From the Chair

I am happy to report that the Department has had a relatively uneventful year. I was ecstatic to have found a superb replacement for Pat Hilger in Claudia Smith. While I had to learn to navigate the many software systems that Pat used to do, I have already forgotten these skills now that Claudia has taken over. She even has assumed primary responsibility as editor of this Newsletter.

Our latest hire, Bill McNamara, showed up in early July. He is an inorganic chemist who replaced Dave Thompson who formally retired at the end of spring. Bill is the fourth hire in the last four years. We are fortunate to have Dave’s expertise for two more years on a reduced teaching contract. It is a relief to have emeritus faculty as part-time instructors. As this year begins, we will be searching for a fifth faculty member in as many years to replace another faculty member who retires next year.

I could have sworn that we just moved into a new building. In fact, I am pretty sure it was in 2008. Yet, I found myself on a building committee for ISC3. At first I thought it was just a committee to help an architect make some preliminary plans for the state. As the meetings kept happening (and they kept happening through the summer unabated), I realized that they intended to go through with the project with an occupation date of fall 2016. The building is called ISC3. Plans can be found here: www.wm.edu/research/ideation/notes-and-curiousities/phase-34965.php. The building will fill in the triangle made by Rogers Hall (now called ISC2 except in my mind) and ISC1. While most of the building will be devoted to Biology and Applied Science, Chemistry will acquire three experimental laboratories on the first floor. There will be a nice atrium area with a glass ceiling on the first floor near Rogers 100 (now ISC 1127 except in my mind) and a new 300-seat lecture hall that will replace Millington 150 (still Millington 150 in my mind). Even better, whoever occupies the Chair’s office in 2016 will look directly into the small café in the atrium area. It will be a temptation that will be hard to resist.

Mel Schiavelli was a surprise guest at Dave Thompson’s retirement dinner in April. Mel and Dave and their contemporaries were the driving force of the Department in the 70’s and 80’s. Mel was featured in the January 2, 2012 issue of Chemical and Engineering News. He was a member of the Chemistry Department from 1968 through 1994, and had served as Chair, Dean, Provost and interim President of the College. He was Provost at the University of Delaware until 2002, then President and CEO of Harrisburg University of Science and Technology. He just became Executive Vice-President of Northern Virginia Community College on July 1.

Besides the new hires and retirements, the biggest news is the growth of faculty member’s families. Bob and Lisa Pike welcomed a foster son, Austin, in June. Elizabeth Harbron and Carey Bagdassarian greeted their daughter Julia on July 27 and Stacy and Jonathan Scheerer their son August on September 9. All of this makes me feel old since my ‘kids’, Katie and John, are both adults now, at least in the legal definition.

I am also happy to report that it was a good year for Bob Pike, Lisa Landino and Carey Bagdassarian (on top of his other good news). Bob was appointed as the Gottwald Chair, Lisa was appointed as the Garrett-Robb-Guy Chair, and Carey was awarded the Arts and Sciences 2012 Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence.

While things were relatively quiet in Chemistry, there was much more in flux around us. Last year we had a new contact Dean, Kelly Joyce from Sociology, and an interim Dean of Arts and Sciences, Gene Tracy from Physics. The contact Dean and A&S Dean are the ones that I must deal with to run the Department. Well, interim means just that, and Kelly was made an offer she couldn’t refuse at another institution. They have been replaced by John Griffin from Biology and Kate Conley who comes to William and Mary from Dartmouth. I am looking forward to the new continuity in the Dean’s Office.

Chris Abelt
Transitions and Faculty News

Professor Thompson’s Retirement

David W. Thompson joined the faculty of the College of William and Mary in 1967. Professor Thompson received his B.S. from Wheaton College and his Ph.D. from Northwestern University. Over parts of his forty-five year career at the College Professor Thompson served as the Director of Graduate Studies and Chair of the Department of Chemistry. Together with several faculty hired in the late 1960’s, he was instrumental in bringing a new research emphasis to the Department. He remains one of the most published members of the Department with 90 peer-reviewed manuscripts, two patents and a patent application currently working its way through the patent office. His research career began with exploring the structures of diketonate metal complexes. He then branched out into transition metal promoted carbometallation of unsaturated organic substrates and the Lewis acid-promoted formation of cyclic ethers. After his term as Department Chair, he struck up a fruitful collaboration with the NASA Langley Research Center. He remains involved in the preparation and properties of highly reflective and conductive metallized polymer films to this day. His emphasis on scholarship and service earned him the title of Chancellor Professor in 1988.

His term as Chair was marked by considerable change in the Department. Polymer chemistry became a PhD track in the new Applied Science Program. An external eminent scholar was brought into the Department. Most importantly, he made it his personal business to reverse the attrition of chemistry majors of the late 1980’s by reaching out to the many freshmen taking the general chemistry courses he taught. As a result, the number of chemistry majors reached an all-time high in 1995, a record that still stands today.

Also as Chair, Professor Thompson instilled the principle that the best investment for the Department is in its faculty. Specifically, he focused on taking special care of beginning faculty members. As a result, Chemistry has had the equivalent of a junior leave program for many years and a high rate of faculty retention.

Professor Thompson’s interest in chemistry, in particular, and science, in general, stems from a deep philosophical belief that there is exquisite beauty in the truth that comprises the physical principles underlying our universe. As he would say, “Science reclothes nature with a higher reality born of the mind.”

Current Faculty

Chris Abelt, organic
Chair
cjabel@wm.edu

Carey Bagdassarian, biophysical
ckbagd@wm.edu

Debbie Bebout, biochemistry
dcbebo@wm.edu

Randy Coleman, organic, biochem
racole@wm.edu

gxdefo@wm.edu

Gary DeFotis, physical
ejharb@wm.edu

Elizabeth Harbron, organic
rjhin@wm.edu

Rob Hinkle, organic
lmland@wm.edu

Lisa Landino, biochemistry
Garrett-Robb-Guy Professor

Bill McNamara, inorganic
wrmenamara@wm.edu

Bob Pike, inorganic
rdpike@wm.edu

Floyd Dewey Gottwald, Sr. Professor
jcpout@wm.edu

J. C. Poutsma, analytical
gwrice@wm.edu

Gary Rice, analytical
jrscheerer@wm.edu

Jonathan Scheerer, organic
kwustholz@wm.edu

Kristin Wustholz, physical
dyoung01@wm.edu

Douglas Young, bioorganic
Phased Retirement

Dave Kranbuehl, 2009–2012
dekran@wm.edu

Emeriti

Cirila Djordjevic, 1992
rlkief@wm.edu

Dick Kiefer, 2003
skknud@wm.edu

Steve Knudson, 2010
raorwo@wm.edu

Bob Orwoll, 2010
whstar@wm.edu

Bill Starnes, 2006
raorwo@wm.edu

Dave Thompson, 2012
dwthom@wm.edu

Adunct Faculty

Homer Smith, Fall 2012

Editor’s Note: The 2011 newsletter had gone out shortly before I was hired last October. In it I read all about my predecessor, Pat Hilger, and wondered how I could ever fill her shoes as the new administrative assistant. What I didn’t know yet was that I had just joined a wonderful group of faculty and staff who were very patient and helpful during my steep learning curve over the past year. Special thanks also to retired staff member Louise Menges who helped me with this Newsletter and to Pat Hilger who answered many questions by email from the road. As you might remember, Pat and her husband traveled around the country in search for a new home after their retirement. I am happy to report that they made the decision to move near family in Georgia this spring. We all wish them Good Luck!

Claudia Smith
We Welcome Our New Faculty Member

Bill McNamara joined the Chemistry Department this summer as assistant professor. Bill is originally from Scranton, PA and earned a B.S. degree from Lafayette College in 2006. While at Lafayette, he examined self-assembled monolayers using atomic force microscopy and also studied the electrochemistry of phosphinoferrocene complexes. He obtained his PhD degree from Yale University in 2010 where he studied organometallics and oxidative water splitting under Robert H. Crabtree. In 2012 he completed postdoctoral work with Professors Richard Eisenberg and Patrick L. Holland at the University of Rochester. He focused on the reductive side of water splitting by developing cobalt catalysts for the generation of hydrogen gas from protons. Bill is excited to join the department and will teach inorganic chemistry and related courses. He plans to continue to study methods of harvesting solar energy and is particularly interested in artificial photosynthesis.

Double Congratulations to Professor Pike

In April, Bob Pike received the Plumeri Award for Faculty Excellence. The award was first awarded in 2009 and since then already four chemistry professors have been recipients. We also congratulate Bob on his appointment to the Floyd D. Gottwald, Sr. Professorship in June. Floyd D. Gottwald, Jr. of Richmond, Virginia has established this endowment to honor the memory of his father in 1980. The five year appointment is awarded to an eminent scholar who excels in teaching, publishes research frequently, and who has the full endorsement of the department and the Provost of the College.

Bob is celebrating his 20th anniversary in the W&M Chemistry Department. During this time, he has taught a wide variety of courses in general, inorganic, analytical (and even occasionally organic) chemistry. Lately, he has been enjoying the challenge of reshaping the department’s non-science majors’ chemistry course and laboratory. He says, “A general education course in chemistry will be the last formal opportunity students will have to learn what scientists consider important, and how science is practiced. I want them to see, maybe for the first time, that science isn’t merely a collection of isolated facts, but is instead a way of thinking about the world.” Bob’s areas of research include inorganic, organometallic, and materials chemistry. His group is currently working on solid materials related to chemical sensors and catalysis. He has mentored more than 95 student researchers, including 27 honors students. He and his students operate an X-ray crystallography center that enables students at W&M, and other undergraduate schools, to determine 3-D structures of their compounds. He is particularly proud of this fact, pointing out that it is unusual for students to have the chance to learn crystallography as undergraduates. He is author on nearly 100 scientific papers and recently co-authored a book entitled Terrestrial Nuclear Processes. With his wife, Lisa, Bob hosts a monthly book club and informal music jam sessions. In addition the Pikes enjoy travel, theater, baseball, and their dogs.

Congratulations to an Excellent Teacher

When Carey Bagdassarian received the Arts and Sciences 2012 Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence this spring it was not the first time he received such recognition. He has recently finished a three-year appointment as University Professor for Teaching Excellence and in 2003 he received the College’s Thomas Jefferson Teaching Award. Carey’s reputation among students draws high enrollment in his classes and he is rewarded with excellent evaluations. He brings great enthusiasm and energy to teaching chemistry courses and is interested in a holistic, trans-disciplinary approach to science. He has developed several interdisciplinary courses and recently has collaborated with Professor Elizabeth Mead from the Department of Art and Art History in creating Emergent Dialogues: The Intersection of Art and Science, a course that fosters a creative and reciprocal dialogue between artists and scientists.

Carey’s other big news is the birth of his and Elizabeth Harbron’s daughter Julia on July 27.

Congratulations to Professor Landino

This spring Lisa Landino was awarded the Garrett-Robb-Guy Chair, an endowment by Mrs. Gladys Guy to honor the first three chairs of the Chemistry Department including her husband, William George Guy.

When asked about this award and her teaching and research, Lisa says: “After 11 years of teaching and research with dozens
of undergraduates at William & Mary, I know a little more about Alzheimer’s disease and oxidative stress in the brain. But, more importantly, I know a lot more about how to encourage and motivate students and about how to keep me moving forward into new areas of research.

“Yes, I teach students how to design their own experiments and mostly to run protein gels, but I also get to be the skeptic and to ask ‘Did you do the proper controls?’ and to remind them repeatedly that ‘It’s called re-search, not search.’ Even when I’m ‘speaking passionately’ (never yelling!) they seem to WANT to keep at it… And so, another cohort of young scientists emerges from the Landino lab each year!

“I have been delighted to see how engaging students in both the classroom and in the research lab can help inspire them to pursue careers in science. It is very satisfying to know that my enthusiasm and my love for research can be contagious. And just think, I have many more years of this to come!”

Other Department News

Creative Adaptation

As part of the College’s drive to streamline operations, the Provost announced a competition for projects that demonstrate “Creative Adaptation”. The goal of these projects was to enhance the learning opportunities of different constituents of the College and to take advantage of new technologies. In response to this charge, the Chemistry department proposed to develop a new virtual chemistry lab for non-science majors. As the number of students wishing to take chemistry has been steadily increasing over the past few years, it was not possible for us to accommodate both science (Chem 103) and non-science (Chem 101) students in the lab. With the goal of increasing access for both sets of students, we decided to create a new lab class, Chem 101L for non-science majors. Moving the Chem 101 students to their own lab time (Thursday evenings) allows up to twice as many non-majors to fulfill the General Education Lab Requirement and also opens up additional spots in the Chem 103L course for science majors.

Another goal of the Creative Adaptation program was to either generate new revenue or to reduce costs. With this in mind, we decided to teach the new lab course using the Virtual Chemlab software package. Students will perform six to eight virtual chemistry labs on topics ranging from quantum mechanics to acid base titrations to calorimetry. They will also be performing two “wet” chemistry labs in order to get some hands-on experience with laboratory equipment. After piloting the virtual labs in Chem 101L this fall, we will be replacing two of the “wet” labs from 103L in the Fall of 2013, which will reduce both the expense of running the lab and the amount of hazardous waste generated. The new lab course was designed over the Summer of 2012 by Professors Abelt, Bagdassarian, Pike, Poutsma, and Young, as well as our Director of Instrumentation Jeff Molloy and Laboratory Specialist DerHong Shieh.

Chemistry Club and Magic

The Chemistry Club is back! – due in large part to the efforts of Amy Green (‘12), Jackie Blake-Hedges (‘13), Natalie Wong (‘14) and Desmarie Sherwood (‘13). It’s been a busy year for the Club, with students actively participating at the Southeast Regional ACS meeting, Green Chemistry week, outreach at Matthew Whaley Elementary School, and most excitingly, the resurrection of the Magic Show!

Over 20 students and faculty helped make the Magic Show an overwhelming success to a packed audience. The event, which was hosted by the Chemistry Club faculty advisors Doug Young and Kristin Wustholz, included more than a dozen tricks (most of which worked, though all were entertaining). The next Magic Show will take place during fall 2012 and have a Halloween theme. Fundraising activities included sales of student-designed Chemistry Club T-shirts and beaker mugs (for more information please contact Kristin at kwustholz@wm.edu). We look forward to another exciting year of chemistry-related shenanigans with the Chemistry Club.

Homecoming 2011 Reception Recap

Last October’s reception for Chem Alumni was held on the Saturday morning of Homecoming Weekend in the Integrated Science Center (ISC), the present home of the Chemistry Department. Two dozen alums attended, many with spouse, sibling, and/or children. Just about every year, we have at least one Chem alum with a child who is a current W&M student. Such was the case last fall with Rhonda Winstead Gianturco (’85) and daughter Stephanie. John Marsh (’55) was the earliest graduate attending the last reunion. John, a retired physician, didn’t have far to travel as he and his wife Carol (’54) live in town. Regardless of whether your graduation was recent or a long time ago, it’s always a special treat for us to see you again. We look forward to this year’s reception.
2011 Chemistry Homecoming Reception


Chris Abelt, Amy Padden ’91, Muriel Liberto ’91, Michael Farabaugh ’91 and his wife, Karen

Andy Kuntz ’01 with daughter and Randy Coleman

Bob Orwoll and Dick Rhyne ’76

Zachary Reed ’05, Sara Orsiki ’06 and J.C. Poutsma

Elizabeth Bower ’11, Isabelle Thibau ’11 and Carey Bagdassarian

Muriel Liberto ’91, Gary DeFotis and Amy Padden ’91

Carol Marsh ’54, Dick Kiefer and John Marsh ’55

Yong Hwan Kim ’11 and UG Camelia Drissi

Bob Pike and Tim Brewster ’08

Chris Marks ’86, UG Stephanie Gianturco and Rhonda Winstead Gianturco ’85

Randy Coleman and Aly Lorenz ’09

Chemistry professors Elizabeth Harbron, Chris Abelt, Jonathan Scheerer, Lisa Landino and Rob Hinkle

Carey Bagdassarine, Elizabeth Harbron and Kay Pharr ’06

Brian Lins, Ashley Rouse Lins ’01 and Kathryn Guy ’01

Dick Kiefer and Charles Wilkes ’76

Pei Wang ’11 and J.C. Poutsma
Thanks to Our Donors

The Chemistry Department benefits from some very generous donors who have established endowments enabling us to further our academic mission. Some of these funds are designated for particular purposes and some may be used for a variety of pressing need and all of them are welcomed by our students and faculty who feel very fortunate to be the recipients of such generosity. The following list indicates how these endowments were used this past year to support our teaching and research goals.

Debra L. Allison Summer Fellowship in Chemistry
Supported an academically distinguished chemistry student participating in summer research.

Patricia Pound Barry Chemistry Scholarship
Provided four annual scholarships to academically distinguished undergraduate students majoring in chemistry. The 2011-12 recipients were: Lars Dunaway ’12, Brittani Collins ’13, Hye Joo Yoon ’14, and Jacob Daniels ’15.

James T. & Evelyn A. Cranmer Memorial Scholarship
Supported two undergraduate students participating in summer research in chemistry.

Ferguson Chemistry Endowment
Funded the purchase of a computational chemistry software site license, a power supply, and laser parts for Chemistry Department laboratory classes.

Charles E Flynn ’34 Memorial Chemistry Endowment
Funded the department match portion of a microwave system, proposed and partially funded by the Morton Science Lab Fund, to facilitate the introduction of microwave technologies into the Chemistry Department curriculum.

Robert L. Greene Endowment
Supported a promising chemistry student in summer research.

William G. Guy Endowment
Funded an annual chemistry award. This year's recipient was Hannah Naughton.

Hillger - Roberts - Kranbuehl Chemistry Endowment
Funded the expenses for our Chemistry Seminar program.

Kranbuehl - Thompson Graduate Fellowship
Funded an increased stipend for a chemistry graduate student.

Gene J. & Frances E. Schiavelli Memorial Endowment
Provided support for an additional undergraduate summer research student.

Support Chemistry!

Endowed funds and gifts for programs like our undergraduate summer research make a significant impact on our educational enterprise. Alternatively, annual giving offers some level of financial security and allows the department the opportunity to conduct longer term planning. If you are interested in contributing to the needs of the department on a regular or annual basis, please consider donating to the unrestricted Chemistry Fund (Account 2967). You can make contributions by going to the W&M Chemistry website and clicking the button Give To Chemistry under Support or you can contribute by mail. Please make your check payable to The College of William and Mary Foundation. Be sure to note in your check's memo area how you are designating your gift.

Mailing address:

The College of William and Mary Foundation
P.O. Box 1693
Williamsburg, VA 23187-1693

News of Our Alumni

Marine Corps building named in honor of W&M alumnus

by Erin Zagursky, William & Mary

Although he lost his life while saving the lives of other Marines, William & Mary alumnus and 1st Lt. Donald “Ryan” McGlothlin’s legacy lives on.

The Marine Corps dedicated a building bearing McGlothlin’s name in Quantico, Va., on May 17. The building will house students at The Basic School, which trains newly appointed Marine Corps officers. McGlothlin himself was a graduate of The Basic School, finishing his work there in July 2004 with the highest overall scores in his class.

The dedication ceremony, which was attended by William & Mary President Taylor Reveley, included remarks by Col. Robert G. Oltman, McGlothlin’s former commander, along with family and friends, including two classmates from William & Mary. McGlothlin Hall is a handsome dormitory, with 124 student rooms, four discussion rooms and a large conference room. A hand-carved stone marker in front of the building memorializes McGlothlin.

“This gallant Marine officer demonstrated inspiring leadership and boundless courage in service to his country and Corps,” the marker says.
McGlothlin graduated from William & Mary in 2001 with honors in chemistry and as a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He was one of the most able chemistry students ever to attend the College and went on to pursue a Ph.D. in chemistry at Stanford University. His graduate work was interrupted when, inspired by the events of Sept. 11, 2001, he joined the Marine Corps. After finishing his master’s degree, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in December 2003.

After being stationed with the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, McGlothlin was deployed to Iraq in July 2005 with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

McGlothlin served as a Rifle Platoon Commander during Operation Steel Curtain. During an attack on the platoon in November 2005, He helped to shield the recovery of a unit that had sustained extensive casualties. During that engagement, he was killed. His actions earned him a Silver Star.

According to the Silver Star citation, “By his bold leadership, selfless act of bravery, and complete dedication to duty, Second Lieutenant McGlothlin reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.”

McGlothlin was buried in his hometown of Lebanon, Va. In 2009, the town had a bronze bust sculpted in his honor. The bust is now located at the Southwest Virginia Technology Development Center in Lebanon.

Chemistry Alum Hosts Career Discussions
Not everyone with a chemistry degree ends up in the laboratory. Katherine (Kay) Pharr (’06) has taken a very different path. After obtaining a Master’s degree at Wake Forrest University, Kay spent time abroad and became interested in international relations. She now works at the U.S. Department of State Office of Science. Kay’s supervisor Elizabeth (Libby) Lyons also has degrees in science and has spent time in academia. Libby is employed by the National Science Foundation and is currently on “loan” to the State Department. Her daughter is currently a Biology concentrator at the College. Kay’s and Libby’s work lies at the intersection of science and diplomacy.

Kay and Libby visited the College in January and met with students, faculty, and administrators to discuss the role of university science in international relations. In their talk at the Cohen Career Center entitled “Careers at the Intersection of Science, Government and/or International: Two Winding Paths” Libby and Kay encouraged students to be creative in finding (or creating) their ideal career niche and spoke of the importance of an international perspective. They encouraged graduates of the College, especially those with training in the sciences, to consider work in public service. In a second talk entitled “University/College Engagement in U.S. Science Diplomacy” Libby discussed the role of science cooperation between nations, both as an outcome of and as a tool for diplomacy.

Alumni Updates
It is wonderful to hear from so many of you. Please continue to keep us up to date by sending us an email to chemistry@wm.edu or by contacting your favorite professor. You can also send us a note to the address on the back of the newsletter.

Are you on Facebook?
Consider joining the “William and Mary Chemistry Alumni” Facebook interest group. It’s a good way to keep in touch with the department and with other Chemistry alumni who have already joined.

Class of 1971
Diana Carr sent us the following note last fall: “Unfortunately I will be unable to make the reunion as I will have been in Richmond for the dedication of my father’s (Dabney Jefferson Carr III also an alum) memorial maze. I am currently an orthopedic/hand surgeon in Central FL (Sebring). We are where the winter vegetables ornamental plants etc come from. My mother also a chemistry major (Leontine Jones Carr ‘47) lives with me in my guest house.”

Class of 1971/1972
Dr. William Munsey who received his BS in Chemistry in 1971 and his MA in Chemistry in 1972 from William & Mary and a PhD in Chemistry from University of Virginia in 1978 has been teaching as a Professor of Chemistry at Blue Ridge Community College in Weyers Cave, Virginia since 1988.

Class of 1976
Dick Rhyne is an IT manager in Austin, Texas.

Charles Wilkes is a physician in Norfolk.

Class of 1980
Susan M. Kauzlarich was mentioned in the Awards section of the August edition of the Chemical and Engineering News.
She received the Francis P. Garvan-John M. Olin Medal. She is a Professor of Chemistry at University of California, Davis.

Class of 1981

Bruce McCord wrote “I am a chemistry graduate from 1981 and a Professor of Analytical and Forensic Chemistry at Florida International University. My wife Margie Phipps (W&G Physics 1983) and our children live in Miami and my oldest daughter is now a chemistry major at U. Delaware. At FIU we do research at the interface of analytical chemistry and forensic science. I recall visiting a Virginia forensic lab as a field trip while at W&M, but never realized it would lead to a career! After 9 years at the FBI’s forensic research center, I now work as a professor in Miami. My research projects focus on DNA detection, trace and toxicological analysis and are funded through the National Institute of Justice. Our group currently consists of 10 PhD and 5 MS students, but we would love to see some W&M students down here.”

Class of 1984

Karen Luebs sent an email to Bob Orwoll to let him know that she has relocated to Burke, Virginia, in order to enroll in George Mason’s Forensic Science graduate program. She started there in August 2011. Karen wrote: “I am holding my own against students my children’s age. It is high time I made use of my degree from William and Mary! The program is challenging enough – but is not as difficult as I remember W&M’s BS Chemistry program as being. I am writing more papers, and doing research is quite different than it was 30 years ago – accessing journal articles online is something new.”

Class of 1986

Brian Wimberly visited his former professor, Gary DeFotis, last year in October. He says “I should thank you and the rest of the W&M chemistry faculty for creating my appetite for this sort of science.” After William and Mary, from which he graduated in the chemistry curriculum with highest honors, Brian went on to get a PhD in chemistry from UC Berkeley. He then had postdoc stints at Scripps Institution and at the University of Utah. In 2000 he was recruited to Pharmacia Corporation and a year later to Rib-X Pharmaceuticals, a new Yale start-up company. In 2009 he got the news that Venki Ramakrishnan, Thomas A. Steitz and Ada E. Yonath of the group he worked with on crystallography of ribosomes at the University of Utah would be receiving the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Brian was first author on the main publication of this research in which he solved the first crystal structure of a portion of ribosomal RNA bound to a ribosomal protein. He then carried out further analysis leading to the structure of a major portion (30S subunit) of the ribosome without added protein factors. He joined the festivities in Stockholm when the Nobel Prize was awarded. Brian’s research and his career are detailed in a news story about him on the W&M Chemistry website at www.wm.edu/chemistry. Brian currently works in academia at UC Denver.

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Class of 1991

Michael Farabaugh teaches high school chemistry in Charlottesville, VA.

Kathy (Norton) Weesner attended the Homecoming reception last fall. She is a pediatric anesthesiologist in Kansas City, MO.


Stacey (Nevins) Buchanan ’97/MA ’98 came to visit us in the Chemistry Department last May and also sent us this update about herself and her husband Nate Buchanan ’96 who is also a chemistry graduate: “I can’t remember if I’ve ever sent in an alumni news update, so here’s what we’ve been up to. Things are going well for us in Michigan (though I’m starting to get tired of the snow after 14 years). Our oldest daughter Keira was born in 2006, and our son Malcolm was born in 2010. We live in Saline, MI - it’s just outside of Ann Arbor. I finished my PhD in analytical chem at U of M in 2005, and Nate finished his in 2006. I’ve been teaching chemistry at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn fulltime since 2004 - I received tenure in 2008. I teach general chemistry for science majors, for allied health majors, and a third class in analytical chemistry for the biotechnology program. We’re completing a major renovation/expansion to our science building, and the college enrollment has tripled since I started there, so the last few years there have been very interesting! Nate is a senior chemist at NSF International in Ann Arbor (the “health and public safety company” - not to be confused with the National Science Foundation). NSF Intl provides third party testing and certification. He works in the HPLC group, which mainly tests for pesticides and leachates.”

Class of 1999

Anne J. McNeil writes “I got married on 06/04/2011 to Matthew B. Soellner in Dexter, MI. We are both assistant professors at the University of Michigan. I am in the Chemistry department and Matt is in the Medicinal Chemistry department, though our offices are just one floor apart! We enjoy kayaking and gardening in the summer and skiing and snowshoeing in the winter.”
**Class of 2001**

Andy Kuntz sent this note to Dr. Pike: “I will be finishing my fellowship in Orthopaedic Shoulder and Elbow Surgery in July. I have accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania beginning in September. I will also serve as the Chief of Shoulder and Elbow Surgery at the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center.”

**Class of 2005/2006**

Zachary Reed attended the Homecoming reception with his wife, chemistry graduate Sara Orski ’06. Zachary got his PhD from UGA in 2009 and he and Sara got married in the same year.

Sara Orski is now a postdoc at N.I.S.T. after finishing her PhD at UGA.

**Class of 2006**

Kay Pharr returned for the Chemistry Alum reunion last October. She talked to Bob Orwoll and told him that she recently started a position in international science policy as a contractor for the State Department. After W&M Kay earned her MS in chemistry at Wake Forest and volunteered in the Middle East. Before starting in her “dream field” (her words), she worked at an IT company on USAID and Veteran’s Affairs projects.

Elizabeth Ilardi sent us the following news: “Since graduating from William and Mary in 2006, I completed a PhD in Synthetic Organic Chemistry under the direction of Dr. Armen Zakarian at the University of California Santa Barbara (2011). I presently work in Dr. Jon Njardarson’s research group as a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Arizona.”

**Class of 2007 and 2008**

Tom Brewster ’08 sent Bob Pike a note: “I will be finishing my Ph.D in July and beginning my postdoc with Professor Karen Goldberg at the University of Washington in September. My thesis, “Ruthenium and Iridium Complexes for Applications in Solar Energy and Green Chemistry,” is in the field of Organometallic and Green Chemistry under the direction of Prof. Robert H. Crabtree at Yale University. Additionally, in September I will be getting married to Amy Dembowski (W&M Chemistry 2007), which we are both very excited about. Amy graduated from MCV with a Pharm.D in May 2011 and has spent the last year as a pharmacy resident at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System. We will be getting married at the William & Mary Alumni house. Interestingly, Amy and I were introduced to each other by our mutual friend Robert Lewis, who was another W&M Chemistry graduate in 2007. He once told me that he thought Amy and I would have “good chemistry.” A terrible pun, but I liked the sentiment, and it turned out, he was correct.”

**Class of 2008**

Lauren Katkish contacted Bob Pike on the Chemistry Alumni Facebook site and wrote: “It’s great to hear from the W&M chemistry department! I am finishing my third year of medical school at George Washington University and will graduate in May 2013. This fall I will be applying to residency programs, and will be “matched” into a program in March 2013. I’ll let you know how it turns out! Give my best to Dr. Rice, Dr. Abelt, Dr. Hinkle, and all the rest of the W&M chemistry faculty!”

Joe Tucker contacted Chris Abelt by email with the following news: I recently finished up at BU, successfully defending my thesis at the end of June. After taking some vacation I recently started as a medicinal chemist at Pfizer in Groton, CT. Things are going well and I’m glad to have the opportunity to apply what I’ve learned to a new type of challenge. If I make it back down to Williamsburg sometime I’ll be sure to pay you a visit.”

**Class of 2011**

Elizabeth Bower attended the department Homecoming reception and wrote into the guestbook: “…W&M is better!”

Yong Hwan Kim joined us for the Homecoming reception and let us know that he is pursuing a Ph.D. in bioengineering at the University of Notre Dame.

Elizabeth (Lizzy)Terrell visited Gary Rice in June with news about beginning a post-baccalaureate research position at the NIH cancer research institute in Frederick, Md in July after spending a year in Micronesia on the island of Kosrae teaching high school chemistry and biology through the Peace Corps (where she realized teaching is hard!).

Isabelle Thibau was able to attend the Chemistry Homecoming event last fall and told us that she loves W&M and that Chemistry is AWESOME! She also wrote: “As for my activities right now, I am working at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) in Rockville, MD. I’m having a great time! My Chemistry is certainly coming in handy. Thank you for the newsletter and information.”
2012 Chemistry Majors and Their Destinations

- Robert Dudley Abbott: medical school, University of Virginia
- Nicolas Alejandro Abrigo: not reported
- Samantha Ivanna Applin: internship, LARSS program at NASA Langley
- Aaron Spjut Bellamy: teaching chemistry at a Virginia High School
- Elizabeth Saunders Childress: graduate studies in chemistry, Virginia Tech
- Ralph Warren Cook: medical school, Northwestern’s Feinberg School of Medicine
- William Lawrence Czaplyski: graduate studies in chemistry, William & Mary
- Stephen Adam Dinehart: not reported
- Lars Erik Dunaway: graduate studies in chemistry, NC State University
- Emily Jo Eklund: graduate studies in food science and human nutrition, U of Illinois
- Timothy John Gonzalez-Taps: not reported
- Amy Michele Green: graduate studies in chemistry, University of Pennsylvania
- Kasondra Marie Hartman: not reported
- Rosemary Lillian Hatch: graduate studies in geological sciences, University of Texas
- Elena Aleksandrovna Lepekhina: medical school, Georgetown University
- Jeffrey Liaw: not reported
- Xi Yan Lu: not reported
- Anshul Avinash Mainkar: graduate studies in chemistry, William & Mary
- Kaila Ashley Margrey: graduate studies in chemistry, Indiana University
- Kendall Margaret Mayer: graduate studies in chemistry and biochemistry, University of Colorado
- Ingrid Anna Mielke-Maday: graduate studies in information and library sci., UNC Chapel Hill
- Hannah Rose Naughton: graduate studies in natural resources and environment, U of Michigan
- Zachariah Bach Nealy: undecided
- Eileen Katherine Nenninger: medical school, University of Virginia
- Lindsay Hardt Oakley: graduate studies in engineering, materials sciences, Northwestern U
- Andres Palomo: medical school, Rush Medical College
- Lori Ann Piasecki: medical school, Medical College of Virginia
- Ryan Shintani: graduate studies in applied science, William & Mary
- Andrew Magdy Sidhom: medical school, Eastern Virginia Medical School
- Emily Elizabeth Stephens: not reported
- Rita Nicole Straus: graduate studies in chemistry, University of Toronto
- Adam Richard Warack: not reported
- Ting Zhang: graduate studies in chemistry, Ohio State University

Φ Phi Beta Kappa  M Monroe Scholar  H Honors in Chemistry

2012 Chemistry Master Student and His Destination

John-Andrew Samuel Hocker: Ph.D. studies in Applied Sciences, William & Mary
2012 Crossword Puzzle for Chemists
Another puzzle from Chemistry's Puzzle Master, Bob Pike. As we did last year, we will post the solutions on our website at www.wm.edu/as/chemistry/alumni/deptnewsletter and provide copies at this fall's reception.

Scrambled Elements  Robert D. Pike

ACROSS
1. Relaxation locale
4. Groups of kangaroos
8. Govt. agency concerned with 73 down
11. Detergent brand
15. Fleeing, with "on the"
16. City of New Orleans singer Guthrie
17. It's sometimes represented as X
18. Auricular
19. Superior serve
20. Scrambled element #87
22. Response to danger
23. Remnant
25. Scrambled element #52
27. _____ much as (to the extent)
28. Regretting
29. Built for two
32. Between
33. Opposite of alpha
38. Kind of pen
39. Home made of 57 down
41. Derived from HO2C-CO2H
42. Slick fish
44. Japanese theater style
45. _____ Any Place (Janet Jackson hit)
46. Scrambled element #101
50. Folklore
53. Psych lab need
54. Org. that scans the heavens
58. Brits
59. Vehicles
61. Uncontrolled muscle motion
62. Egg-shaped
63. Big birds

64. Fat-cleaving enzyme
67. "No man is an island" poet
69. Yearn
70. Scrambled element #44
74. Kind of tooth
78. Mr. Descartes
79. Popular Asian sauce
81. Greeting for Maria
82. Skip
83. Jewish first name meaning "lion"
84. Tech review site
85. Ear metal?
86. Son of Adam
87. Paterno's school, abbrev.
88. Computer program details
89. Summertime time

DOWN
1. Eastern European
2. Tempo
3. Home of Iowa State
4. Salt water-dwelling
5. Paper-folding art
6. Music born from pain
7. Male offspring
8. Scrambled element #45
9. The father of geometry
10. "Let me repeat myself..."
11. Vegan meat substitute
12. One in a list
13. Analog display
14. Off-white decorator color
21. Scrambled element composed from all other element symbols in this puzzle
24. Thrice daily, abbrev.
26. Scrambled element #8
29. Golf need
30. Gibbon, e.g.
31. Pretty much nothing
32. Soothing plant
34. Breeding pairs
35. QB Manning
36. Where one works out
37. A brew
40. Wildebeests
41. 1992 U2 hit
42. Extract metal from its ore
43. Harmony part
47. Scrambled element #53
48. Drs.
49. Vessels for industrial reactions
50. Southeast Asian language
51. Branch of science, abbrev.
52. A DNA codon
53. Frat letter
54. Christmas carol contraction
55. Crystalline dihydrogen monoxide
56. Scrambled element #92
58. Brits
59. Vehicles
61. Uncontrolled muscle motion
62. Egg-shaped
63. Types in
65. Egg on
66. Canadian Prov.
68. Serving option for 37 down
69. Billy Joel classic
70. Cupid by another name
71. Iron porphyrin
72. Dalton, Coulomb, or Kelvin
73. N-methyl-phenylpropan-2-amine, informally
74. N-methyl-1-phenylpropan-2-amine, informally
75. Fill up
76. Roman poet
77. Broadway musical 1996 to 2008
80. National park work program for kids, abbrev.
89. _____ Man

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Join us for the Chemistry Department Homecoming Reception 2012!

The Chemistry Department is hosting a pre-game reception for chemistry graduates in the Integrated Science Center on Saturday, October 27, starting at 10:00 am in the second floor lobby (above the Barksdale Field entrance). We look forward to seeing you there. If you can join us, please try to let us know by October 19. You can email us at chemistry@wm.edu, give us a call at 757-221-2540, or fill out this form:

Yes, I plan to attend the Chemistry Reception on Saturday, October 27, 2012, at 10:00 am

Name ___________________________________ Class of ______________ No. of Guests __________

and mail it to: Claudia Smith
Chemistry Department
College of William and Mary
PO Box 8795
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795

Even if you’re unable to come, please let us know what you’re doing. We’d love to hear from you!