Tom Stabler Retires

“Mr. Stabler, can you give me a new beaker? I just broke my old one.” We have heard versions of this refrain forever, but no more. Tom Stabler has retired as Director of Chemistry Laboratories after 46 years at Canisius. If you took a chemistry course with a laboratory component, you came to know Tom. Equip your locker, purchase your lab notebook, sign out your experiment unknown, get a pair of rubber gloves or safety glasses, see Mr. Stabler.

Tom started as stockroom manager in 1973. He organized the lab lockers, ordered the chemicals, maintained equipment, and serviced all the instrumentation. Getting a 150 lb. gas cylinder to the third floor was not an easy task before the elevator was installed. Tom planned the Horan O’Donnell building renovation in 1984, computerized the laboratory inventory, and established the program for chemical waste disposal. Over the years, equipment changed from beakers and Bunsen burners to semi-micro ground glass and microscale pipets. He was the master of trivial details and could tell you the exact location of any chemical or piece of equipment. Tom did it all.

The Chemistry and Biochemistry Department has always been a pleasant and efficient place to work. Whenever an opportunity or directive was presented, the Chair’s response was always, “We can do that.” Within the Department, everybody knew who “We” were. It was the secretary (for many years, Mary Dow) and always included Tom as well as the Chair and other department members. Accommodating oversize lab sections, meeting deadlines for writing grant proposals, doing literature searches for consulting projects, meeting budget restraints, maintaining safety practices, the “We Team” (read Tom Stabler) did it all.

So Tom, with a new flat screen TV, a new Mac computer, access to Wi-Fi, and time to fondly remember your Canisius experiences, enjoy your retirement years. And rest easy; “We” have your back!
Greetings to All Griffin Chemists and Biochemists!

Another year has come and gone at Canisius, and the Department continues to change. After 46 years of dedicated service to the Department, Tom Stabler retired at the end of May from his position as Director of Chemistry Laboratories. Almost everyone reading this newsletter probably remembers asking Mr. Stabler for something: a missing piece of glassware, a replacement thermometer, or an extra pair of safety glasses. And Mr. Stabler always delivered. He was always there to help and he made the job of being a student or a faculty member so much easier. Nearly 100 students, faculty, staff, and alumni celebrated Tom’s long and distinguished career at our annual end-of-year banquet, this year fittingly titled as “Stablerfest.” While Tom will certainly be missed by the Department, he will never be forgotten. He will forever be a legend in Department folklore. Personally, I would like to thank Tom for all of the valuable assistance he provided me during my time in the Department.

As you read the newsletter, you will see that the Department continues to provide an excellent educational experience for our students. Two of our recent graduates were awarded prestigious NSF Graduate Fellowships in Chemistry, a major accomplishment. Student research continues to be an active part of the Department, with students presenting their work both on campus and at various meetings. This year we added 14 new chemists and biochemists to our growing list of alumni. And that list now has several new M.D., Pharm. D., and Ph.D. degrees!

The successes of our students would not be possible without a strong connection to our alumni. Your support, in all its forms, allows us to continue to provide training and experiences that set our graduates apart from others. Thank you for your continued generosity!

To all of you reading this newsletter, alumni, faculty, and friends: please stay an active 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
In May, the Department welcomed Jaime Sheridan, Ph.D., as the new Director of Chemistry Laboratories. Jaime earned her Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the University of Arizona.

Joshua Canavan (BCH ’19) was selected as the student speaker for the College of Arts and Sciences graduation ceremony. Josh is pursuing a Doctor of Optometry degree at the Ohio State University.

Prof. Roberto Gregorius established the new Electronic Media in Chemical Education Laboratory this summer. This space will be used by Roberto and his research students to create flash based animations and simulations of chemical concepts for which the impact on student learning will be studied.

After a distinguished career dating back to at least 1974, the Parr adiabatic bomb calorimeter that so many of you fondly remember using, finally combusted its last sample. This year, the Department purchased two new calorimeters to serve as replacements. These new instruments are ready for 40 years of hard labor in the physical chemistry laboratory.

On Friday May 10, 2019, the Department celebrated Tom Stabler’s retirement at Pearl Street Grill and Brewery in Buffalo. Stablerfest was a fun-filled evening in the typical Canisius Chemistry and Biochemistry fashion!

Department Banquet 2019, Stablerfest
Donors

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

Joseph Malinowski ('21); Sean P. Gibson ('20); Peter Krickovich ('20); Joshua Canavan ('19); Filippo Gentile ('19); Matthew Smardz ('19); Joshua Canavan ('19); Filippo Gentile ('19); Matthew Smardz ('19); Peter Weimer ('19); Livia Chase ('18); W. Benton Swanson ('17); Jenna Wallace ('17); Nicole Fusco ('16); Danielle Puglisi ('16); Jonathan ('15) & Nicole Binns ('15); Adam Dannenhoffer ('14); John Heck ('14); Jesse Fodero, M.D. ('13); David Fortman, Ph.D. ('13); Elisabeth Geyer, Ph.D. ('13); Jamie Hitro ('13); David J. Szczur ('13); Jessica Stachowski, Ph.D. ('12); Sean Balkin, J. D. ('11); Robert Stewart, Ph.D. ('11); Ryan Campagna, M.D. ('10); Stephanie Krull ('10); Christopher R. Mekelburg ('10); Kristina B. Garcia ('08); Kathryn E. Leach, Ph.D. ('08); Thomas A. Mulcahy ('07); William C. Phillips ('05); E. Andrew Goulian ('04); Emily Miller ('03); Andrew Laws ('03); Catherine Schill ('02); Veronica Mahler ('02); Stephanie Soehnlein, M.D. ('02); Aaron & Dr. Amy Godert ('01); Steven H. Szczepankiewicz, Ph.D. ('96); Lingyun Chen ('95); Christopher D. Kane, Ph.D. ('90); Kristen Kulinowski, Ph.D. ('90); Gregory Agoston, Ph.D. ('89); Domenico, D.D.S. ('89) & Maria Berardi ('89); Michael R. ('88) & Colleen Becht; Carolyn K. Weinreb, Ph.D. ('88); Michael F. Inglisa ('85); Joanne Huber ('82); John, M.D. ('82) & Gail Zvijac ('82); Dr. Ronald & Mary Spohn ('78); Edward ('75) & Mary Bogdan ('77); Mary Therese A. Colson ('77); Michael J. Cubera ('75); Peter Schaber, Ph.D. ('75); David G. Hangauer, Ph.D. ('74); David Nalewajek, Ph.D. ('74); Daniel E. Rega ('74); Frederick Wiatrowski ('73); Teresa M. Amabile, Ph.D.

Giving Day and Fundraising Update

The Department continues to advance towards its undergraduate research endowment fundraising goal of $1 million. The total research endowment has now reached the $660,000 mark!! For the College’s 4th annual Giving Day, on April 3, 2019, the Department received $10,358, placing it once again in the top 3 on the academic leaderboard. We are especially grateful to Jerry Zon (CHM ’67) for his continued support of our research students and faculty this summer. Without all of the incredible generosity and support we receive from our alumni, the opportunities we continue to provide our students would not be possible. Thank you!

Kristen Kulinowski Speaks at Canisius

Kristen Kulinowski (CHM ’90), Ph.D., Interim Executive Authority of the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB), visited the Department on April 9th. Nominated to the Board by President Obama in January 2015, she has served as a member since her confirmation by the Senate in August 2015.

As part of her visit, Kristen presented a seminar titled, “From Canisius to the White House: Just a Typical Career in Chemistry.” Kristen’s talk described the fascinating career path that brought her from Canisius to her current role on the CSB.
Trevor Tumiel (CHM ACS ’17) and Anthony Berardi (CHM ACS ’19) are each the recipient of a National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Fellowship in chemistry. These awards provide three years of financial support to students early in their graduate training. They are among the most competitive and prestigious fellowships available to graduate students in the sciences. In the 2019 application cycle, only 16 percent of applicants received awards. Of the 2051 total fellowships given, only 154 were awarded in chemistry. Trevor and Anthony were the only recipients of this fellowship in chemistry from universities in western New York. In the past six years, four Canisius chemistry and biochemistry majors have been awarded NSF graduate fellowships, including Elisabeth Geyer Ph.D. (BCH ’13) and Lauren Evans (BCH ACS ’16).

Trevor is a 3rd year graduate student in the Ph.D. program in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Rochester. At Canisius, Trevor conducted research in the laboratory of Prof. Steve Szczepankiewicz for three summers. At the University of Rochester, Trevor works in the laboratory of Prof. Todd Krauss. His fellowship proposal was titled, “Exploiting Defects in Carbon Nanotubes for Photo-generated Charge Transport.”

Anthony is a 1st year graduate student in the Ph.D. program in the Macromolecular Science and Engineering Program at the University of Michigan. At Canisius, Anthony conducted research in the laboratory of Prof. Jeremy Steinbacher for three summers. Anthony is currently in the process of choosing a research laboratory at the University of Michigan. His fellowship proposal was titled, “Amphiphilic, Bottlebrush Polymers for Simultaneous 19F MRI and Drug Delivery.”
Alumni Notes

Timothy Utz (CHM HT ’18) has enrolled in the M.D. program at Georgetown University.

Joseph Lesh (CHM HT ’17) has enrolled in the M.D. program at the University at Buffalo.

Trevor Tumiel (CHM ACS ’17) received the W. D. Walters Teaching Award for undergraduate teaching by graduate teaching assistants from the Department of Chemistry at the University of Rochester.

Danielle Puglisi (CHM HT ’16) is now a Research Technician at Honeywell in Buffalo.

Caleb Kitcho, M.D. (BCH ’15) received his M.D. from the University at Buffalo. He has started his residency at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Michael Rodman, M.D. (CHM HT ’15) received his M.D. from the University at Buffalo.

Caressa Trueman, Pharm.D. (CHM HT ’15) received her Pharm.D. from Creighton University.

Adam Dannenhoffer, Ph.D. (CHM ACS ’14) received his Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from Northwestern University.

ENS Kevin Brick, J.D. (CHM ACS ’14) has joined the US Navy.

Dennis Elsenbeck, Ph.D. (CHM ACS ’14) received his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from the University at Buffalo. He is currently working at Honeywell’s Buffalo Research Laboratory.

John Heck (CHM ACS ’14) is now a Research Technician at Honeywell in Buffalo.

Corey Damon, Ph.D. (BCH ACS ’13) received his Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from the University at Buffalo.

David Fortman, Ph.D. (CHM ACS ’13) received his Ph.D. in Polymer Chemistry from Cornell University. He is currently working as a Research Chemist at PPG Industries in Pittsburgh, PA.

Elisabeth Geyer, Ph.D. (BCH ’13) received her Ph.D. in Molecular Biophysics from the University of Texas Southwestern. She is currently working at the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson.

Andrew Kauffmann, Ph.D. (CHM ACS ’11) received his Ph.D. in Biophysical Chemistry from the University of Rochester. He also received the W. D. Walters Teaching Award for undergraduate teaching by graduate teaching assistants from the Department of Chemistry at the University of Rochester.

Janelle Tryjankowski, M.D. (BCH ’08) completed her medical residency at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (Harvard Medical School) and has joined Atlantic Anesthesia as an attending physician and partner.

John Chodkowski (CHM ’80) recently retired as a Senior Technical Service Specialist at Occidental Chemical Corporation.

Joseph F. Bieron, Ph.D. (CHM ’59) was recently honored by the WNY American Chemical Society as a 60-year member.

Department Scholarships

Joseph F. Bieron, Ph.D. ’59 Scholarship
Benjamin T. Russ (CHM/PHY ’19)

James G. Colson, Ph.D. ’58 Scholarship
Samantha T. Caico (BCH ’19)

Emil R. Inderbitzen ’40 Memorial Scholarship
David M. Filion (CHM HT ’19)

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

Manzo Family Scholarship
Xavier C. Krull (CHM ACS ’21)

NYS Federation of Home Bureaus Scholarship (in honor of Joan and Frank Osypiewski ’65)
David M. Filion (CHM HT ’19)

Austin V. & Lillian J. Signeur Scholarship
John M. Bressette (CHM ACS ’21)
Filippo Gentile (CHM ACS ’19)
Nathan J. Kohler (CHM ACS ’22)
Senior Awards

V.A. Ruskiewicz (1921) Award: Recognition of superlative academic achievement demonstrated by the highest GPA.

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) Award: Recognition on the basis of a demonstrated record in leadership, ability, character, scholastic achievement, and advancement potential in the chemical professions.

Gerald Zon (1967) Undergraduate Research Award: Recognizes significant research accomplishments.

American Chemical Society Organic Division Undergraduate Award: Recognizes an outstanding senior, undergraduate organic chemistry student.

Anthony Berardi
WNY ACS Student General Excellence Award in Chemistry
Gerald Zon Research Award

Samantha Caico
WNY ACS Student General Excellence Award in Biochemistry
Gerald Zon Research Award

Joshua Canavan
V. A. Ruszkiewicz Award
Gerald Zon Research Award

Filippo Gentile
American Institute of Chemists Award in Chemistry
ACS Organic Chemistry Undergraduate Award
Gerald Zon Research Award

Benjamin Russ
Gerald Zon Research Award

Jeffrey Seeley
Gerald Zon Research Award

Matthew Smardz
American Institute of Chemists Award in Biochemistry
Gerald Zon Research Award

David Filion
Gerald Zon Research Award

Class of 2019

Anthony Berardi (CHM ACS): Ph.D. Program, Macromolecular Science & Engineering, University of Michigan

Samantha Caico (BCH): D.O./Ph.D. Program, Michigan State University

Joshua Canavan (BCH): Optometry School, The Ohio State University

David Filion (CHM HT): Applying to Medical School

Filippo Gentile (CHM ACS): Ph.D. Program, Chemistry, University of Pittsburgh

Connor Huck (BCH): M.S. Chemistry, University at Buffalo

James Macholl (BCH): Lab Technician, Honeywell

Marissa Olsen (CHM w/BUS): Applying to Pharmacy School

Benjamin Russ (CHM/PHY): Applying to Ph.D. Programs in Physics

Jeffrey Seeley (BCH): Applying to Medical School

Michael Shenal (CHM HT): Pharmacy School, University at Buffalo

Matthew Smardz (BCH): Applying to Research Programs

Peter Weimer (BCH): Applying to Medical School

Brandon Williams (CHM w/BUS): Lab Tech, IsleChem
On July 26, 2019, the Department hosted its 5th annual Summer Research Symposium. This year, 21 student researchers presented 15 posters on their research conducted this summer in the Department. Following the poster session, over 100 alumni, students, faculty, family members, administrators, and guests enjoyed a picnic dinner in the quad. We hope to see you at next year’s event on Friday, July 17, 2020.

- M. Berardi (T. Gregg) “Synthetic Investigation of Rytismatones A and B”
- J. Sescil (T. Gregg) “Cyclopropanation of Stannyl Allenes”
- X. Krull (T. Gregg) “Diazoc Coordination and Carbenoid Generation using Transition Metal Substituted Polyoxotungstates”
- M. Vasiliadis (T. Gregg) “Benzamide Derivatives for a CHM334 Lab Experiment in Variable-Temperature NMR”
- L. Rudin (R. Gregorius) “Animated Module for Student-Centered Learning of Chemical Reaction Types”
- D. Tabaczynski (M. Kozik) “DFT Computations of P-31 NMR Chemical Shift for Paramagnetic Polyoxotungstates using Amsterdam Density Functional Software Package”
- D. Lis and D. Tabaczynski (M. Kozik) “Refinement of 2D DOSY NMR Technique for Determination of Diffusion Coefficients for Transition Metal Substituted Polyoxotungstates”
- E. Soles and H. Dueringer (K. Marohn) “Inquiry Experiments vs. Traditional Experiments”
- M. Rizzo and M. Chrzanowski (M. O’Sullivan) “Investigations and Synthesis of N-isopropyl-N’-aryl Polyamines”
- J. Sullivan, G. Gibson, and B. Russ (P. Sheridan) “Computational Study of Isocyanate Isomers of Li, Na and K”
- G. Gibson (P. Sheridan) “New Bomb Calorimeters in the Physical Chemistry Laboratory”


*Canisius Undergraduates in Bold*
**Gassman Seminar**

On October 4, 2018, the Department welcomed Prof. Emily A. Weiss as the seventh Gassman Memorial Seminar Speaker. Prof. Weiss is the Mark and Nancy Ratner Professor of Chemistry and the Director of the Photo-Sciences Research Center at Northwestern University. She presented two seminars at Canisius. The first, to an audience of freshmen and sophomore science majors, was titled “Chemistry with Nanoparticles” and the second, a technical talk to the Department, was titled “Hierarchical Photocatalysis.” The goal of Prof. Weiss’ research is to “understand the mechanisms by which energy is converted from one form to another” using quantum dots. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship, the Kavli Emerging Leader in Chemistry Award, the Camille Dreyfus Teacher Scholar Award, and the Harry Gray Award for Creative Work in Inorganic Chemistry by a Young Investigator, among many others.

Paul G. Gassman (CHM ’57), Ph.D. was a distinguished alumnus of the Department. A Regents Professor in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Minnesota, he also served as President of the American Chemical Society and was a member of the National Academy of Sciences. Always supportive of his alma mater, he established an endowment at Canisius with regular contributions. After his premature death in 1993, his family generously augmented this fund, and continues to do so, in order to support a seminar series in his honor. The Gassman Memorial Seminar series allows Canisius science majors to meet with an internationally renowned chemist and to learn about his/her research and the impact of this work on our environment and society.

**Chemistry Olympiad**

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. Dave Nalewajek, Ph.D. (CHM ’74) (center), Research Fellow, Honeywell presents the check to Mariusz Kozik (center right). This year 63 talented and motivated students from 20 area high schools participated in the local section competition.

The top eight students represented the following high schools: Amherst Central, Williamsville South, St. Joseph’s Collegiate, Williamsville East, Williamsville North, Kenmore West and St. Francis.

**Frank Dinan Scholars**

David Hangauer (CHM ’74) continued his generous financial support of the Frank Dinan Research Scholars for the second year. Dave’s gift honors Frank Dinan for his dedication, excellent teaching, and important mentorship of past students. The Frank Dinan Research Scholars for 2019 are Xavier Krull (CHM ACS ’21) and Jennifer Sescil (BCH ACS ’21), pictured 1st and 3rd from the left, respectively, along with Frank Dinan and David Hangauer, 2nd and 4th from left, respectively.
SCACS celebrated another year of adventures at Canisius. Members went on a tour of Honeywell’s Buffalo Research Labs, climbed the rock wall silos at Riverworks, navigated the Cambria corn maze, busted out of an escape room, curled in a blizzard, bowled like professionals, dazzled elementary school students with hands-on science, hosted alumni speakers Kristin Hill (BCH ACS ’14) and Kevin Brick (CHM ACS ’14) and assisted in recruiting the next group of chemistry and biochemistry majors. The Canisius SCACS was presented with a Commendable Award for 2018-2019, the chapter’s 12th consecutive annual award from the national ACS.

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
Each summer, the Department engages students in research projects, giving them the opportunity to tackle meaningful problems in chemistry in a way that goes far beyond their classroom learning. These experiences enable our students to gain acceptance to prestigious graduate programs, medical, dental, and pharmacy schools, as well as enter the work force right after graduation. Alumni fondly remember their research endeavors and the significant impact this experience had on their careers and lives. But we can't provide these opportunities to the newest generation of Canisius chemistry and biochemistry majors without your support. Five years ago, the Department embarked on an ambitious goal to raise $1 million to fund an endowment to support our summer research program. And because of your generosity, we are more than halfway towards our goal! But we still have a ways to go until we reach $1 million and we need your help. Please consider making a donation directly to the Department designated for summer research, and help us reach our goal.