



# CANISIUS CHEMISTS' *Newsletter*

September 2007

## *Message from the Chair*

Greetings to all Griffin Chemists and Biochemists!

Another year gone by, and there are 15 more graduates of the department, making the world a better place through biochemistry and chemistry. In 2007, 11 biochemistry and 4 chemistry majors graduated with BS degrees from our department, including 3 certified by the ACS. Look inside the newsletter for information about the careers our new graduates are pursuing. Good luck to all of them!

Academic year 06/07 was the first year for our two new faculty members: Dr. Jessica Childs-Disney (biochemist) and Dr. Phillip Sheridan (physical chemist). Jess and Phil brought plenty of enthusiasm to their classes and valuable new instrumentation to their laboratories. As a result, the department has three new lasers, a new ultracentrifuge, and even ... a new baby. Erin Sheridan was born on August 4<sup>th</sup> 2007. Congratulations to Phil and his wife Jaime. Drop them a line if you have any advice for the new parents!

I am very excited about this new academic year. In reaction to the ever-increasing input of chemistry and biochemistry in biology and other disciplines, the department is continuing to offer interdisciplinary science electives, attractive to *all* science majors. This fall I will be teaching (with professor Grebenok from the Biology Department) a course in biological inorganic chemistry, "Metal Ions in Biological Systems". The course attracted a truly interdisciplinary audience, with 10 biology majors in addition to

10 chemistry and biochemistry majors. In Spring '08 professor Mary O'Sullivan will offer for the first time her own interdisciplinary elective, "Medicinal Chemistry". We will be more than ready when the new Interdisciplinary Science Center opens in the near future.

What makes this academic year even more special is the number of our new majors. There are 48(!) freshmen who have declared chemistry or biochemistry as their major, the largest number in the recent history of the department, possibly the largest number ever. Our goal is to graduate all of them in 2011. The department also has one of the largest number of seniors in recent times, 19 in majoring in biochemistry and 5 in chemistry.

Thanks to all who have financially supported the department. It is always great news when a new benefactor contacts the department. Look inside this newsletter for the story about the new James G. Colson, PhD, '58 Scholarship. We are all grateful to Mrs. Terri Colson for her generosity.

The department would not exist as a community without the wonderful interactions we have with our alumni, so please continue to support the Canisius Chemists' Newsletter by submitting information that you think would be of interest to our community.

Keep in touch!

*Mariusz Kozik, Professor and Department Chair*



Terri and Jim Colson

### *New Colson Scholarship*

Canisius College holds fond memories for the Colson family, which is one of the reasons Mary Theresa “Terri” Colson ’77 has established an endowed scholarship in honor of her late husband, James G. Colson, PhD, ’58. The Colson’s five children all attended Canisius, and in 2008 their grandson, Philip, will be the eighth Colson to attend the college.

“After the Korean War Jim had the opportunity to attend Canisius thanks to the GI Bill,” said Terri. “Professors like Drs. [Robert] Conley and [Herman] Szymanski helped to instill in Jim a real passion for science, especially chemistry. My hope is that establishing this scholarship will provide deserving students the chance to discover the wonders of science.”

Dr. Colson was a retired research director at Occidental Chemical Company and an adjunct professor at Canisius College in the 1970s.

The James G. Colson, PhD, ’58 Scholarship, when fully endowed, will provide scholarship awards to junior or senior chemistry majors who are in need of financial assistance and who maintain a 3.0 GPA.

Donations to this scholarship fund can be sent to The James G. Colson, PhD, ’58 Scholarship Fund, Canisius College, 2001 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14208. Please contact Marion Mittler, Director of Donor Relations & Special Events, at 716-888-8217 or [mittlerm@canisius.edu](mailto:mittlerm@canisius.edu) with any questions.

### *Class of 2007*

**Omer Bitar**, BS(Biochem), is enrolled at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

**Lesla Celeste**, BS(Biochem) has a fellowship in the PhD program in biochemistry at the University of South Carolina.

**David Conti**, BS(Biochem), is attending Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

**Stephen Evers**, BS(Biochem), has a graduate fellowship in forensic chemistry at Marshall University.

**Brittany Farrugia**, BS(Biochem), is enrolled in the School of Pharmacy at the University of Maryland.

**James Martin**, BS(Chem), is beginning his studies in the pharmacy program at the University at Buffalo.

**Teresa Mills**, BS(Biochem), has a fellowship in the MD/PhD program at Boston University.

**Patrick Nugent**, BS(Biochem), is studying medicine at SUNY Upstate Medical School.

**Eugene Przespo**, BS(Biochem), is in pharmacy school at the University at Buffalo.

**Arlie Rinaldi**, BS(Chem), is enrolled in the biochemistry graduate program at the University of Michigan.

**Ann St. Marie**, BS(Chem), is in Nursing School at the University at Buffalo.

**Matthew Waitner**, BS(Chem), has a fellowship in the chemistry graduate program at Cornell University.

### *Graduation Honors*

The following graduating seniors were recipients of awards for outstanding work in their studies at Canisius. The V.A. Ruskiewicz Award for distinction in chemistry: **Teresa A. Mills**. The Student General Excellence Award of the American Chemical Society— Chemistry: **Matthew J. Waitner**—Biochemistry: **Patrick M. Nugent**. The Student General Excellence Award of the American Institute of Chemists: **Arlie J. Rinaldi**. Merck Index Awards for research: **Lesla R. Celeste**, **Teresa Mills**, **Arlie Rinaldi**, and **Matthew Waitner**. Alumni Association Distinguished Senior Award: **Omer J. Bitar**.



### ***ACS Meeting Presentations***

The following students gave poster presentations of their research at the 232nd National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Chicago in March: **Jane Arcadi, Lesa Celeste, Thomas Dobmeier, Mark Makar, James Martin, Adam Pendelton, Arlie Rinaldi, Brian Tyler, Matthew Waitner.**

### ***Alumni Notes***

#### **1960s**

**Michael P Golinski, BS(Chem) '63**, recently retired from his position as chemist with Sherwin-Williams.

**Angelo M. Fatta, PhD, BS(Chem) '66**, President of Bufflink, Inc., was awarded the Gaudete Medal at St. Bonaventure University.

**Gerald Zon, PhD, BS(Chem) '67**, is a Scientific Fellow with Applied Biosystems, Inc. (ABI). After receiving his PhD at Princeton, Jerry taught at Catholic University before moving to NIH and then to ABI in 1986 to head up the nucleic acids

R&D. He became a fellow of the Royal Society in 2006.

#### **1970s**

**David J. Brancato, PhD, BS(Chem) '72**, is a specialist in the field of toxicity and environmental health. He has established the incinerator audit protocol used by the U.S. and now adopted by Australia. Among other awards, he won the Health and Human Services Special Recognition Award in 1978 and again in 1987.

**David G. Hangauer, Jr., PhD, BS(Chem) '74**, is Senior Vice President of Research and Development at Kinex Pharmaceuticals, LLC.

**David C. Sonnenberger**, PhD, BS(Chem) '77, associate provost for academic affairs at Benedictine University in Lisle, PA, was honored as the recipient of the Benedictine Life Award.

#### 1980s

**Denise (Robinson) Anderson**, BS(Chem) '86, was named a partner at Conestoga-Rovers & Associates, an engineering and consulting firm with 75 offices worldwide. She has been a chemist with CRA since 1992.

#### 1990s

**Jennifer J. Gilbert**, DVM, BS(Chem) '94, received her doctorate in veterinary medicine from the University of Prince Edward Island in 1999. She is Manager of New Product Development at Nutramax Laboratories in Edgewood, MD.

#### 2000s

**Cpt. Gerald Kellar**, USA, BS(Biochem) '00, after graduating from the US Army Clinical Lab School in August 2006, was transferred to West Point, NY, to take over as Chief of Lab Services for Keller Army Hospital, with oversight of lab activities at Ft. Hamilton, NY, Natick testing centre, and Picatinny & Tobyhanna Army Depots. He and his wife were blessed with their first child in January 2006.

**Thomas P. Zabawa**, BS(Chem) '01, has finished his PhD studies in synthetic organic at UB, and is currently doing postdoctoral work under Karl Scheit at Northwestern.

**Michael W. Fennie**, PhD, BS(Chem) '01, research investigator at Sanofi Aventis, was married this past summer.

**Muris Kobaslija**, BS(Chem) '02, has wrapped up his doctoral work at Cornell and has taken a position at Bristol-Meyers Squibb.

**Jeffrey M. Rose**, BS(Chem) '03, reports that he is finishing his fifth and final year of graduate work at Cornell.

**Joseph DeLuca**, BS(Chem) '03, and his wife Sarah announced the arrival of a daughter, Caroline Olivia, in July.

The following information on the **Class of 2006** was inadvertently omitted from the previous issue of this Newsletter:

**Elizabeth A. Gruber**, BS(Biochem), is attending medical school at the University at Buffalo.

**Daniel N. Heizyk**, BS(Biochem), is doing mass spectrometry work in the physical chemistry department of Prevalere Life Sciences, Utica, NY.

#### *Deaths*

The deaths of the following chemistry alumni have recently come to our attention:

Chelso B. Bernoi	MS 1973
Charles F. Cipolla, MD	BS 1941
William A. Himmler	MS 1953
Richard F. Jendras	BS 1947
Nicholas F. Jonmaire	BS 1953
George A. Kearney	BS 1943
Robert J. Lull, MD	BS 1962
Neil W. Murray, Jr	BS 1949
Raymond W. Osgood, MD	BS 1943
Joseph A. Pawlak	MS 1969
David F. Rieman, Jr	BS 1951
Joseph D. Strachan	BS 1948, MS 1958
Edward N. Weber	BS 1948, MS 1951

#### **Phillip D. Heffley**

We were saddened this year by the death of former professor Phillip D. Heffley. He had contracted ALS and the disease progressed rapidly. Phil taught general and analytical chemistry until his retirement a few years ago. He was known for his caring and helpful concern for students and colleagues, and his meticulous approach to everything he did, which served him well in his field.

## Canisius Chemistry/Biochemistry Alumni Information Form

You may use the form below for address changes and to keep us informed of your activities. Please provide us with this information even if you have already sent it to the Canisius Alumni Office, since we are making an effort to maintain an accurate independent database of all chem/biochem alumni. Return to: J. EVan Verth, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Canisius College, 2001 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14208-1098, or send email to: [jvsquare@canisius.edu](mailto:jvsquare@canisius.edu).

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Include any title and/or degree you would like us to use for mailing)

Name while at Canisius, if different \_\_\_\_\_

Is your address correct? If not, what is your preferred mailing address?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Canisius degree(s) and year(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Other degree(s), year(s), and granting institution(s)

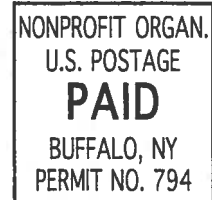
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Most recent position and company (indicate if retired)

\_\_\_\_\_

What news do you have for the next issue of the newsletter? Keep us in touch with your activities, accomplishments, career or lifestyle changes, avocations, news of classmates, etc.

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