For the first time in nearly 80 years, students taking the general chemistry laboratory courses this fall will be doing so in a new location. Thanks to renovation funds generously provided by the College, the general chemistry lab has been moved to the first floor of Horan O’Donnell in the space once occupied by the old mechanics laboratory of the Physics Department. Extensive renovations to the room occurred over the summer and were completed in time for the start of the fall semester. New flooring, sinks, paint, table layout, and other additions have made the space better suited for the students to carry out their experiments. Krit Marohn, our general chemistry Laboratory Coordinator, has also moved her office to the first floor, next to the laboratory, making her much more accessible to the students. Feedback from both the students and Krit has been quite positive so far this semester.

So what has become of the former general chemistry laboratory on the second floor? As part of the renovation, that space was converted into much-needed research laboratory space for two of our faculty members. The research groups of Tim Gregg and Jeremy Steinbacher permanently moved in this summer and now call this laboratory their new home. The lab offers six full-sized fume hoods, roughly 400 square feet of bench space, numerous cabinets for storage, and ample desk space for students. Tim’s and Jeremy’s students eagerly filled the new space with organic reactions aplenty all summer long! Rounding out the renovations, air conditioning was also installed in the organic teaching laboratory on the second floor.

Lauryn Rudin (CHM HT’20) flame dries a flask in the new, second-floor research space.
Greetings to All Griffin Chemists and Biochemists!

So many changes! That’s probably the first thing you will notice as you read this volume of the Department Newsletter. Starting with Horan O’Donnell, we now have a new general chemistry laboratory on the 1st floor, the former general chemistry laboratory has been converted into much needed additional research space, new LED lighting in the first floor hallway, and even air conditioning in the organic chemistry laboratory! And the next time you come to visit the Department, you will find that many of the faculty are in new office locations throughout the building.

And there is also a new Department Chair! For so many of us, including myself, we haven’t known a time without Mariusz Kozik as Chair. Over the past 15 years, Mariusz led the Department, continuing it on its successful path by among other things, hiring new faculty (including myself; I will never forget my first interview phone call with Mariusz, who could?), promoting the undergraduate research experience, and initiating the research endowment campaign. Thank you Mariusz for all that you accomplished as Chair. I am excited and proud to take over the leadership of the Department as Chair and I appreciate the faith that my fellow faculty members have in me to do so.

This past academic year we graduated seven new Griffin chemists and biochemists. While the Class of 2018 was one of the smallest in recent memory, the number of chemistry and biochemistry majors is increasing. We have 14 seniors and 26 majors in our current freshmen class.

Over the past year, the Department has continued to receive generous financial support from our alumni and other members of the extended Canisius Chemistry and Biochemistry family. Your gifts are greatly appreciated by all of us in the Department. It’s because of your continued giving that the Department will continue to be successful for the next 80 years.

To all of you reading this newsletter, alumni, faculty, and friends: please stay part of the Canisius Chemistry and Biochemistry family. Let us know how you are doing and stop by and visit when you get the chance. The strength of our Department lies in the success of our graduates and your continued support. Always know that we are proud of everything you have accomplished!

Phil Sheridan, Professor and Department Chair
Matthew Smardz (BCH ’19) was elected President of the Undergraduate Student Association (USA) for the 2018-2019 academic year. USA acts as an intermediary between the administration and the students of Canisius, oversees student organizations, and advocates for student needs. Matthew ran for president in hopes of further connecting USA to both students and the administration; such efforts include holding a town hall with President Hurley and organizing “Meet your Senator” events. Though USA represents all undergraduate students at Canisius, being a biochemistry major has helped him lead by conferring critical thinking skills and teaching him to approach problems analytically.

Jeremy Steinbacher is the recipient of a Science and Technology Policy Fellowship sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. For his sabbatical during the 2018-2019 academic year, Jeremy will serve as a policy fellow in the Department of Defense (DoD) at the Defense Laboratories Office (DLO). The DLO oversees all of the research labs at the DoD, coordinates policy amongst them, and manages a portfolio of STEM education activities.

Peter Schaber has been appointed interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for the 2018-2019 academic year after the surprise departure of the previous dean.

Joe Bieron has completed the 100-year department history and is soliciting feedback from alumni about additions or corrections. The history is available to view at https://www.canisius.edu/academics/programs/chemistry/history. Please send feedback to Joe at bieron@canisius.edu.

Mariusz Kozik has finished his last year as Chair of the Department after a stunning 15-year term. To celebrate his achievement, this year’s end-of-year banquet not only celebrated the graduating seniors, but also served to honor Mariusz’s service. More than 60 alumni, students, and faculty attended Kozikfest at Pearl Street Grill and Brewery on May 10, 2018. We hope to see more alumni at next year’s banquet. Watch the Canisius Chemistry Facebook page for more details.
Giving Day and Fundraising Update

The Department continues to make significant progress in reaching its fundraising goal of $1 million for its undergraduate research endowments. Thanks to ongoing generous support from Department alumni, the research endowments have now reached the $600,000 mark, a significant milestone in our campaign! We are again incredibly thankful to Jerry Zon (CHM ’67) for his continued support of our research students and faculty this summer. The generosity of our Departmental alumni was abundant during the College’s 3rd annual Giving Day, on April 25, 2018. In that single 24-hour period, the Department received $13,428, the most funds of any academic department at the College, and the largest amount of the three Giving Days to date! Without your donations, the opportunities we continue to provide our students would not be possible. The support we receive from our alumni is truly amazing! Thank you!

Departmental Scholarships

Lee Foundation Scholarship Fund  
Benjamin Russ (CHM, PHY ’19)

Joseph F. Bieron, Ph.D. ’59 Scholarship  
Benjamin Russ (CHM, PHY ’19)

Eileen Hogenkamp Klubek ’90 Scholarship  
Marianthi Vasiliadis (BCH ’21)

James G. Colson, Ph.D. ’58 Scholarship  
Samantha Caico (BCH ’19)

Emil R. Inderbitzen ’40 Memorial Scholarship  
David Filion (BCH ’19)

Austin V. & Lillian J. Signeur Scholarship  
John Bressette (CHM ACS ’21)

Filippo Gentile (CHM ACS ’19)

Nathan Kohler (CHM ’22)

Manzo Family Scholarship (established by David Manzo, Ph.D. ’63)  
Xavier Krull (BCH ACS ’21)

NYS Federation of Home Bureaus Scholarship (in honor of Joan and Frank Ospyiewski ’65)  
David Filion (BCH ’19)

Donors

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those listed here who have made a recent financial contribution to the Department:

Marissa Rizzo (’20), Anthony J. Berardi (’19), Filippo Gentile (’19), Matthew C. Smardz (’19), Peter V. Weimer (’19), Ryan M. Becht (’18), Erika Mackie (’18), Joseph J. Lesh (’17), James J. Rutowski (’17), Rachel L. Singer (’17), W. Benton Swanson (’17), Jenna R. Wallace (’17), Andrew D. Dobmeier (’16), Danielle N. Puglisi (’16), Carly E. Andriaccio (’15), Caleb P. Kitcho (’15), Dustin J. Radka (’15), Adam J. Dannenhoffer (’14), John A. Heck (’14), Jesse G. Fodero, M.D. (’13), Elisabeth A. Geyer (’13), Jamie E. Hitro (’13), Jessica L. Stachowski, Ph.D. (’12), Sean P. Balkin (’11, MBA ’13), Caitlin M. Loftus (’11), Robert J. Stewart, Ph.D. (’11), Ryan A. Campagna, M.D. (’10), Stephanie L. Krull (’10), Christopher R. Mekelburg (’10), Conor R. Thomas, Ph.D. (’10) & Chantal B. Bartels, M.D. (’09), Jane K. Arcadi, M.D. (’09), Kristina B. Garcia Grove, PharmD (’08), Andrew D. Minkel (’08, MBA ’10), Kelly L. Pham, M.D. (’06), Kathryn Leach, Ph.D. (’03), Jeffrey M. Rose, Ph.D. (’03), Muris Kobaslija, Ph.D. (’02), Mary V. Maher (’02), Stephanie L. Soehnlein, M.D. (’02), Amy A. Godert, Ph.D. (’01), Sarah A. Bell (’00), Jared J. Paul, Ph.D. (’00), Brian J. Page, M.D. (’99), Shalabh Singhal, M.D. (’99), Thomas W. Kermis, Ph.D. (’96), Steven H. Szczepankiewicz, Ph.D. (’96), Kimberly Jean Reynolds (’94), Thomas J. Schmit (’94), Mark L. Nowak (’92), James H. Pawlow, Ph.D. (’92), Karen M. Nuwer (’91), Christopher D. Kane, Ph.D. (’90), Kristen M. Kulinowski, Ph.D. (’90), Gregory E. Agoston, Ph.D. (’89), Mark S. Sautter (’89), Michael R. (’88) & Colleen Becht, James & Sharon (’88) Rutowski, Carolyn K. Weinreb, Ph.D. (’88), Terrence R. Burns, M.D. (’87), Denise R. Anderson (’86), Andrew Spadinger, D.D.S. (’86), Laurie E. Lynch, Ph.D. (’84), Diane B. Baisch (’83), John J. Falsone
Victoria Granger (BCH and BIO ’17) has enrolled in the Master of Development Practice program at the University of Minnesota.

Kevin Brick, J.D. (CHM ACS ’14) earned his law degree from Michigan State University.

Jesse Fodero, M.D. (BCH ’13) is in his second year of a residency in emergency medicine at the University at Buffalo Medical School.

Beau Froebel, M.D. (CHM HT ’13) is in his second year of a residency in ophthalmology at West Virginia University Medical School.

Jacob Castiglia, M.D. (BCH ’12) is in his second year of a residency in family medicine at the University of Rochester Medical School.

Andrew Forrestel, M.D. (CHM HT ’12) is currently in his second year of an internal medicine residency at the University of Arizona College of Medicine.

Jessica Stachowski, Ph.D. (CHM ACS ’12) received her Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Michigan (supervisor John Montgomery). Jessica is currently in a teaching and research postdoctoral position in chemistry at the University of Michigan.

Sean Balkin, J.D. (CHM HT ’11, MBA ’12) an attorney at Lippes, Mathias, Wexler, Friedman, LLP, was named to Buffalo Business First’s 30 under 30 list.

Erin Gatrone, Ph.D. (CHM ACS ’09) is attending Medical School at the University of South Carolina.

Michael Fennie, Ph.D. (CHM ’01) earned tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Scranton.

Lt. Col. (Army) Gerald Kellar (BCH ’00) was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the U. S. Army in December 2017; he is currently working on his Ph.D. thesis (Versican-Hyaluronan interaction in the onset of asthma) in the Ziegler Lab, at the Benaroya Research Institute, in Seattle, WA.

Walter Garrow (CHM ’72, MBA ’77) recently retired as a Corporate (USA wide/North America and Global scope) Environmental Health and Safety Director at Applus RTD - USA.

Sharon (Schrader) Garrow (CHM ’73) recently retired as a teacher at Niagara Catholic High School.
Frank Dinan Scholars

A generous gift of $5000 from David Hangauer, Ph.D. (CHM ’74) has been used to establish the first annual group of Frank Dinan Research Scholars. Dave's goals for this generous gift are to encourage promising students to do interesting summer research, advance these promising student's careers, make the Department more attractive to excellent prospective students, enable the faculty to do research that will keep them current in their fields, and honor Frank Dinan for his dedication, excellent teaching, and important mentorship of past students. The Dinan Research Scholars for 2018 are Anthony Berardi (CHM ACS ’19), Samantha Caico (BCH ’19), and Filippo Gentile (CHM ACS ’19).

Senior Awards

**WNY ACS Student General Excellence Award**: Highest award given by the Department; the recipient is acknowledged for outstanding achievement and significant research accomplishments.

**American Institute of Chemists (AIC) Chemistry Award**: Recognition on the basis of a demonstrated record in leadership ability, character, scholastic achievement, and advancement potential in the chemical professions.

**Gerald Zon Undergraduate Research Award**: Recognizes significant research accomplishments.

**V. A. Ruszkiewicz Award**: Recognition of superlative academic achievement demonstrated by the highest GPA.

**Ryan Becht**
Gerald Zon Undergraduate Research Award

**Gurkaran (Gary) Johal**
WNY ACS General Excellence Award in Biochemistry
Gerald Zon Undergraduate Research Award

**David Krasinski**
V.A. Ruszkiewicz Award
American Institute of Chemists Biochemistry Award
Gerald Zon Undergraduate Research Award

**Timothy Utz**
WNY ACS General Excellence Award in Chemistry
Gerald Zon Undergraduate Research Award

Class of 2018

**Ryan Becht** (BCH): Medical School, University at Buffalo

**Livia Chase** (CHM HT): Quality Analyst, TestAmerica, Amherst

**Gurkaran (Gary) Johal** (BCH): Medical School, University at Buffalo

**David Krasinski** (BCH): Medical School, University at Buffalo

**Erika Mackie** (CHM HT): Pharmacy School, Temple University

**Timothy Utz** (CHM HT): AmeriCorps, Washington DC AIDS Partnership Health Corps Program

**Ian Yargeau** (CHM HT)
Richard Badger (BS ’51 MS CHM ’55), former instructor of General Chemistry Laboratory courses in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Canisius College, passed away on October 26, 2017; he was 88 years old. Mr. Badger, as he was known to the students at Canisius, worked as a research chemist at Occidental Chemical Company on Grand Island for the majority of his career, retiring in the early 1990s. After retirement, he enjoyed teaching chemistry courses at Canisius College and Niagara County Community College, as well as serving as a substitute teacher in Buffalo schools. A fitness enthusiast, he swam competitively in his youth and was an avid bicyclist and marathon runner. He took part in more than 30 races and ran in two Boston Marathons. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, the former Marlene A. Graf, four daughters, and six grandchildren. Mr. Badger was loved by the students at Canisius and will be missed by the Department.

In Memoriam: Richard Badger

Thomas Dougherty, Ph.D. (CHM ’55), the developer of modern photodynamic therapy (PDT) and Professor Emeritus at Roswell Park’s Cancer Institute, died October 2, 2018, in Highland Hospital in Rochester after a short illness. At Roswell he developed and commercialized PDT, a cancer treatment that combines laser light with a nontoxic, light-sensitive drug. After selling his company, Photofrin Medical, Inc., Dr. Dougherty used the proceeds to establish The Oncologic Foundation of Buffalo, funding PDT research. “He was a great man, a visionary, and a good friend,” said Sandra Gollnick, now director of Roswell Park’s Photodynamic Therapy Center.

The foundation later expanded to support initiatives at Canisius College, the American Brain Tumor Association, and Hauptman Woodward Medical Research Institute. He received numerous accolades and awards, including the James H. Crowdle Award for Distinction in Chemistry from the Department, was the author or co-author of more than 200 publications, and held more than 50 patents.

In Memoriam: Thomas Dougherty

Fr. Ramon A. Salomone, S.J., former Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Canisius College, passed away on August 25, 2018. At the time of his death, he was a resident of Murray-Weigel Hall on the campus of Fordham University. Fr. Salomone entered the Society of Jesus in 1951 and was ordained a Jesuit in 1965. He obtained a Ph.D. in chemistry at Fordham University with thesis work in mass spectrometry. He joined the Department in September 1969 and taught both general chemistry and organic chemistry courses. He was Department Chair for a three-year term, September 1974 to June 1977. The Jesuit Provincial called Fr. Salomone to be the rector at LeMoyne College in 1977, and Ray served a six-year term before he volunteered to become a Jesuit missionary in Nigeria, Africa. He was an administrator of the Jesuit seminary in Nigeria for over 20 years before his return to the United States. Fr. Salomone was an excellent teacher as well as a great administrator, and very popular with students. It came as a surprise to his colleagues that he chose the demanding lifestyle of an African missionary. He saw his life as a worker for Christ, best served in this work among the poor and needy. In the annals of the Chemistry Department faculty, Ray Salomone was one of the best.

In Memoriam: Fr. Ramon A. Salomone S.J.
Student Researchers

Robert Grebenok:
Patrick Comerford (BCH '20), Xavier Krull (BCH ACS '21), Salvatore Zarrella (CHM HT '20)

Timothy Gregg:
Matthew Berardi (BIO '20), Filippo Gentile (CHM ACS '19), Jennifer Sescil (BCH ACS '21)

Roberto Gregorius:
John Bressette (CHM ACS '21)

Mary O’Sullivan:
Maxwell Chrzanowski (BCH '20), Matthew Smardz (BCH '19), Marissa Rizzo (CHM HT '20)

Mariusz Kozik:
Jeffrey Seeley (BCH '19), Derek Tabaczynski (CHM HT '20)

Peter Schaber:
Brittany Gorczyca (BCH '20)

Phillip Sheridan:
David Filion (BCH '19), Ben Russ (CHM, PHY ’19)

Jeremy Steinbacher:
Anthony Berardi (CHM ACS ’19), Samantha Caico (BCH ’19), Sean Gibson (CHM HT ’20), Lauryn Rudin (BCH ’20)

Summer Research Group 2018

Summer Research Symposium

Our Department community smashed the attendance record this year! Over 100 alumni, students, faculty, family members, administrators, and guests attended the Department’s 4th annual Summer Research Symposium on July 27, 2018. Our student researchers captivated the audience with presentations of their research results. Continuing the tradition, everyone enjoyed a picnic dinner in the quad following the Symposium. As always, it was great to see so many alumni, and we hope to see you at next year’s event on Friday, July 26, 2019. More photos from the Symposium can be found on the Canisius Chemistry Facebook page.
Faculty and Student Presentations*


**M. Berardi, F. Gentile**, and T. M. Gregg, “The Aldol Condensation Lab Experiment: Validation of Student Reaction Rate Observations,” 11th ACS Western New York Section Undergraduate Research Symposium, University at Buffalo, NY, 2018.


Peer-Reviewed Publications*


*Canisius Undergraduates in Bold*
Mariusz Kozik continued to organize the Chemistry Olympiad for the WNY ACS with generous financial support in the amount of $10,000 from Honeywell’s Buffalo Research Laboratory. This year, 57 talented and motivated students from 17 area high schools participated in the local section competition. The top eight students represented the following high schools: Amherst Central, Orchard Park, East Aurora, Williamsville East, Williamsville North, Williamsville South, St. Joe’s, and City Honors. Amelia Schaeffer from Amherst Central High School placed among the top 100 students in the nation (out of approximately 1000) on the National Olympiad Exam and earned an Honors Certificate for her performance.

Mary O’Sullivan and Phil Sheridan travelled with five students to the 255th National ACS Meeting in New Orleans, LA, in March. The student researchers presented four posters describing their most recent research results. The students and faculty would like to express their gratitude to the Class of 1960 for generously providing a portion of the student travel funds to attend the meeting.

Organized by Rob Stewart, Ph.D. (CHM ACS ’11), the WNY ACS hosted two Science Café meetings during the past year. An informal gathering, the goal of a Science Café is to enjoy pizza and a few beverages with new and old friends while learning new science. At the December 2017 meeting, Ben Russ (CHM, PHY ’19) spoke about “Laser Excitation Spectroscopy of the CaNCO Radical” and at the February 2018 event, Jeremy Steinbacher gave a talk titled “A Materials Chemistry Approach to Medicine”.

The Western New York local section of the ACS hosted its 11th annual Undergraduate Research Symposium on April 28, 2018 at the University at Buffalo. In the morning, Professor Ellen Matson from the University of Rochester gave a keynote address, followed by research talks from students around the region. In the afternoon poster session, seven Canisius students presented five posters on their research results.
The Canisius SCACS continues to be an active part of the Department, winning its 11th consecutive annual award from the national ACS. The Commendable award will be bestowed on the Canisius SCACS at the ACS National meeting in Orlando in March 2019. SCACS hosted several alumni seminar speakers, including Elisabeth Geyer (BCH ’13), Adam Dannenhoffer (CHM ACS ’14), and David Fortman (CHM ACS ’13). This past year, members visited local elementary schools to perform hands-on demonstrations, organized tours to the Corning Museum of Glass and the New York Beer Project Brewery (as part of an ACS inter-SCACS Chapter grant), held popular social events, and assisted with Department recruiting events.

The 2017-2018 Executive Board members:
- President: Anthony Berardi (CHM ACS ’19)
- Vice President: Filippo Gentile (CHM ACS ’19)
- Treasurer: Matthew Berardi (BIO ’20)
- Secretary: Joshua Canavan (BCH ’19)
- Historian: Samantha Caico (BCH ’19)
- Faculty Advisor: Phil Sheridan
College and Careers in Science Night at St. Joe’s

Chris Mekelburg (CHM HT, EDU ’10), science teacher at St. Joseph’s Collegiate Institute, and Phil Sheridan were the recipients of a grant as part of the Science Coaches program, a joint ACS and American Association of Chemistry Teachers (AACT) educational outreach initiative. As part of the award, Chris and Phil organized a “College and Careers in Science Night” for the high school students at St. Joe’s on March 27, 2018. In the first part of the event, undergraduate science majors (Anthony Berardi (CHM ACS ’19), Joshua Canavan (BCH ’19), Filippo Gentile (CHM ACS ’19), and Matthew Berardi (BIO ’20)) discussed how they developed their interests in science, their undergraduate experiences in science, and their current career paths. In the second part, the high school students were given the opportunity to meet and talk with science professionals representing medicine, pharmacy, education, industry, and research (James Martin, Pharm. D. (BCH ’07), Mark Makar (CHM ACS ’10), Michael Rodman (CHM HT ’15), Connor Tumiel (CHM HT ’17), and Steve Szczepankiewicz, Ph.D. (CHM ’96)). Over 50 students attended this successful event.

Keep us up to date! https://www.canisius.edu/content/chemistry-and-biochemistry-alumni-information-update