Eight years ago Gary Rice began the chair’s letter saying “Well it’s been quite a ride over the last four years as chair of the department, and I would guess, assume, speculate that this will be my last letter as chair…” The next year he began with “In last year’s column I gave the impression that it would be the last time I would write as chair of the department. Amazing how things can change in a few months.” I find myself in a similar situation, and I am determined to learn by Gary’s experience. I am not going to tempt fate by saying that this is the last letter I will write as chair. A bold, brash statement like that has a way of coming back to bite you. I can say unequivocally that this will be the last time I write as chair under the five-year contract issued by then Provost Geoff Feiss in 2009. This term will end with the department looking very different than when the term began. In particular, there have been five assistant professors and five staff members hired since 2009. Given that the faculty and staff total to twenty-one, this represents nearly half the personnel changing in the last four years. Search for faculty and staff has been so constant that I will feel that something is amiss in the upcoming year because it will be the first one without a search … or at least so far. We are happy to welcome Tyler Medrum as our newest addition to the faculty. Tyler is a physical chemist who is replacing Dick Kiefer, who retired, as least formally, in May. Gary continues to work on six or seven papers from the reams of data he and his students have collected over his thirty-three years at the College. We were extremely fortunate to be able to hire Tyler. Another candidate had accepted the position in December, but then declined it several months later. Being a government institution, it would not have been trivial to begin a search from scratch again. Not only that, but the effects of reallocation were being felt several months later. Being a government institution, it would not have been trivial to begin a search from scratch again. Not only that, but the effects of reallocation were being felt…

From the Chair

Eight years ago Gary Rice...
Professor DeFotis Retires

For Gary DeFotis’ retirement this spring, David Holmes, Emeritus Professor of Religion and a friend and former colleague, drove down from Charlottesville to deliver the following remarks at the last meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences for 2012–2013.

Here is an excerpt from David Holmes’ speech:

“The first thing you learn when you speak about the career of Gary DeFotis is that he has simply achieved too much to summarize swiftly. If the goal is a two-minute talk, you can’t get there from here. Music, for example, is very important to him. Art, art history, select novels—he is interested in all of them. He routinely reads literary journals. He is national-class in chess. He likes to shoot pool. As he himself once said, ‘I’ve been interested in almost everything since an early age.’ But today we can only touch on those matters.

Gary DeFotis took his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry at the University of Chicago. He joined William & Mary’s faculty in 1980. He was hired as a capstone to the growth in quality and research that had steadily occurred in those prize-winning departments. In his 33 years here, Gary has taught a variety of chemistry courses, including courses that introduce students to research. He has supervised more than 100 student projects. He has written nearly 70 articles co-authored by students. In the words of a colleague, Gary “has had an incredibly consistent record of involving students in research and of seeing them into major graduate programs.”

Three awards—the Alumni Teaching, the Plumeri, and the Outstanding Faculty Award of Virginia—have recognized Gary’s teaching. “Carefully constructed . . . , meticulous in presentation—all such funding has come from his own efforts over most of his career.

Gary came to the College at a time in which dedicated faculty and former colleague, drove down from the first member of the Chemistry faculty to win the American Chemical Society Award for Research at an Undergraduate Institution.

Gary DeFotis is retiring this year after a distinguished career. His extensive committee work has helped shape life on this campus. Few have been more faithful in their attendance at faculty meetings. Throughout, Gary has displayed—in the words of a colleague—an independence of mind, a willingness to question the PC sacred cows of academia, and a willingness to articulate what [other] people think, but are cowed into not saying.”

Gary DeFotis is retiring just shy of one million dollars in grants from outside sources, reviewed 280 journal articles and research proposals worth 14 million dollars overall. In 1989, Gary became the first professor at a public institution in America to receive a Dreyfus Mentorship/Fellowship. That award recognizes outstanding research and dedication to undergraduate education. Eight years later, he became the first member of the Chemistry faculty to win the American Chemical Society Award for Research at an Undergraduate Institution.

We Welcome Our New Faculty Member

Tyler Meldrum joined the Chemistry Department this August as an Assistant Professor. He earned his Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley in 2011 where he developed xenon-based molecular sensors using large, superconducting magnets. He then had an appointment as an Alexander von Humboldt Postdoctoral Research Fellow at RWTH University in Aachen, Germany working with handheld permanent magnets and studying cultural heritage across Europe (both professionally and personally). Professor Meldrum’s areas of expertise include NMR methodologies, portable instrumentation and cultural heritage. He studies material properties and chemical processes in cultural heritage applications such as curing of paint, effects of coatings on porous materials, conservation treatments as well as non-destructive profiling of objects of cultural heritage for characterization and preservation.

In a personal note, Tyler writes: “An unsubstantiated fear of a lack of adventure in the US led Tyler and his wife, Sara, to bring back a special souvenir from Germany: the now six-month-old, incomparably beautiful Flavia. The inspiration for the name ‘Flavia’ comes primarily from the Flavia de Luce novels by Alan Bradley that feature an 11-year-old Flavia as the sassy chemist/poison specialist/expert/death/protagonist. In his advice to Tyler and Sara, Mr. Bradley encouraged them to ‘provide [Flavia] with a suitable laboratory as soon as possible. It’s never too soon for genius.’ Expect to see Flavia in the ISC soon.”

Professor Abelt Receives Two Recognitions

This year Chris Abelt, Professor and Chair of Chemistry, has been recognized with the Arts and Sciences Faculty Governance Award this spring. The citation that accompanied the Governance Award reads as follows:

Professor Abelt has contributed extensively to faculty governance in ways notable for their integrity, thoughtfulness, and broad impact. At the College-wide level, he has served on the Pre-Doctoral Review and Personnel Policy committees and as Vice President and President of the Faculty Assembly. As President, he helped to guide formulation of the post-tenure review policies and phased-retirement program, along with a Faculty Council formally from the start of the Committee Initia- tive that redefined the relationship between the College and the Commonwealth of Virginia. As co-chair of the Dean’s Advisory Council (now the Council of Chairs and Program Directors) and a member of several ad hoc committees, he helped to develop and articulate fund raising priorities for Arts & Sciences as well as creative approaches for addressing the Provost’s mandated reallocation of 5 percent of the A&S budget. From 2008 to 2011 he served on the A&S Reten- tion, Promotion, and Tenure Committee. Over the course of eighteen years of service as Director of Graduate Studies in the Chemistry Department, he preserved and enhanced the department’s master’s degree program, carefully managing funds to both recruit well-qualified students and support the research needs of the Chemistry faculty. As department chair since 2009 he has won the respect of his colleagues for his efficiency in managing the financial and personnel affairs of the department and also the introduction of fees for laboratory courses as part of the evolving financial model for the College.

Chris Abelt has also been named Chancellor Professor. While the position of Chancellor (currently held by Robert Gates) was established by the Royal Charter, Chancellor Professors were established relatively recently. This designation was made possible through the Chancellor’s fund that was created by for- mer President John Stewart Bryan when he became Chancel- lor in 1942. In the 1960s Chancellor and former President Alvin Duke persuaded the Board of Visitors to create the position of Chancellor Professor and to have the Chancellor’s fund provide for the honoraria that go along with the title. The honoraria is for a seven-year term, but the title remains even in retirement; for example, Dave Thompson is Chancellor Professor of Chemistry, Emeritus. The award is made for sustained, significant contributions in service, scholarship and teaching.

Congratulations to Professor Harbron

Elizabeth Harbron has received many awards since joining the Chemistry Faculty. This year she can add the Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence and a Plumeri Award to her list of achievements.

Professor Harbron has taught more than 1,400 students in courses ranging from freshman organic chemistry to senior- and graduate-level organic spectroscopy, consistently earning both excellent student evaluations and being one of the highest-rated faculty member in the Chemis- try Department. Her teaching and mentoring of students extends into the laboratory, where she regularly incorporates student coworkers into her research projects. Since arriving at William & Mary in 2002, Elizabeth Harbron has developed an active research program in photochemistry. She is working to develop ways to use fluorescence modulation for imaging and sensory applications. She mentors nearly 10 stu- dent researchers during the academic year. Fourteen students have appeared as co-authors on her publications, 11 of whom had worked with Harbron since their freshman or sophomore year. During the summer, she averages six students engaged in full-time research.

Recognized as an outstanding teacher, Harbron has estab- lished a program of peer mentorship which pairs young, inex-perienced students with older, more experienced students. Her success in developing young women scientists was highlighted in a 2011 Associated Press story, which was published by news outlets across the country. This summer she was listed as one
of the Top Women Professors on the Affordable Colleges Online website.

Harbron is a reviewer for several journals in her field and serves on the advisory board of the Inter-American Photochemical Society. In the past she was the recipient of the William & Mary Arts & Sciences Award for Teaching Excellence, the Thomas Jefferson Teaching Award, the William & Mary Arts & Sciences Award for Teaching Excellence, the Alumni Fellowship Award and was named a Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar.

Professor Poutsma Receives Fellowship

This year J.C. Poutsma has been named English-Stonehouse Professor, a fellowship that has been made possible by the generosity of Cory English of Alexandria, Virginia. It also honors the memory of his wife, Katchen Stonehouse. The award provides a stipend for faculty to be used for research-related expenses. Professor Poutsma is a physical chemist and his current research is focused on using mass spectrometry and high-level theoretical calculations to study the intrinsic properties of gas-phase biomolecules. His lab is especially interested in the chemistry of so-called "non-protein amino acids" which are naturally-occurring compounds that are not coded by RNA. These species serve as model systems for the lab to understand the subtle interplay between structure and function in biological molecules.

Congratulations to Professor Wustholz

Kristin Wustholz has been appointed as the Dean’s Distinguished Lecturer and Coco Faculty Fellow for 2013-2014. The appointment as Coco Faculty Fellow carries with it an award in support of her research and is made possible by a generous gift from alumnus Edward Coco. As Dean’s Distinguished Lecturer, Prof. Wustholz will give a lecture on a topic of broad interest to the Christopher Wren Association’s Town and Gown for Arts and Sciences. The Town and Gown series has proved an excellent way for Arts and Sciences to demonstrate the importance of research and scholarship to an audience of strong supporters of the College. Prof. Wustholz has received this award in recognition of her excellent record of teaching and research.

Chemistry Club

It’s been another successful year for the Chemistry Club! Our chapter was recognized with an Honorable Mention by the American Chemical Society, which is especially impressive considering that we are just in our second year after re-activating the Club. Moreover, based on our efforts during Green Chemistry Week, we received an ACS Green Chemistry Certification. Much of the success was due to the hard work of our officers Jackie Blake-Hedges (’13), Natalie Wong (’14), Desmarnie Sherwood (’13), Sharon Hartrell (’14) and faculty advisors Kristin Wustholz and Doug Young. The Club participated in numerous activities throughout the year including demonstrations at Matthew Whaley Elementary School, Chemistry Egg Hunts, and a Halloween Magic Show. Finally we have been actively fundraising by selling chemistry beaker mugs to support these numerous activities. Overall it’s been a great year, and we’re looking forward to another one!

Support Chemistry

If you are interested in contributing to the needs of the department on a one-time, regular or annual basis, please consider donating to the Chemistry Fund (Account 2967) or the Alfred Armstrong Fund. There are two mechanisms through which you can make such contributions. Online donations can be made by going to the chemistry web site at www.wm.edu/chemistry and clicking Support Chemistry in the left navigation bar. To contribute by mail, please make your check payable to The College of William and Mary Foundation. Please be sure to note how you are designating your gift in the check’s memo area.

Mailing address:
The College of William and Mary Foundation
PO Box 1693
Williamsburg, VA 23187

Students’ Doodle

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Students’ Doodle

Support Chemistry!
## 2013 Chemistry Graduates and Their Destinations

### Chemistry Majors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Destination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kameron Adams</td>
<td>Graduate studies in geography and env. eng. at John Hopkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Barclay</td>
<td>Secondary education program at W&amp;M School of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Φ</strong>Jacquelyn Blake-Hedges</td>
<td>PhD studies in chemistry at UC Berkeley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>H</strong>Charles Blevins</td>
<td>Applying to medical schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Φ</strong>Matthew Blum</td>
<td>Consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Bursey</td>
<td>Uncertain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell Butler</td>
<td>Uncertain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Calcagni</td>
<td>Uncertain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Φ</strong>Alexander Chattrain</td>
<td>Mount Sinai School of Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Φ</strong> Alex Chinn</td>
<td>Uncertain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Britanni Collins</td>
<td>Graduate studies in chemistry at W&amp;M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aidan De Sena</td>
<td>Uganda project manager for Maji Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erin Dean</td>
<td>Business development associate at Vorsight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Desonne</td>
<td>New Jersey Dental School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathaniel Dirda</td>
<td>Uncertain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camelia Drissi</td>
<td>Uncertain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay Entsminger</td>
<td>Uncertain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Entsminger</td>
<td>Uncertain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Fabian</td>
<td>Graduate studies in physical chemistry at UC Irvine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yoko Fukuda</td>
<td>Work for a year then dental school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Φ</strong>Sofia Garakayraghi</td>
<td>PhD studies in chemistry at NC State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katherine Gheyensens</td>
<td>Rutgers University – Robert Wood Johnson Medical School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Φ</strong>Gregory Ginsburg</td>
<td>Uncertain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin Glauber</td>
<td>Uncertain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Hazzard</td>
<td>Planning on attending a physician's assistant masters program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Φ</strong>David Hill</td>
<td>Graduate studies in chemistry at UNC Chapel Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emil Iqbal</td>
<td>AmeriCorps City program then graduate studies in chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alyraim Jiwani</td>
<td>Uncertain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Kaurich</td>
<td>Graduate studies in polymer chemistry at Virginia Tech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Kenney</td>
<td>Seeking work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regina Kieninger</td>
<td>Uncertain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin Kirby</td>
<td>Graduate studies in historical archaeology at W&amp;M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryia Kvashenko</td>
<td>Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Lennox</td>
<td>Graduate studies in inorganic chemistry at UNC Chapel Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>H</strong>John Lovette</td>
<td>Uncertain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colin Manning</td>
<td>Uncertain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Masters Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Destination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Φ</strong>Shannon McCullough</td>
<td>Graduate studies in chemistry at UNC Chapel Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaclyn McKenna</td>
<td>Uncertain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindsay McKeown</td>
<td>UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric Mendenhall</td>
<td>Planning on attending graduate school in chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Φ</strong>Kayla Miller</td>
<td>Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Morris</td>
<td>Planning on attending graduate school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Φ</strong>Corbin Muettetters</td>
<td>Temple University School of Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yuliiia Nikitina</td>
<td>Uncertain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Noviello</td>
<td>Graduate studies at University of Delaware</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reynaldo Ortega</td>
<td>Uncertain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Φ</strong>Charlotte Platter</td>
<td>NIH post-baccalaureate IRTA Program, then medical school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Φ</strong>Brian Rabe</td>
<td>Graduate studies in developmental neurobiology at Harvard U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justin Salvant</td>
<td>Graduate studies at University of Utah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desmarie Sherwood</td>
<td>Uncertain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohammed Shomrat</td>
<td>Applied to University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azsa Snipes</td>
<td>Uncertain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Taylor</td>
<td>Working in quality assurance at Epic Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert VanGundy</td>
<td>PhD studies in physical chemistry at Emory University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Φ</strong>Charles Wang</td>
<td>Eastern Virginia Medical School, MD program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Whitworth</td>
<td>American University, Washington DC, College of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Je Yoon</td>
<td>Graduate studies at W&amp;M School of Education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Masters Students Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Destination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Auslander</td>
<td>PhD studies in biophysical chemistry at New York University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Belton</td>
<td>Mass spec lab technologist at Health Diagnostic Laboratory, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Czaplyski</td>
<td>PhD studies in chemistry at UNC Chapel Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Hirtenstein</td>
<td>Seeking employment as a chemist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Laws</td>
<td>PhD studies in chemistry at UC Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaila Margrey</td>
<td>PhD studies in chemistry at UNC Chapel Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joy Russell</td>
<td>Project manager, trainer and consultant at Classic Seminars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinton Schiavone</td>
<td>Uncertain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valerie Tripp</td>
<td>PhD studies in chemical biology at U of Wisconsin, Madison</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ΦPhi Beta Kappa  MMonroe Scholar  HHonors in Chemistry
Donors to the Chemistry Department 2012/2013

We are very grateful to the many donors to the Chemistry Department, the Alfred Armstrong Fund and the Chemistry Honors Research Projects through the Charles Center. Your generosity makes a significant impact on our educational enterprise.

Caitlin Freeman Adelson and Jordan Adelson
Dr. Anton Allen
Debra Allison
Lisa Aly
Dr. Janet Anderson
Scott Andrews
Anika Armstrong Johnson
Dr. Elizabeth Austin-Miner and Dr. Jay Austin
Dr. Georiga Baquis
Kathryn Beers
Jacquelyn Blake-Hodges
Dr. Wynnllam Boon
Deanna Scheffil Boyston
Thomas Bradshaw
Mary and James Caboon
Josia Campbell
Jeannette Millner Carpenter and Michael Carpenter
Erin Carson
Emil Ceriada
Dr. Daniel Chan
Feynan Chang
Elizabeth Childress
Alex Chinn
Dr. Donald and Sandra Clarke
Britannia Collins
Jeffrey Conner
Ralph Cook, IV
David Dicarlo
Lisa and David Diffley
Emily Dungan
Dr. Raymond Dyer III
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Dr. Scott Forrest
Kathryn Foss
Katherine Glyoson
Gregory Gutehus
Dr. Michael Glassp
Dr. Geordie Grant
Elizabeth Gray
Amy Green
Raymond Grechowski
Francis Gayette
James and Carol Ann Harbert
James Hardcastle
Dr. Thomas Harris
Sean Hart
Kassandra Hartman
Dr. Douglas Hawkins
Amy Hazzard
Kenneth and Judy Hill
Malinda Gooding Hedges and Stephen Hodges
Daniel Morgan
Rachel Janis
Dorothy Jung
Ben Jackut
Lauren Katakish
Benjamin Kowocz
Richard Koper
Ragnhild Kowinger
Maureen Kowors
Robert Kondule
Dr. Warren Konow
Styfan Kowrocz
Dr. David Kranswell
Dr. Robert Kahn
Maryjs Keuchenska
Deborah and Charles Kjeh
Wit Lai
Dr. Dan Lungson
Elizabeth Levy
Yaping Lian
Bruce Lider
Jennifer Lin
George Luch, Jr.
Margarette M Laughlin Logan
Gail Holder McPeters and Dr. Law McPeters
Amelia Mainkar
Rabyn Mankon
Dr. Sam Marcus
Dr. Douglas Markham IV
Brian Maxik
Elizabeth Matther
Kathleen Lancaster Meyer and Leslie Meyer
Kayla Miller
Sarah Morris Walk and John Walk
Dr. Tanya Myers and Dr. Christopher Beck
Dr. Henry Niehagul
Lindsay Hardt Oakley
Raynolda Ortega
Elizabeth Parrett
Dr. Patricia Pound Barry and Marshall Barry
Charlotte Platter
Amy Rauch
Benjamin Rhue
Mark Redfield
Erin Sadler
Dr. Scherer Sanders
Dr. William Saunders, Jr.
Leslie Scanlon
William Schwarz
Julia Sen
Dr. Steven Silvowek
Leigh Smith Pence
Jon Soliunas
Tao Sun
Timmyetted Taps
Isabell Tilem
Elizabeth and Gregory Tomlin
Andrew Travek
Tristan Trumb
Kenneth and Cala Upsaked
Robert VanGundy
Pei Wang
Dr. Margaret Willhade
Dr. Joel and Mary Williams
Barry Widge
Elizabeth Wong
Robert and Eunsook Wurster
Elizabeth Wong
Dr. Joel and Mary Williams
Pei Wang
Robert and Eunsook Wurster

Thank You!

Endowment Donors

The Chemistry Department benefits from some very generous donors who have established endowed scholarships 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. Our students and faculty feel so 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.

James T. & Evelyn A. Crammer Memorial Scholarship

Supported two undergraduate students participating in summer research in chemistry.

Ferguson Chemistry Endowment

Funded the purchase of a chemical structure drawing software site license renewal and liquid chromatograph parts Chemistry Department laboratory classes.

Charles E Flynn ’34 Memorial Chemistry Endowment

Funded the repair, maintenance or upgrade of several laboratory systems as well as data analysis and graphing software.

Robert L. Greene Endowment

Supported a promising chemistry student in summer research.

William G. Guy Endowment

Funded an annual chemistry award.

Hilger - Roberts - Kronbuel Chemistry Endowment

Funded the expenses for our Chemistry Seminar program.

Kronbuel - Thompson Graduate Fellowship

Funded an increased stipend for a chemistry graduate student.

Patricia Pound Barry Chemistry Scholarship

Provided four annual scholarships to academically distinguished undergraduate students majoring in chemistry.

Gene J. & Frances E. Schiavelli Memorial Endowment

Provided support for an additional undergraduate summer research student.

News of Our Alums

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 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 1948

Bill Saunders was in Williamsburg in March. A member of the W&M Class of ’48 (followed by a Northwester PhD), Bill taught chemistry and did physical research for many years at the University of Rochester. Although Bill is now retired, his interest in ab initio calculations continues. Over lunch with Bob Orwell, Bill reminisced about W&M 65-70 years ago and described his recent travels to exotic places around the world.

Class of 1953

James Hardcastle wrote a letter to Prof. Abelt telling us about his life after William & Mary: “I enjoyed reading Chemistry Distillations (Fall 2012 edition). I graduated from William and Mary in 1953 with a B.S. Degree in Chemistry. After 3 years in the U.S. Army in France (good duty, no wars) I was employed by Phillip Morris, Inc. in Richmond, Virginia. I enjoyed working as a bench chemist at PM. However my job at PM was to help make a better cigarette, so as to sell more cigs. I’ve never smoked in my life. So after 6 years at PM I decided I didn’t want to help make a better cigarette. I resigned. While in Richmond I earned a M.S. Degree in Chemistry from the University of Richmond in their night school program. I then earned a Ph.D. in Agricultural Chemistry and Soils at the University of Arizona in 1967. Then I got a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry of Texas Woman’s University in Denton, Texas. I taught chemistry, also did research, at TWU for 35 years. My research interest was Analytical Biochemistry using radioisotope methodology and HPLC... Tell Bob Pike I enjoyed the crossword puzzle.”

Class of 1973

Michael Edens plans to attend the Chemistry Homecoming reception this fall with his wife Martha.
Carol Baranofsky Pugh sent us some fond memories; “I just checked the Chemistry Department website. Dr. Coleman is the only non-emeritus faculty member from my time. I remember him fondly, along with Dvts. Kiefer and Thompson (I babysat for both their families), but your favorite professor of all had to be Dr. Orwell. I have often told people that one of the best education courses I took in college was Physical Chemistry. I struggled with P-Chem tests. I did well enough on my problem sets and lab reports to keep my grade afloat (and close to “C” level). After every test, I would seek out Dr. Orwell and he would patiently walk me through my errors. I think I got a C- on the first test and an F on the second one. I began to panic as the third test approached and expressed doubt about my ability to do well enough to pass the course. Dr. Orwell tried to assure me that I was doing well, and that “a year from now you won’t be thinking about this course.”

My reply was, “A year from now I’ll be taking the course over!” To which Dr. Orwell replied, “If that’s how you feel, I don’t think I can help you.” Whoa. That got my attention and changed my attitude big time. I managed to swing a B+ on the third test; below the grade, Dr. Orwell had inscribed “See, I told you you could do it!” What a mensch!

We were in Williamsburg in mid-September for the Williamsburg Old Timers Reunion. My husband Mark grew up in Williamsburg – his Dad was the Rev. Dr. Tom Pugh, pastor of Williamsburg Baptist Church on Richmond Road from 1952 – 1981. We went to a display in the Special Collections section of the Swem Library on Saturday, and had the chance to take in one of the new Integrated Science Building, WOW! I can only imagine how wonderful it is on the inside. My W&M years were evenly divided between “Old” and “New” Rogers Halls. I had a work study position under Mr. Katz for 3 of the 4 years I was in school. What a great job and interesting boss.

Steve Sides sent Prof. Coleman the following email: “It has been a few months since I stumbled into the department and connected with you after many years. I must say I was most impressed by the current Integrated Science Building and even more surprised that it will soon double in size with the College’s building plan. I remember “Old Rogers Hall” and the need to ensure that the tar in the drain troughs did not get dislodged by solvents dumped by students. I also remember grading problem sets for the faculty in that little “plywood room” constructed inside the first floor lab with one measly light bulb. Granted I was not like Abraham Lincoln writing a wooden shovel by the fire, but I sure have perspective on the light bulb. Granted I was not like Abraham Lincoln writing a wooden shovel by the fire, but I sure have perspective on the “history of chemistry education” at William and Mary.”

The “history of chemistry education” at William and Mary.”

Class of 1977

Dan Kenan toured the College with his daughter last June. He credits Prof. Coleman for giving him an interest in chemistry and biology. Randy Coleman was his premied advisor.

James Conney was confirmed on July 29, 2013 by the U.S. Senate as next FBI director. He graduated from William & Mary as a double major in chemistry and religion and remains closely connected to the university. A news article on the W&M Chemistry website at www.wm.edu/chemistry details his many life achievements and the contributions he made and honors he received from his alma mater.

Jennie Gundersen sent us a message last fall: “Wish I could [attend Homecoming] but I’m on a detail with EPA in Ada, OK. Getting my frack on!” Late June she wrote that 7 months after Sandy she finally has a roof that’s not made of blue tarp.

Chris Bernard works for the CDC in Guatemala. He was visiting his family in North Carolina last October and was able to come to our Homecoming reception.

Rebecca (Harvey) Nichols visited Prof. Coleman this spring while touring the College with her daughter. She is the President of Independent Chemist LLC near Denver.

Mike Acquavella was Prof. Abelt’s undergrad research student in 1991-1992 working on cyclodextrins. He won on to study under Ronald Breslow at Columbia before abandoning chemistry altogether. He has lived abroad now for about 15 years and has been working in the financial sector in London, Hong Kong and Singapore. He happened to pass through Williamsburg last July and visited Prof. Abelt.

Leslie Sombers wrote that she is an assistant professor of chemistry at NC State University. She has received an Early Career Development Award, more commonly known as a CAREER Award, from the National Science Foundation. The award is one of the highest honors given by NSF to early-career university faculty in science and engineering, and is intended to advance the development of their research and careers. See http://www.pams.ncsu.edu/news/2012/09/24/somers-wins-nsf-career-award/.

Petey Coyne visited Prof. Rice this September. After William & Mary he went on to get an M.B.A. from the Darden School at the University of Virginia. He is Vice President at Saw Mill Capital in Briarcliff Manor, NY, is married and has two young children. He is planning to attend the 15 year reunion at W&M.

Annie McNeil sent us the following update: “On July 28th, 2012 I gave birth to my first child. Both my husband and I are assistant professors in Chemistry at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.”

Fiona Grooms Barker completed a Ph.D. in Philosophy at St. Louis University and defended it in May of 2011. She married Mark Barker of NYC in June of 2009 and they reside in New Orleans where he is a Professor of Philosophy. Their son John was born in April of 2010 and their daughter Mary was born in March of 2012.

Ryan Carra completed a Ph.D. in organic chemistry at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2008 and graduated from University of Virginia School of Law in 2011. He works for Beveridge & Diamond, P.C. in Washington D.C.

Edith Bowers completed a Ph.D. in Pathology in 2009 and got her M.D. in 2011 at Duke University, Durham, NC. After a preliminary internship at Moses Cone Hospital in Greensboro, NC, she is now a second year resident at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine in Chapel Hill.

Nichole Litvinas completed her Ph.D. in organic chemistry at Stanford University in 2010 and currently works as a AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow for the U.S. Department of Energy.

Kat Potter is doing research into atmospheric chemistry, climate, etc. at MIT. She sent us an email last June with a link to an article about the work that she is doing. It was titled, “A Woman, a Mountain, a Quest to Map Climate Change” at http://alum.mit.edu/pages/sliceofmit/2013/06/12/a-woman-a-mountain-a-quest-to-map-climate-change/.

Bryn Reinecke writes that she is engaged to Eric Douglass, a native of Spartanburg, SC, and a graduate of the University of South Carolina (BA 2002, JD 2005). He recently employed as a performance auditor with the Legislative Audit Council of South Carolina. Bryn is still employed as an Associate Scientist in the analytical lab at Zeus Industrial Products in Orangeburg, SC. She attended an ACS polymer science class at VA Tech in August. Bryn and Eric are planning to get married in September in West Columbia, SC, where they will be residing.

Carl Giller gave a surprise visit to Prof. Rice and Prof. Abelt last June. He completed his Ph.D. in materials science in 2011 at the University of Delaware and is currently employed by the Naval Research Center in Washington, D.C.

Dan Tice wrote to us that he will graduate this August with a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Northwestern University. He has taken a position with DuPont and will be at their New Johnsonville, TN plant for a few years before heading to the main research campus in Wilmington, DE.

Maria (Happed) Traver saw Dr. Pike’s message on Facebook and wrote this: “After leaving W&M Chem in 2007, I went on to graduate school at Duke University. This fall I will be completing my PhD in Molecular Genetics & Microbiology and I am currently searching for a postdoctoral position. This past spring I enjoyed the chance to visit W&M as a participant in the 2013 W&M Graduate Research Symposium, giving a talk entitled, “The Role of Igf1 in Macronutrophy.” I particularly enjoyed the chance to explore the Integrated Science Center, which was finished just after I left the program, and was super jealous of the beautiful lab spaces!

In terms of my personal life, in 2009 I married the love of my life, Clayton Traver (W&M Middle Eastern Studies ’08), and we are happily settling in North Carolina; however, we are eagerly awaiting the day when we might be able to move back to Virginia, where our hearts truly lie. Hope to see you all some day soon.”

Colleen (Riebeck) Weitzel sent us an update last fall: “I graduate from the College with a Masters in School Counseling in May 2011. I now live in Richmond and teach Chemistry and AP Chemistry at Cosby High School. I have also been married for a year to my wonderful husband Jon, and we are expecting our first baby in January.

 Jacob Superstock sent a message through the Chemistry Alumni Facebook page: “The big news is that I graduated from Stanford University School of Medicine this spring with my M.D. I did my undergraduate degree in biology and will be completing my medical school training next fall at Stanford University. I have been doing research into atmospheric chemistry, climate, etc. at MIT. It was super jealous of the beautiful lab spaces! In terms of my personal life, in 2009 I married the love of my life, Clayton Traver (W&M Middle Eastern Studies ’08), and we are happily settling in North Carolina; however, we are eagerly awaiting the day when we might be able to move back to Virginia, where our hearts truly lie. Hope to see you all some day soon.”

Class of 1977

Class of 1981

Class of 1982

Class of 1988

Class of 1992

Class of 1993

Class of 1999

Colleen Class of 2001

Class of 2005

Class of 2007

Class of 2009
Jess (my wife) and I are living in the Fenway neighborhood. I plan to catch as many games this summer as possible. Fortunately, my wife works at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital, the sponsor hospital for Fenway. She gets discounted tickets!”

Najiba Murad started the MS degree program in Biochemistry at Georgetown University this fall.

Alessandra Leri emailed Prof. Hinkle with the news that she has been awarded a Distinguished Chair at Marymount Manhattan College – one of the highest honors that this college can bestow on a faculty member. She earned an M.A. from the University of Virginia and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Princeton University.

Stephen Ammann recently earned an “NSF Graduate Research Fellowship” (NSF-GRF). He studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and is working with Prof. M. Christina White.

R. Frederick Lambert recently earned an “NSF Graduate Research Fellowship” (NSF-GRF). He studies at Princeton University and works with Prof. Abigail Doyle.

Deana (Hadley) Miller sent us this update last fall: “…Ronnie and I are doing well in North Carolina. I am in my 2nd year of pediatric residency at Duke University–I haven’t decided if I want to do a fellowship yet. Ronnie and I have a puppy named Stella who keeps us very busy. We also got back recently from Japan where we attended my brother’s wedding and did some sightseeing too. We hope to make a trip back to Williamsburg to visit sometime soon!”

Isabelle Thibau ended her 2 year contract with the National Institute on Drug Abuse last April. Now she works full-time as a writer/editor for mdCurrent-India, the online medical news-litter for doctors in India. She had to put her plans to attend Homecoming 2012 on hold because of Hurricane Sandy.

Homecoming 2012

Chemistry’s 2012 Homecoming Reception was held in the Integrated Science Center on the Saturday of Homecoming. By our best count 64 people attended—split half and half between Chemistry graduates and their families and friends. As the photos show, all had a good time. Old friendships were renewed and new ones made. Bob Orwell remarked that he enjoys watching alumni from different classes meeting one another at these receptions for the first time and discovering that they share a common chemistry link (e.g., one buys instruments from another’s company; two alumni 15 years apart at W&M discovered that they did graduate research with the same mentor or attended the same medical school; or two alumni who were not aware that the other is a W&M grad). The 2012 reunion added a new feature—a dinner hosted by the department for the 40-year reunion class. It was organized by Sam Marcuson, ’72. So on the evening before Saturday morning’s Homecoming reception, Janet Spencer Anderson, David Boerner, John Deaton, and Sam from the Class of 1972 reminisced with some of their Chem profs (Coleman, Kiefer, Kranbuehl, Orwell, and Thompson) from 40 years ago and other more recent Chem faculty. A number of spouses attended as well. For this event Sam put together a booklet with a page for each classmate containing that classmate’s post-W&M story and a photo. (Copies of the Class of ’72 booklet are available from the department.)

From left, facing the camera: Betty Orwell ’87 and daughter Mary Cook

Claudia Smith and Chris Bernart ’87

David Boerner ’72 and Sam Marcuson ’72

David Faddis ’92/93 and Guest

Dave Thompson, Diego Viccini ’05 and Luca

Eileen Aquino ’87, Christy Soffe Stone ’87 and Lisa Montgomery ’87

From left, facing the camera: Bob Orwell, April Coleman, David Thompson, John Deaton, Sandy Deaton, David Boerner

Bob Hinkle, Manish Singla ’01 Ryan Carra ’02 and Nichole Livioumas ’04

John ’55 and Carol Marsh ’54

Jenine Cole Maeyer ’02

Linda Landino and Eshan Greenhalch ’05

Sarah Vicente and Lizzie Tarrell ’11

Phillis Savidades, Claire and Kevin Roche’82

Larry Dunaway writes: “I’m doing well here at NC State. I’m in Prof. Leslie Sombers’ (W&M Chemistry ’98) research group doing electroanalytical chemistry. I love my group, and my classes and everything are going very well. I only have one class left to go.”
Chemistry Homecoming Reception

The Chemistry Department is hosting a pre-game reception for chemistry graduates in the Integrated Science Center on Saturday, October 26, 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 18. You can email us at chemistry@wm.edu, call Claudia in the Chemistry Office at 757-221-2540 or send us a note to:

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!