

Alumni Class Notes

by Dorothy Isaacson Read, College Relations



Alex Edeleanu, Charles Auerbach (B.S. '42), Doug Gould (B.S. '42) and Art Morgan (B.S. '43, M.S. '48, ChemE) at the Lewis Luncheon.

1954

Ph.D. Retired for about six years from Arizona State University, **Gilbert R. Seely (Chem)** is enjoying life and keeping busy in Tempe, AZ, with his wife, Suzanne.

1959

B.S. After a 38-year career with General Electric Nuclear, **George W. Fitzsimmons (ChemE)** retired in October 1997. He and his wife, Ruth, make their home in Morgan Hill, CA.

1962

B.S. Our alumni are, of course, known for excellence in all arenas. This time, new culinary heights were reached by **Richard Mikesell (Chem)**, who submitted the prize-winning recipe for Spam in a Hormel-sponsored contest held at 77 state and county fairs. His recipe for Spamigo Green Chili Stew (see http://www.desnews.com/cgi-bin/libstory_reg?dn99&9904200147) won him a \$2,500 shopping spree at the Mall of America. When not vying with Julia Child, he holds forth at the Law Offices of R. L. Mikesell in Van Nuys, CA.

1965

Ph.D. **Neil A. Dougherty (ChemE)** retired in 1998 from Exxon Production Research Co. in Houston. He and his wife, Tricia, still reside in The Woodlands, TX. • **Darsh Wasan (ChemE)** was selected to receive the 2000 American Chemical Society's award for Colloid and Surface Chemistry, to be presented at the ACS meeting in San Francisco in March 2000. He is Motorola Professor in the chemical engineering department and Vice President of the Illinois Institute of Technology. • Congratulations are due to **James D. Burke (Chem)**, recently elected to the American Chemical Society's board of directors.

1966

B.S. Retired from Allied Signal Aerospace, and living with his wife, Kathryn, in Scottsdale, AZ, with a second home in Southern California, **Philip R. (Bob) Friedel (Chem and ChemE)** is enjoying the freedom to do whatever he wants, including cultural arts, hiking, biking, traveling, and web surfing.

Ph.D. **Sister Mary Andrew Matesich (Chem)** was honored in December 1998 for her twenty years as



Penny Moore, Director of Prime Science, and Chemistry Professor Brad Moore (Ph.D. '63 Chem), sharing an embrace with Nobel Laureate Dudley Herschbach, who began his teaching career here in the College from 1959-63.



Laurie O'Connor (B.A. '71, Chem) speaking with students at the Alumni reception for juniors and seniors.

president of Ohio Dominican College, during which, through her inspired and inspiring efforts, the College has rebounded from an economic and educational slump. Her work has created a strong sense of mission in the college, primarily with regard to its responsibility to the surrounding community.

1967

M.S. John M. Krochta (see 1971 ChemE Ph.D.)

1968

M.S. Bruce W. Page (see 1971 ChemE Ph.D.) • Jean E. Taylor (Chem) wrote to fill us in on her history since 1968. She went over to the UCB Mathematics Department from Chemistry for a short time, and then followed her first husband to the University of Warwick, where she earned an M.S. in mathematics, and then to Princeton, where she got her math Ph.D. After a year as an instructor at MIT, where she got divorced, she returned to New Jersey as an assistant professor at Rutgers University, and rapidly rose through the ranks. She remarried and now has three grown children. Currently, she is president of the Association for Women in Mathematics. She has been a vice president of the American Mathematical Society and a member of the Board of Directors of the

American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). She is a fellow of the AAAS, of the Association for Women in Science, and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 1998, she was awarded the Rutgers College Class of 1962 Presidential Public Service Award. She returned to the UC Berkeley campus last February as a Miller Visiting Professor in the Materials Science Department.

1969

Ph.D. In February 1998, Christopher A. Lipinski (Chem) was promoted to Senior Research Fellow at Pfizer Central Research in Groton, CT. This is the most senior scientific position at Pfizer and heavily involves him in experimental and computational approaches to improve clinical candidate survival. He averages an invited lecture a month on the Lipinski "rule of five" and related topics.

Postdoc. Aaron D. Kosoy (Chem) is retired from Eli Lilly and living in Tucson, AZ, with his wife, Joan-Lois.

1971

Ph.D. A professor at UC Davis with joint appointments in the Food Science and Technology Department and the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department since 1989, John M. Krochta (M.S. 1967 ChemE) was recently appointed Peter J. Shields Chair of Dairy Food Science. • Fellow Vermeulen student Bruce W. Page (M.S. 1968 ChemE) left LFR Levine-Fricke in June 1999 and started his own consulting company in El Cerrito, CA, specializing in environmental remediation.

1973

B.S. Randy L. Howard (ChemE) recently moved from Texas to Bangkok, Thailand, with his wife, Rosemary, to take over as president of UNOCAL Thailand and as regional vice president for UNOCAL's activities in Vietnam and Myanmar. • Randy B. Barber (see 1977 Chem Ph.D.)

1977

Ph.D. Randy B. Barber (Chem B.S. 1973) rode his bicycle 560 miles, from San Francisco to Los Angeles, with 2,950 other cyclists last June as part of the California AIDS Ride 6. He works as aromatics research and development manager for Chevron in Richmond and lives in El Sobrante, CA, with his wife, Suzanne.

1979

B.S. Clint C. Holzwarth (ChemE) let us know that his team at the Monsanto Avon plant received the federal Environmental Protection Agency's Region IX pollution prevention award in 1996. He co-authored a case study on "Monsanto Avon Plant: the Synergy Between Total Quality and Pollution Prevention," published by the California Environmental Protection Agency DTSC Alternative Technology Group. These events resulted in the department inviting him to present the industrial perspective in Source Reduction Planning and Performance in their workshops from 1998 to 1999. One of the main points he stressed was to get employees who operate or maintain the manufacturing process involved in source reduction efforts. His plant team efforts resulted in a 95 percent increase in production volume.



Chemistry Professors Gabor Somorjai and Ron Cohen speaking to Susan Solomon (Ph.D. '81, Chem), who gave the G. N. Lewis Lecture in 1998 and was just awarded the National Medal of Science.

1981

B.S. March 28 is a significant date for **Mark T. Sawaya (ChemE)** and his wife, Dorthe. In 1996, their first child, Julia, was born on that date, and last year twin girls, Emma and Mia, were born to them on March 28. He works for Chevron Products Company in Kapolei, HI.

M.S. After leaving Berkeley, Timothy A. Barbari (ChemE) earned his Ph.D. at the University of Texas at Austin in 1996. Last July, after 13 years on the faculty at Johns Hopkins University, he accepted the chairmanship of the department of chemical engineering at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Ph.D. Susan Solomon (Chem) has received the nation's highest scientific honor—the National Medal of Science. The award underscores Susan's accomplishments "for key insights into explaining the cause of the Antarctic ozone 'hole' and advancing the understanding of the global ozone layer that changed the direction of ozone research and provided exemplary service to worldwide public policy." Susan is a senior scientist at the the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s Aeronomy Lab in Boulder, CO, and is the first NOAA recipient in the Medal's 40-year history

1982

B.S. Since 1996, Stewart E. Lyle (ChemE) has run his own marketing communications consulting business, Presentation Matters. He is also pursuing an acting and performing arts career. He lives in Oakland, CA.

1983

B.S. Franklin Shih (ChemE), who earned his M.D. from UC Davis in 1988, writes that he misses Cal but loves being back in Colorado. He'd love to hear from old classmates (Tommy Ray, Ron, etc.). He asks that friends e-mail him at frankatrac@aol.com.

M.S. Richard H. Chin (ChemE) and his wife, **Sandra J. Underwood (ChemE Ph.D. 1987)**, both retired from Intel in September 1998. They spent many months caring for Rick's dad, who passed away in March

1999, then sold their Albuquerque home and moved to Bozeman, MT, in August 1999. They're enjoying the outdoors and traveling a lot, and they plan to return to school (MSU in Bozeman) next year for the fun and enjoyment of learning. They welcome correspondence from old friends and lab-mates at suandrc@aol.com.

1984

B.S. From Laguna Beach, San Juan Capistrano, CA, Greig E. Altieri (ChemE) writes, "Another new job, another move, another two-bedroom house." His current position is general manager of HysteRx, a very early stage medical device startup for minimally invasive treatment of uterine fibroids, replacing hysterectomies.

Ph.D. Steven D. Schwartz (Chem) is professor of theoretical biophysics and biochemistry at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. His wife, Jil Tardiff (B.S. Genetics 1984), is also on the faculty as assistant professor of medicine. They live in Pelham, NY, with their two children, Sarah, 9, and Benjamin, 5.

1985

B.S. Robert G. Strickley (Chem) was awarded the prestigious 1998 Ebert Prize from the American Pharmaceutical Association for the best research paper of the year in the *Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences*. This award recognized research on "Solid-state Stability of Human Insulin II. Effect of Water on Reactive Intermediate Partitioning in Lyophiles from pH 2-5 Solutions: Stabilization against Covalent Dimer Formation," done for his doctoral work at the University of Utah, department of pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical chemistry, from which he received a Ph.D. in 1995. Currently, he is a senior scientist in preclinical sciences at Axys Pharmaceuticals in South San Francisco. His work involves small molecule drug discovery and focuses on quantitative physical organic chemistry, solubility, kinetics, and mechanism of drug degradation, as well as pharmacokinetics and metabolism.



Professor John Weeks and Nobel laureate Walter Kohn in deep conversation at the Pitzer Symposium in January.

1987

Ph.D. A career change has taken Andrew C. Scheiner (Chem) and his wife and five-year-old son, Benjamin, to Virginia, where he is now a senior programmer with Electronic Arts, working with computer gaming and internet technologies. His wife, Elaine, Ph.D. Chemistry Johns Hopkins, 1990, is staying in the chemistry field, working for Pharmaceutical Research Associates in Charlottesville. • **Sandra J. Underwood (ChemE, see 1983 M.S.)**

1993

B.S. R. Robert Balcarcel (ChemE) writes that he just graduated from MIT with a Ph.D. in chemical engineering and biotechnology. He's now in his first year as an assistant professor at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN, teaching and forging new research collaborations.

Ph.D. Rigoberto Hernandez (Chem), assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry at Georgia Tech, has been named a 2000 Sloan Research Fellow. Hernandez's group develops models to better understand the dynamics of thermosetting polymers. Recently, Hernandez received his second award from Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society. He won the South-

east Regional Young Investigator Award, following an earlier Young Faculty Award from the Georgia Tech chapter. His work is also supported by a Cottrell Scholar Award from the Research Corporation and a National Science Foundation CAREER award.

1994

M.S. In June 1998, **Jason R. Taylor (ChemE)** started a surgery residency at UCLA Medical Center, having completed his M.D. at the University of Pennsylvania that same year.

1995

B.S. Currently a fourth-year graduate student in Prof. Myers' group at Harvard University, **Mohammad Movassaghi (Chem)** is pursuing a Ph.D. in synthetic organic chemistry.

Ph.D. **Robert H. Rich (Chem)** recently accepted a position at the American Chemical Society in Washington, DC, managing the professional development programs, publications, and studies there.

1996

Ph.D. Following the completion of her postdoctoral work at MIT, **Virginia W. Cornish (Chem)** joined the chemistry department faculty of Columbia University as an assistant professor in January 1999. She is teaching a new course in advanced organic chemistry to freshmen.

• **Daniel A. Wright (Chem)** has been a senior consultant and programmer/analyst for MCGI in San Rafael, CA, since April 1997.

1997

B.S. **Soojin Kwon (Chem)** is in her third year of graduate school in organic chemistry at Harvard University.

M.S. In 1998, **Caidian Luo (ChemE)** received his Ph.D. in Wood Science and Technology from Berkeley

and took a position as a research scientist for research and development at James Hardie Industries in Fontana, CA.

Postdoc. **Mark R. Viant (Chem)** is currently doing postdoctoral research in environmental toxicology at UC Davis.

1998

B.S. **James L. Mar (ChemE)** accepted a position last year as a design engineer with Pacific Bell's South Bay construction and engineering department in San Jose, CA.

1999

M.S. Last September, **Van N. Nguyen (ChemE)** started the Ph.D. program in the chemical engineering department at UCLA.

Ph.D. In April of last year, **Timothy J. Myers (ChemE)** joined Exponent, Failure Analysis Associates in Natick, MA, as an engineer.

IN MEMORIAM

Waldo E. Cohn (Chem B.S. 1931, M.S. 1932, Ph.D. Biochemistry 1938), a biochemist, worked on the Manhattan Project and helped create the plutonium used in the first atom bomb, later calling for the control of nuclear weapons by the United Nations. His post-war efforts included the promotion of the use of radioactive isotopes for medical research and treatment, and developing a technique used in identifying the components and function of DNA and RNA. He enjoyed performing as a cellist throughout his life, and he founded the oldest existing orchestra in Oak Ridge, where he spent most of his career. A musical high point came in 1952, when he conducted the orchestra in an Arthur Roberts composition dedicated to him, "Overture to a Dedication of a Nuclear Reactor." He passed away on August 27, 1999, in Oak Ridge at the age of 89, survived by his wife, a brother, two sons, and four grandsons.



Hewitt Kenyon (B.S. 1942), Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at George Washington University, passed away in June 1998. He is survived by his wife, Linda

Ernest F. Ehmke (Chem B.S. 1950) worked as a corrosion and metallurgical specialist for the Avon Tosco refinery in Martinez, CA. He passed away on November 23, 1999, and is survived by his wife, Vivian.

Although Franklin I. Honea earned his 1955 B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Berkeley, and his Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Denver, he always maintained ties with our Department of Chemical Engineering. He spent his career in aerospace, environmental, energy, and coal combustion and gasification research and development, authoring over 50 publications. After suffering a stroke in the 1980s, and later undergoing six-way bypass heart surgery followed by a long period of infirmity, he passed away recently. He is survived by his wife, Marvine, and their 10 children.

Ashraf Shalaby (Chem Postdoc. 1998), a valued member of the College community during his recent postdoc with the Rapoport group, lost his life in a tragic auto accident in August 1999. He was working at Gryphon Sciences in South San Francisco at the time. He is remembered for his enthusiasm, patience, and kindness. Among his survivors is his mother, who lives in Egypt. ♦

Bartlett,

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What I found most heartening in my role as chair is the fact that these interactions reflect a philosophy of mutual gain. "I will help your program because it will in turn strengthen mine" is a common attitude that is encountered along all axes: among departments, between campus and LBNL, among faculty, chair, deans, and the administration.

Indeed, it is this "institutional attitude" that I have found to be our most powerful defense against the competition. We have had to respond to market pressures, to be sure, and the repeated attempts to raid our faculty have demonstrated to the University the need for modernized facilities. But the final score in these competitions has been very uneven. During the last four years, I can count ten attempts to hire members of our faculty away from the Department; so far, we have lost only two. Even this number is too high, but it does show our unique advantage.

A colleague asked me recently, as I approach the end of my term as chair, whether I would do it again. Although the answer has to be no (it is time for someone else to take up the baton and for me to return to teaching and a renewed involvement with my research group), I realized that I am, nevertheless, glad to have done it. The job is intense, but it brings satisfaction and a sense of accomplishment. I expect that my successor will have been named by the time you receive this newsletter, and I know that you will join me in welcoming and supporting our colleague in this important role in a unique department. ♦

Congratulations...

**to all our faculty members being honored at the ACS meeting
in San Francisco on March 28, 2000.**

Darleane Hoffman - Priestley Medal

Gabor Somorjai - ACS Award for Creative Research in Homogeneous or Heterogeneous Catalysis • Jean Fréchet - ACS Award in Polymer Chemistry • Richard Saykally - The Irving Langmuir Award in Chemical Physics • Harold Johnston and Gabor Somorjai are also being honored with symposia held during the meetings from March 26-31.

