and Development Co., LaVerne, California . . . .

Clayton W. Yoho (Ph.D. '57) and his wife. Clayton writes: "Rather late in life, at the age of 45 (my wife is a bit younger) we were blessed with a daughter. I don't expect anything to happen in the next several years to equal this."

Department of Chemistry  
University of Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213

Information About Chemistry Department Alumni  
(August 1971)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF POSITION: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_BUSINESS ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CHECK PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS

DEGREES OBTAINED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH:

Ph.D. \_\_\_\_\_, M.S. \_\_\_\_\_, B.S. \_\_\_\_\_, [Insert year(s)]

RESEARCH DIRECTOR(s) AT PITT \_\_\_\_\_

NEWS ITEMS ABOUT YOURSELF AND OTHER CHEMISTRY ALUMNI

It is very important that this part of the form be complete since it will be the best source of News Notes for the 1972 News Letter.

