

What's v...

in the University of Pittsburgh Chemistry Department

Information flow in a big place like the Pitt Chemistry Department often is slow . . . *really* slow...no trickle-down either. Many things happen--both good news and better news--that are interesting for all of us to share. I intend to start *What's v...* as a monthly, and see how it goes. A tip of the hat goes to Jason Ribblett for suggesting the newsletter name.

If you have any items for inclusion--including such non-chemical transitions as wedding and births--let me know or just drop a note off with Nancy Sattler.

Rebecca Claycamp

JOHN WICK IS GONE????!!!

After 33 years with the University, John Wick retired on August 31. You should be aware that with John's departure, different people are performing many jobs formerly handled by him:

- Evon Nigro is handling petty cash.
- Accident report forms are available from Patty Hamza. After any accident, an accident report must be filed with Patty within 24-hours of the accident (unless on a weekend).
- Equipment insurance request forms are available from Cindy Funtal
- Nancy Sattler makes all mailbox assignments.
- Slide projectors may be checked out from the undergraduate stockroom *only during business hours when labs are in session*. As in the past,

you must leave your Pitt ID or driver's license to borrow a projector.

- Stew Patton is now barcoding the compressed gas cylinders. Contact him in the research stockroom with any tagging queries.

AWARDS

The Department is thrilled by the news that Dr. Peter Wipf has been named a National Science Foundation Presidential Faculty Fellow. The NSF Award comes on the heels of his receipt of the Ruzizcka Prize from Switzerland for his work in the area of total synthesis and synthetic methodology.

Aaron Balog (Curran group) has received an ACS Division of Organic Chemistry Graduate Fellowship sponsored by the American Cyanamid Company for the 1994-95 academic year.

We also have received word that Jeff Albert (Hamilton group) has just received the notice of award for an NIH Postdoctoral Fellowship. Jeff will be moving to Cal Tech in a few months where he will be joining Peter Dervan's group.

And the Department has announced this year's Safford Graduate Teaching Awards. Recipients include Melinda Alward, Natalya Balabay, Lynn Bretscher, Brian Linton, Tony Nicola, Jason Ribblett, and Margaret Stevenson.

Congratulations to all!

NEW GRADUATE DEGREES

The following students successfully defended their Ph.D. dissertations this summer: **Blaise Champagne** (Pratt group), *High Resolution Studies of Conjugated Polyatomic Molecules*, and **Vince Smentowski** (Yates group), *Surface Science Investigations of Tribologically Important Systems - Iron and Diamond*. Blaise is pursuing his MBA here at Pitt; Vince has assumed a temporary postdoctoral position with Dr. Yates.

Two students also completed their M.S. theses this summer. **Janet Wang** (Hercules group) is now pursuing doctoral studies with Dr. Asher, and **Cindy Weiser** (Siska group) is currently job hunting.

GRANTS

Several faculty received official notice of new grant awards starting in July and August. **Adrian Michael** and **Gilbert Walker** both received Central RDF support: Dr. Michael for his *Acetylcholine Sensors for Measurements in Brain Tissue* and Dr. Walker for his *Dynamics in Protein Self-Assembly: A High Speed Spectrometer*. **Sandy Asher** and **John Yates** each received three-year AASERT (Augmentation Awards for Science and Engineering Research Training) awards to accompany their Air Force and ONR grants, respectively. **Gilbert Walker** also received grant support through a 3M Research Award. The Ford Motor Company awarded **Pat Treado** a grant for a *Fluorescence Imaging Study of Thin Films*.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Of course, the Department is pleased to welcome the newest member of the faculty, **Dr. Tara Meyer**. Dr. Meyer did her Ph.D. with Lou Messerle at the University of Iowa, followed by a postdoctoral stint with Richard Jordan. Until August she was working in Bob

Bergman's lab at Berkeley, exploring silica-bound transition metal complexes. Her research here will focus on metal-catalyzed polymerizations and depolymerizations.

Dr. Ken Jordan is on sabbatical this year. During the Fall Term he is a Visiting Professor in the Chemistry Department at the University of Utah, where he is working with Jack Simons' group. Though out of sight, Ken is keeping in touch with faculty, students, and staff through E-mail.

An old friend of the Department, **Chris Maricondi**, is on sabbatical from Penn State - McKeesport this year. Dr. Maricondi will be working with Professor Jordan.

To appreciate who's "going," one has to know who's here. As of September 16, 41 research associates were in the Department (a number that seems to change daily). **Joachim Ahner** (Germany), **Jing Fu Fan** (PRC), **John Glass** (Syracuse), **Kyung-Won Lee** (Korea), **Jong-Liang Lin** (PRC), **Guangquan Lu** (PRC), **Chiaka Susaoka** (Japan), **Hiroataka Nishino** (Japan), and **Vince Smentowski** (Pitt) are all working in the Yates group. **Eric Akyea** (Lehigh) is starting his second year in the Wilcox group. **Song-Yuan Chang** (PRC), **Pusheng Li** (PRC), **Hari Sunkara** (India), and **Albert Tse** (Hong Kong) are active in the Asher group. The Wipf group has recently been joined by **Heike Jahn** (Germany) and **Hidenori Takahashi** (Japan). **Satyam Priyadarshy** (India) and **Lenonid Zussman** (Russia) are working in the Beratan group. **Goutam Das** (India), **Scott Goodman** (Arizona State), **Vrej Jubian** (Canada), **Jean Weiss** (France) and **Erik Van Dienst** (Holland) are currently working in the Hamilton group. Curran group associates include **Ulf Diederichsen** (Switzerland), **Ullrich Jahn** (Germany), **Hubert Josien** (France), **Hideotoshi Yamada** (Japan), and **Naoki Yamazaki** (Japan). **Ikuto Fujita** (Japan) and **Wayne Sinclair** (UK) are both relative

newcomers to the Pratt group. **Zhe Lin** (PRC) is a member in the Waldeck group. **Arkady Gusev** (Russia) **Karl Stoppek-Langner** (Germany) are working in the Hercules group. **Roger Hershline** (Pitt) is working part-time in the Dowd group. **Yuanhua Shao** (PRC) is continuing work in the Weber group. **Yi Ping Wang** (PRC) and **Zhijun Sun** (PRC) are both in the Coalson group. **Thomas Kulinski** (Poland) and **Mohan Thiruvazhi** (India) are both members of the Cohen group. **Cheng-Fei Wang** (PRC) is working in the Walker group. **Hyang-Ja Jang** (Korea) is working in the Hall group.

Seven research faculty are also currently working with the following research groups: **Marwan Houalla** and **Andy Proctor** (both Hercules group), **Sriram Naganathan** and **Wei Zhang** (both Dowd group), **Jose Goldwasser** and **Dmitri Loukinanov** (both Hall group), and **Vladmir Ukraintsev** (Yates group).

NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS

Thirty-six incoming full-time Ph.D. students joined the Department at the beginning of the Fall Term (95-1). These students (and their former institutions) include: **Janet Asper** (Ohio Univ.), **Keith Bellomo** (Alfred Univ.), **David Bom** (Univ. of Cincinnati), **Holly Brison** (Clarion), **Gidget Cantrell** (Cleveland St.), **Mauricio Coutinho-Neto** (Pembuco-Brazil), **Susan Dally** (Geneva College), **Debananda Das** (Utkal Univ-India), **Rebecca Davis** (Clarion), **Caroline Driscoll** (Trinity College), **Giovanna Gualtieri** (Univ. Bologna), **Daniel Haines** (Univ. of Scranton), **Gregory Hayes** (W. Kentucky Univ.), **Jae-Kye Jung** (Seoul National), **Nicole Kline** (W. Kentucky Univ.), **Rama Kondru** (AVN College; M.Sc.- IIT-Powai), **Kee-In Lee** (Chonnan, ROK), **Qing Lin** (USTC-PRC), **Weidong Liu** (Beijing-PRC; M.S. Beijing), **Patrick Maher** (St. Vincent), **Thomas**

Markotan (Carnegie Mellon), **Douglas Mawhinney** (Thiel), **David McElfresh** (George Mason Univ.), **John Mehl** (Drexel), **Yvonne Mocarski** (Franklin & Marshall), **Paula Nathaniel** (Colorado State), **Joseph Noroski** (Pitt), **Jane Oh** (Trinity College), **Camelia Rusu** (Bucharest), **Li Shao** (Beijing-PRC; M.S. Beijing), **John Stephens** (Texas A&M), **Zhixin Tang** (Nankai; M.S. Nankai), **Emil Tripa** (Bucharest), **Jackie Veauthier** (John Carroll), **Wanlin Xia** (USTC-PRC), and **Jaemoon Yang** (Seoul National). Welcome to all!

SAFETY MATTERS

Mercury has unique properties that lend a variety of uses in the lab; however, as mercury is also highly toxic, care must be taken to avoid unnecessary wastes. Mercury-containing wastes are also very expensive to dispose. Currently the University pays over \$400 to dispose of a 55-gal. drum of mercury-containing wastes; by summer 1995 this cost is going to jump to \$1,800 per drum. Waste minimization is the best solution.

The primary source of mercury waste is mercury spills. The best way to prevent mercury spills is to find alternatives that eliminate the use of mercury. One means is to eliminate the use of mercury thermometers. Alternatives include the use of red alcohol- or mineral spirit-filled thermometers. Usually, these can adequately meet accuracy and range requirements. Bimetal or stainless steel thermometers can be used instead of mercury thermometers in heating and cooling units. Stainless steel or digital thermometers may work in some lab settings as well.

If mercury-containing equipment must be used, careful planning can prevent spills and minimize their consequences. The following guidelines are suggested:

- Keep mercury containers closed and stored in secondary containers in a well-ventilated area.
- Move any mercury-containing instrument or apparatus in a tray or pan that can be cleaned easily and is large enough to contain any spilled mercury.
- Transfer mercury from one container to another in a hood over a tray or pan to confine any spills.
- Provide all mercury-containing equipment with spill control/containment devices such as trays or pans.

Condensed from Chemical Health & Safety, June/July 1994

JOBS, JOBS, JOBS

Last spring the Department had a trial subscription to *ChemJOBS*. We now have a full subscription to its replacement, *Classifacts*. *Classifacts* has access to over 100,000 current job listings, updated weekly, with employment ads from most major markets across the U.S.

We will receive each issue in overnight mail on Tuesday, as gleaned from the Sunday newspapers and other sources. The listing will be kept in Barb Svitek's basket in the main office. After a few weeks, if you don't think you are seeing the kinds of jobs that you think are available, let us know and we can notify *Classifacts*.

NETWORK NEWS

All graduate students are entitled to a student account on the University of Pittsburgh CIS (Computing and Information System) mainframes (UNIX and VMS). Forms for the student accounts are available in the open computer labs across the campus (Cathedral of Learning Ground Floor, Forbes Quad First Floor, etc.). Unfortunately these accounts are suspended during the interterm periods.

If you wish to obtain a constant account through the Chemistry Department, please leave the following information with Barbara Svitek in room 234 CSC. You will receive a confirmation of your login and initial password.

Name _____

SS # _____ - _____ - _____ Box # _____

Phone# _____ - _____

Advisor (if known) _____

Proposed logname (3 to 8 characters)

Alternate logname (if first choice in use)

INSTRUMENTATION UPDATE

The Mass Spectrometer Lab has been updated with the installation of a new VG (Fisons) AutoSpec mass spectrometer. The new instrument has a 5000 dalton mass range, 60,000 resolution, and a variety of ionization capabilities (EI, CI, flow and static Cs⁺ FAB, and electrospray).

The old VG 7070 has been updated with a companion data system to provide improved data processing and representation. Once the staff has achieved proficiency on the new equipment, we will announce an informal "open house" in the mass spec lab to provide an overview.

Please acknowledge the NSF in your future publications for their support provided through the major instrument grant program CHE-9224882.