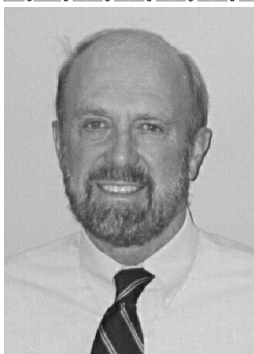


# Wright State Chemistry Newsletter

December 2002

## Season's Greetings

### Chair's Message



Greetings again from the faculty and staff of the Wright State Chemistry Department! Another busy year is almost over, and as this newsletter is being prepared we are wrapping up the fall quarter with final exams, grading, and the like. Among other things, we are still wrestling with the preparation of new department Bylaws, as required

by the contract between the faculty union and the administration.

Several changes have taken place in 2002 in the College of Science and Mathematics that affect the Chemistry Department. Dr. Bob Weisman served as Interim Dean for the period 2001-2002, and was a great help to the department. Dr. Michele Wheatly, the former Chair of the Biology Department, has now assumed duties as the new Dean of the College, and promises to be an active leader. Also, the university gained approval for a new Ph.D. program in Environmental Science with the first students entering this past quarter. The Chemistry Department hopes to be a strong participant in this new program. At the same time, the university's Biomedical Science Ph.D. program has opened up two new chemistry-oriented tracks.

I would like to congratulate all those chemistry students who gained honors and awards this past year. A partial list appears elsewhere. Also, I would like to thank all of you who donated to the department's scholarship fund this past year and those who encouraged their organizations to make financial and instrumental donations to the Chemistry Department. In a time of tight, and even decreasing, budgets

*(continued on page 4)*



### Steven Higgins Joins the Department

Steve Higgins joined the Chemistry Department in August as Assistant Professor of Chemistry. Steve is an environmental chemist specializing in the use of atomic force microscopy to examine processes at solid-liquid surfaces, especially mineral surfaces. He is a native of the Twin Cities area of Minnesota and did his undergraduate work at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN. After obtaining a Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1996, Steve did a year of postdoctoral work in the Geology Department of the University of Wyoming. Following that he served as a Research Scientist in geology at the University of Wyoming from 1997 to 2002.

Steve now lives in Centerville with his wife Jennifer, a substitute teacher in the Centerville schools. They have three sons, Nicholas and twins Michael and Zachary. As one might imagine, with three boys Steve keeps quite busy and is involved in sports (helping coach soccer), theater, and other activities. In addition, Steve and Jennifer enjoy quilting together.

Can you name the molecule in the upper left hand corner? E-mail us at [paul.seybold@wright.edu](mailto:paul.seybold@wright.edu) or [mary.sparks@wright.edu](mailto:mary.sparks@wright.edu) and name that molecule. Also, let us know what's new.



## Where Are They Now?

News of the activities of some of our retired faculty and visitors.

**Rubin Battino** Rubin remains active in several areas, including a great deal of travel and the Chem Demo shows. He presently has a research grant from the Dreyfus Foundation to continue his research on the behaviors of gases in liquids. In another behavioral area, he has now published several books on the topic of mental health counseling. For more information see his web site at [www.rubinbattino.com](http://www.rubinbattino.com).

**Sue Cummings** Sue taught in the department from 1969 to 1993, and was Chair from 1988 to 1993. After retiring from teaching she and her husband Glynn opened the "Fancy Farmer" farm and gift shop at their spread on Sweet Potato Ridge Road in Union, OH. This still keeps them very busy, but they did manage to build a new Spring House this summer.

**John Fortman** John continues to be very active in retirement, touring on the ACS lecture circuit, consulting for Faraday Technology Co., and doing the ever-popular Chem Demo shows with Ruben Battino and others. He is now under contract with the Materials Lab at WPAFB to develop and present talks on "The Chemistry of Flight" to help celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wright brothers first flight in 2003.

**Ivan Golfarb** Ivan has moved to the Cleveland area to be closer to his children and grandchildren. He is, of course, also closer to Lake Erie, so he can spend more time sailing.

**George Hess** George came to Wright State in 1965 and retired in 1999. He was Chair of the department from

1984 to 1988. George and his wife Sylvia are busy landscaping and painting their home outside of Xenia. They also enjoy visiting their children and grandchildren--son Jon is in Missouri and daughter Heidi is in North Carolina.

**Jim Kane** Jim lives in Yellow Springs with his wife Peggy and stays active in the practice of mental health counseling.

**Gordon Skinner** Gordon was one of the founders of the WSU Chemistry Department, arriving in 1964 and retiring in 1986. He now lives in Banks, Oregon, close to two of his daughters. Gordon reports that following a heart valve replacement operation last year he's feeling fine. He and his wife Margie keep busy gardening, traveling, and enjoying their grandchildren. This past summer they celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by returning to a resort in Canada where they had spent their honeymoon five decades ago!

**Bob Wilcock** (postdoctoral fellow with Ruben Battino, 1973-1975) currently heads a 20-person group at the National Institute for Water and Air in Hamilton, New Zealand. He and his wife Nancy have two sons, Sam and Ben.

**Emmerich Wilhelm** Emmerich was first a postdoctoral fellow with Ruben Battino and later a Visiting Professor in the department from '79-'80. He is now Director of the Physical Chemistry Institute at the University of Vienna. On May 17 he celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday and was honored with a Fest at the University of Vienna. Ruben Battino was one of the invited speakers at the Fest.

## Faculty Notes

**Steve Higgins.** Steve has been busy setting up his laboratory, including the acquisition of a new scanning probe microscope. He will be leading investigations in nanometer scale solid-liquid interface dynamics of model environmental processes and in deposition of thin, chemically-selective electropolymer films.

**Daniel Ketcha.** In the spring quarter Dan offered the first academic course in combinatorial chemistry to be given in the state of Ohio and one of only a handful in the country. He also organized a symposium on combinatorial chemistry held at the *Biennial Conference on Chemical Education* held in Bellingham, Washington, this past summer, and, with **Ken Turnbull**, organized a National Science Foundation-supported workshop on the subject, aimed at training college teachers.

**Suzanne Lunsford.** Suzanne is working on a number of teacher-training projects: One is Project Rise, a program

designed to increase the skills of middle and high school science teachers in rural Mercer County, Ohio. As part of this project, and in cooperation with the Geology Department, she took part in two field trips this past summer and a follow-up laboratory experience designed to help teachers integrate inquiry-based science activities into their programs.

**Paul Seybold.** Paul's research group continued their studies in applied quantum chemistry, molecular-structure-property relationships, and cellular automata models of complex phenomena. Cooperative projects are underway with colleagues at Ohio State University, the University of California, San Diego, Hamilton College, and Virginia Commonwealth University. A focus in 2002 was the development of quantum chemical methods for the prediction of pK<sub>a</sub>s.



## Alumni Notes

**Steve Davis, B.S. '70** has worked with Delphi Interiors for 30 years and plans to retire at the end of 2002.

**Arthur (Bill) Bryant, B.S. '72** is a dentist with the U.S. Army. Bill is presently in El Paso, TX. [bryantenn@aol.com](mailto:bryantenn@aol.com)

**Rick Carpenter, B.S. '72** is a part-time instructor at East Los Angeles College and is an Accident Analyst for Eagle Accident Recon in LA.

**George Knull, B.S. '72** is a physician with Emergency Medicine Associates in Long Beach, CA. He got his M.D. from OSU in 1976, and has lived in California since then. [gknull@earthlink.net](mailto:gknull@earthlink.net)

**Fred Hileman, M.S. '73** is an analytical chemist with Solutia (formerly Monsanto) specializing in Mass Spectrometry in Springfield, MA. [fdhile@solutia.com](mailto:fdhile@solutia.com)

**Jean Faullimmel, M.S. '74** writes from Strasbourg, France, that he and his wife, who is from India, have two daughters, 8 and 10 years old. He will be leaving Rohm and Haas and is pondering his retirement activities. He is developing a text on "Environmental Issues in the Chemical Industry." [jean.faullimmel@evc.net](mailto:jean.faullimmel@evc.net)

**Paul Sherman, M.S. '77** writes that after 34 years with Monsanto/Solutia he retired in March 2001. But he continues to serve as a Chemical Technician on an advisory committee for Pensacola Jr. College. He also serves as a judge for the R&D 100 awards.

**Craig Horn, B.S. '78** is a pediatrician with PriMed Pediatrics in Huber Heights, OH.

**Jeff Thompson, M.S. '78** works in Chemical Sales for Sinclair Supply Incorporated.

**Stanley D. Erk, M.S. '79** is a clinical pharmacologist with the VA Medical Center and the WSU School of Medicine. He lives in Beavercreek, OH.

**Clark Whitman, B.S. '79** retired from the Navy in April. During his military service he lived in San Diego, Rhode Island, Philadelphia, New York City, Naples, Italy, and Washington, D.C. (Wow!) Along the way he got an M.S. in mechanical engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. [Cwhitman@cox.rr.com](mailto:Cwhitman@cox.rr.com)

**Dr. Jerry Clark, B.S. '81** after completing his B.S. in Chemistry he attended WSU School of Medicine. He now works as a Physician at Miami Valley Hospital. Thanks to his work with Brehm Labs during his time at WSU he is able to enjoy his time as a busy primary care provider and has acted as a consultant regarding toxic exposure.

**James Ewry, B.S. '81** is a physician and lives in the Toledo area with his wife and five children. Jim wonders what ever became of the sydnones he synthesized under the tutelage of Dr. Turnbull. [hawkeye\\_ewry@yahoo.com](mailto:hawkeye_ewry@yahoo.com)

**Phil Trainer, B.S. '82, M.S. '84** works as a Project Engineer at Duracell in Bethel, CT. He is involved with the development of new cathode materials and manufacturing processes for batteries. [ptathome@prodigy.net](mailto:ptathome@prodigy.net)

**Dennis Mesker, M.D., B.S. '83** works as a physician at NecesCare, L.L.C. in Washington Court House, OH. he married Cherie Miller in 1985 who graduated from WSU in Education. They have four sons. [Drmesker@hotmail.com](mailto:Drmesker@hotmail.com)

**Kimberly (Simon) Wiefeling B.S. '84** has launched a product development and business management consulting practice in Redwood City, CA, and also publishes a monthly newsletter. She works mostly at OMIX, an internet web-based tools company. [kimberly@wiefeling.com](mailto:kimberly@wiefeling.com)

**Dr. K. Paulvannan, M.S. '89** is a Chemist with Sunesis Pharmaceuticals in San Francisco, CA. [kpaulvannan@sunesis.com](mailto:kpaulvannan@sunesis.com)

**Theotis Clark B.S.'90** is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Truman State University in Kirksville, MO. Theo received a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from the University of Wyoming in 1998. His research interests are in materials science, fuel cells, and electrocatalysis. His wife, Dr. K. S. Madsen, is also a chemist. [telark@truman.edu](mailto:telark@truman.edu)

**Brian Damschroder B.S. '91** is a RrD Chemist at Schnee-Morehead Inc. in Irving, Texas.

**Jose' Rivera-Nevarez, M.S. '91** currently works as an auditor for GE Capital in San Juan, PR. He completed his medical studies in 1998. [Jar777@prtc.net](mailto:Jar777@prtc.net).

**Neil Thiesing, B.S. '92, M.S. '95** works as a Plant Manager for Daychem Labs. He married in '98 and has one son born in Oct. '99. [nctmail@yahoo.com](mailto:nctmail@yahoo.com)

**Douglas Bland, B.S. '93** is working at Dow Chemical in Midland, MI. He can be reached at [jzdcbland@chartermi.net](mailto:jzdcbland@chartermi.net)

**Todd Baughman, M.S. '94** has moved from Eli Lilly in Indianapolis to GlaxoSmithKlein in Raleigh, NC. He is also a pastor at Evergreen Community Church in Raleigh. Todd and wife Vanessa had a daughter, Taryn Rei, in January '01. (See [www.geocities.com/baugh39](http://www.geocities.com/baugh39).) [tmb36391@GlaxoWelcome.com](mailto:tmb36391@GlaxoWelcome.com)

*Continued on page 4*

such donations are sorely needed and greatly appreciated.

Finally, let me express appreciation to all of you who responded so well to last year's newsletter with news of your activities and accomplishments. Such news is always of interest. Please use the enclosed form to keep us up to date. If you prefer, you can email me or Mary Sparks ([mary.sparks@wright.edu](mailto:mary.sparks@wright.edu)) with your news. Best wishes for a very good year in 2003!

—Paul Seybold

## Honors and Awards - 2002

### Wright State Graduate Council Fellowships:

Andrew Weisner (2000-2002)

Michaela Czupik (2001-2003)

### CoSM Scholars:

Ginny French Matt O'Malley

### Outstanding Chemistry GTAs:

Casey Kelly Chad Hollingsworth

Gail Dean Brian Popp

### Patterson Award for Outstanding Undergraduate:

Ginny French

### Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Casey Kelly

### Other Awards:

Rachel Smith: Best graduate poster at the Dayton ACS Patterson Award Poster Session, April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Chad Hollingsworth: IBM-Zerner Fellowship, presented at the Sanibel Quantum Chemistry Symposium, St. Augustine, FL, in February.

Brian Popp: Belle-Crowe Excellence Award in Inorganic Chemistry to attend the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

## Thanks to Our Friends

Many friends of the department have contributed in many ways to make the department work over the past year. For example, we were very fortunate to have the assistance of three outstanding Adjunct Professors in the teaching operations of the department in 2002: Dr. Lawrence Cerny, a retired Professor formerly at Utica College in Syracuse; Dr. David Portlock, from Procter & Gamble Co.; and Dr. John Kuo, from Isotec, Inc.

We would also like to thank Beth Reno and Bob Haaga at Procter & Gamble for their continuing efforts in helping Wright State. Procter & Gamble donated \$2000 in scholarship money and also a general gift of \$7000 to the Chemistry Department. Through the efforts of Shaughn Robinson Pfizer Corp. contributed an excellent HPLC to our analytical/environmental laboratory. Also the City of Troy donated a graphite furnace and also an AA flame spectrometer. Thanks also to our continuing, very generous scholarship donors Edgar Hardy and the Jean Dubois family.

**Christina Duran, B.S. '94** has recently completed her family practice residency in Charlotte, NC (June '02). She has since taken a job with a multi-specialty group in private practice in Portland, OR. [ccdcd72@aol.com](mailto:ccdcd72@aol.com)

**Stephen R, Gabbard, M.S. '94** is Vice President of Finance & Administration at Klein associates, Fairborn, OH. [steve@decisionmaking.com](mailto:steve@decisionmaking.com)

**Amy (Howe) Taylor, B.S. '94, M.S. '96** married Mark Taylor in Feb. 2001. *She is a Chemist/Project Manager at USDA-ARS in Gainesville, FL.*

**Mark Taylor, M.S. '96** married Amy Howe in Feb. 2001. He is a Photo Lab Manager at Wal-Mart in Gainesville, FL.

**Robert Pence, B.S. '97** works as an Emergency Room Resident Physician at Kettering Hospital. [Pence\\_4@yahoo.com](mailto:Pence_4@yahoo.com)

**Kevin Gross, B.S.'98, M.S.'01** and his wife Alisha became the parents of son Zachery, born in July. Kevin is working on a Ph.D. in Applied Physics at the Air Force Institute of Technology.

**James Eutsler, B.S. '99** works as a researcher for Procter and Gamble. He is currently working towards his M.B.A. in Marketing at Xavier University. [eutsler.jr@pg.com](mailto:eutsler.jr@pg.com)

**Jennifer Fielder, B.S. '99** works as a Chemist with the R&D Analytical group at Eurand America. She and her husband are currently living in Vandalia, OH and completing the remodeling of their home.

**Chad Hollingsworth, B.S.'00, M.S.'02** and his wife Shannon became the parents of daughter Sydney, born October 8<sup>th</sup>. Chad is working on a Ph.D. in Applied Physics at the Air Force Institute of Technology.

**Gowri Satyanarayana, B.S. '01** has been in an internship at the National Institutes of Health working in the area of developmental neurobiology.

## M.S. Graduates - 2002

**JaCinta Batson** (Dr. Dolson) U.S. EPA, Cincinnati

**Derek Deboer** (Dr. Bombick)

**Stacy Fauley** (Dr. Feld)

**Chad Hollingsworth** (Dr. Seybold) Air Force Institute of Technology Ph.D. program

**Ilyas Kahn** (Dr. Turnbull) AmeriCorps

**Casey P. Kelly** (Dr. Seybold) University of Minnesota Ph.D. program

**Michael Matuszewski** (Dr. Feld) Wright-Patterson Air Force Base

**Matthew Phillips** (Dr. Turnbull)

**Brian Popp** (Dr. Katovic') University of Wisconsin Ph.D. program