Greetings from the Chemistry Department! Once again the year has slipped by quickly and we take time to look back on another significant year. First, most importantly, we are pleased to note that Professor Mike Wedlock is recovering nicely from open-heart surgery in May, which repaired a malfunctioning mitral valve. Mike will continue his recuperation through the fall term but we fully expect him to be back in front of the PChem class in the spring convincing another class of Chem majors of the beauty of quantum mechanics. Also of great significance in the past year is the retirement of Donna Plank after 55 years of service to the Department (see below).

This year 11 Chemistry and 13 BMB majors received their diplomas in May. Immediately after we said our goodbyes to the class of 2014, the cycle began anew with 12 rising senior and junior Chem and BMB majors starting their summer research program. The summer research program is supported by the Albaugh Endowment and a grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Dig deeper into the newsletter to learn more about our graduates as well as the research activities in the Department.

If you are coming back to campus for Homecoming Weekend (9/19-9/21), there is a Chemistry, BMB, and Biology Open House in the McCreary Lounge on Friday from 4-6 p.m. Stop by for a visit.

Would you prefer to receive the Newsletter electronically? If you would prefer to save a tree (and give the USPS less to do) we can arrange to have you receive an electronic copy of the Chemistry Department newsletter. Send your email address to vandrews@gettysburg.edu and we will send your future newsletters as email attachments (and the photos will be in color and the links will be active!).

DONNA PLANK RETIRES!!!

Donna (Cullison) Plank officially retired on August 15, 2014 after 55 years and one day of service to the College. Beginning with the Chemistry Department in February of 1960 means she spent over 54 years with us and she has been the only Department Administrator (Secretary) the Department has ever known. Donna has been such a fixture for all of us in Breidenbaugh Hall and the Science Center we can only imagine what life around the Department will be like without her presence. Donna continued to never miss anyone’s birthday – in the old days with a chocolate cake and more recently with personalized woodcarvings done by her husband Ed. We all wish you well in your retirement and thank you for your unfailing, long-term dedication to the Department.

Faculty members with Donna prior to her retirement lunch


**Class of 2014**

Eleven chemistry majors and thirteen biochemistry/molecular biology (BMB) majors completed their undergraduate work in the past year. All twenty-four graduates received the B.S. degree and six chemistry majors are ACS certified. Ten seniors were awarded Honors in their major, three were elected to Phi Beta Kappa, three graduated *Summa Cum Laude*, two *Magna Cum Laude*, and seven *Cum Laude*. Five are currently pursuing graduate work; one is attending dental school and three medical school.

Travis G. Beard (Frederick, MD) is planning his future and S. Michelle Black (Mercersburg, PA) is working and hoping to eventually apply to medical school. Katie N. Brennan (Boonsboro, MD) has entered the graduate program at the University of Maryland, while Aiden C. Caravana (Lexington, MA), a *Cum Laude* graduate, is looking into the Peace Corps and eventually attending graduate school. Mark A. Carnivale (Pittsburgh, PA) and Daniel I. Grudsky (Holland, PA) are seeking employment. Cari L. McMaster (Spring Grove, PA) has landed a lab analyst position with Dow in Philadelphia. Darcy M. Merrill (Lansdale, PA), a *Cum Laude* graduate, is planning her future and Alexandra J. Riddle (Pittstown, NJ) is enrolled at the University of Kentucky. Rebecca A. Sponenburg (Pottsville, PA), a *Summa Cum Laude* and Phi Beta Kappa graduate and the Chemistry Banner Carrier at Commencement with a second major in Philosophy, is currently working at Lancaster Labs and is intending on applying to graduate school next year. Bryan V. Stokes-Cawley (Skaneateles, NY) is looking for employment.

BMB graduate Gregory P. Brittingham (Califon, NJ), a *Cum Laude* graduate, has taken a position with Johnson and Johnson and Alexandra L. Bull (Berwick, PA) will be attending medical school at Monash University (Australia). Lorela Ciraku (Durres, Albania) is working at the University of Virginia as a research technician and Devin J. Geiman (New Freedom, PA), a *Summa Cum Laude* and Phi Beta Kappa graduate, is working at Goldman Sachs and applying to medical school. Mia C. Gooding (Warwick, RI), a *Cum Laude* graduate, has entered dental school at the University of South Carolina, while Katherine A. Innamorati (Carlisle, MA) has begun graduate work at Drexel College of Medicine. Miles Paszek (Harrisburg, PA), a *Cum Laude* graduate and the BMB Banner Carrier at Commencement, is enrolled at UC San Diego and Joseph C. Portale (North Wales, PA), a *Cum Laude* graduate, has begun work at Janssen, Johnson and Johnson. Michael J. Rouse (New Freedom, PA), a *Summa Cum Laude* and Phi Beta Kappa graduate, has begun medical school at the University of Maryland, while Scott M. Shafer (Trumbull, CT) is looking for work. Andrea J. Sitton (Carrolton, TX), a *Magna Cum Laude* graduate, is enrolled at Penn State and Carly R. Strelez (New Milford, CT), a *Magna Cum Laude* graduate, is a research assistant at Walter Reed. Shane R. Thorp (Alburtis, PA), a *Cum Laude* graduate, is studying medicine at LECOM.

Departmental Honors in Chemistry were awarded to Katie Brennan, Aidan Caravana, Darcy Merrill, and Becky Sponenburg. Devin Geiman, Mia Gooding, Miles Paszek, Michael Rouse, Andrea Sitton, and Carly Strelez received BMB Honors. Becky Sponenburg also earned Honors in Philosophy.

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Section of the American Chemical Society honored Becky Sponenburg this past spring as the outstanding senior chemistry major. In addition Becky received the Stine Chemistry Prize, the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh Award, and the 2014 ACS Inorganic Award. Becky held the 2013 Glenn S. Weiland Summer Research Scholarship and was awarded the 2013 Undergraduate Award in Analytical Chemistry, the 2012 ACS Polymer Division Award for Achievement in Organic Chemistry, and the 2014 Chan Coulter Philosophy Award. Alexa Riddle earned the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh Student Research Award.

Devin Geiman and Michael Rouse shared the 2014 Biochemistry/Molecular Biology Award and also shared the 2011 Chemical Rubber Company Freshman Chemistry Achievement Award. Miles Paszek and Andrea Sitton shared the John B. Zinn Research Award. Miles also earned the 2013 ACS Inorganic Award. Andrea received the 2014 Stock Writing Prize in the Sciences and Shane Thorp was elected to Omicron Delta Kappa.

**Staff Update**

Professor Keneshia Johnson has left the Department after serving as Professor Grzybowski’s sabbatical replacement last year. Keneshia moved to Miami and is a Quality Assurance Scientist at Beckman Coulter, Inc. Also leaving the Department is Matt Nelson ’98 after many years of teaching night labs for us. Valerie Andrews has joined the Department as our Administrative Assistant. Joining us to teach lab sections is Dr. Roger Heckman, who has retired to Cashtown after 35 years in the chemical industry.
**HHMI Grant Update**

The Cross-Disciplinary Science Institute at Gettysburg College (X-SIG), established in Fall 2012 with support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, oversees a set of initiatives that range from incorporating research experiences “early and often” in the science curriculum to creating more multi/inter-disciplinary courses to prepare students to integrate multiple disciplines when problem solving. In addition, the X-SIG Seminar Series brings distinguished scientists who can speak to a broad spectrum of interests in the Gettysburg science community as well as provide opportunities for STEM majors and faculty to come together to discuss interdisciplinary topics in science. In the Spring semester, the Chemistry department co-sponsored a series of lectures by Jennifer Mass, a senior scientist in the conservation department at the Winterthur Museum, who spoke about using a variety of imaging and analysis methods to study pigment fading in paintings by Edvard Munch and Henri Matisse – potentially one of the first lectures on campus to draw an equal mix of science and art majors!

Last year saw the introduction of two new courses, biophysics (co-taught with the physics department) and an integrated introductory chemistry and biology class (co-taught with the biology department), as well as the modification of our organic chemistry sequence by Tim Funk and Don Jameson to integrate more bioorganic chemistry topics into the second semester. This summer was quite busy with 44 student researchers across the science disciplines on campus. You can read about their experiences (with a healthy dose of science!) on our X-SIG Summer Research Blog - [https://xsigsummer.wordpress.com/](https://xsigsummer.wordpress.com/). In the coming year, we will be purchasing a new fluorimeter to use in our upper-level labs and Shelli Frey will offer a new course – XLab: Fatty and Salty, an upper-level interdisciplinary (co-taught with Kurt Andresen in the physics department) laboratory based class that will focus on using tools from chemistry and physics to answer pertinent questions in biology. If you are interested in reading more about X-SIG initiatives in the sciences, visit our webpage - [http://www.gettysburg.edu/about/offices/provost/hhmi/](http://www.gettysburg.edu/about/offices/provost/hhmi/).

**35th Musselman Visiting Scientist**

Professor Marisa Kozlowski from the University of Pennsylvania was our 35th Musselman Visiting Scientist this past spring. Professor Kozlowski’s research focuses on developing new catalytic reactions and applying them to the synthesis of complex organic molecules. Two techniques the Kozlowski lab uses to find new reactions are computational methods and high throughput screening. Professor Kozlowski’s contributions to organic chemistry have earned her several awards, including a DuPont Young Investigator Award, and NSF CAREER Award, an Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship, an American Cancer Society Beginning Research Scholar Award, election as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and election as an American Chemical Society Fellow. Professor Kozlowski’s teaching has been recognized by the Kahn Award for Distinguished Teaching by an Assistant Professor at the University of Pennsylvania. She is also the co-author of the book “Fundamentals of Asymmetric Catalysis”. She also directed the Ph.D. thesis work of Erin Podlesny, ’07.

Professor Kozlowski’s Thursday evening general lecture, titled “A Case Study of Why Prescription Drugs Are So Expensive: Targeted Chemotherapies for Cancer Treatment”, was attended by over 200 in Mara Auditorium. The talk described a practical application of research in synthetic organic chemistry and provided interesting insight behind the scenes of bringing a drug to market. Three more technical lectures, titled “Adventures in Enantioselective Oxidative Naphthol Coupling: Development and Applications in Natural Product Synthesis”, “Oxidative Bond-Forming Reactions Enabled by High Throughput Experimentation”, and “Using Transition Structure Calculations in the Development of New Organic Reactions” provided stimulating details about the research going on in the Kozlowski lab.

**Sceptical Chymists**

The Sceptical Chymists, under the leadership of senior Andrea Sitton, kicked off the academic year by recruiting new members at the Activities Fair with hands-on opportunities to detonate miniature baking soda and vinegar volcanoes.

Our very own Dr. Jameson opened the seminar series by sharing his research on the crystallization induced asymmetric transformation of substituted Tröeger’s bases. Dr. Jameson will tell you that he is an organic chemist,
but he masqueraded as a physical chemist during his talk as he cleverly explained the thermodynamic and kinetic aspects of his work. Our next talk was from Dr. Trevor Sears of SUNY Stony Brook and Brookhaven National Labs. Dr. Sears summarized his work on gas phase molecular dynamics with a focus on combustion reactions. Returning to the field of organic chemistry, Dr. Robert Lambeth from the Army Research Lab presented a seminar on the roles that noncovalent inter- and intramolecular interactions play in determining the physical and mechanical properties of polymers used in advanced applications such as bullet-proof vests. Our final speaker of the year was Dr. Miriam Freedman from Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Freedman gave a fascinating talk about organic aerosol particles and their implications for global climate change.

Outside of the lecture hall, the Sceptical Chymist executive board was busy planning social activities and hands-on demonstrations that successfully increased attendance at all of our club events. Some of these events included making non-Newtonian fluids (better known as Oobleck), producing homemade glow sticks, and hosting a cookie decorating extravaganza, complete with a pizza party. The College’s Spring Activities Fair provided an opportunity for club members to set up an informative table and a display of the reaction between dry ice and water in an effort to spread the word about Sceptical Chymists, and to ultimately continue to increase the attendance of our current members as well as recruit interested prospective members. Later in the spring, members participated in the College’s Get Acquainted Day by offering club information, which was enhanced by demonstrations of elephant toothpaste, to potential incoming classmates as part of the annual event’s Clubs Exposition. A club picnic celebrated the end of the 2013-2014 academic year. The picnic included the Sceptical Chymists’ distribution of the year’s student awards, initiation of more than 15 new members, and election of new officers for the upcoming 2014-2015 academic year.

If you would like to see pictures from the events or just keep up with the Sceptical Chymists’ events and activities, please visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/scepticalchymist.

**Faculty/Student Research 2014**

In LipidLab, Professor Shelli Frey continued work on projects revolving around the theme of structure and dynamics of cell membranes with a particular focus on understanding biophysical interactions of proteins, nanoparticles, and salt with cells. During the past academic year, Katie Brennan (‘14) explored how nanoparticle exposure affects membrane stability, concentrating on how non-ionic surfactants work in conjunction with nanoparticles to disrupt model cell membranes. Alex Campbell (‘15) continued work to understand the role lipid interface/protein interactions play in the aggregation of protein that leads to Huntington’s disease. Carly Strellez (‘14) worked on determining the surface activity and membrane interactions of the tropical frog surfactant protein, ranaspumin-2, and its engineered derivatives and then switched her focus to the role of salts on these interactions. During the summer, David Van Doren (‘16) explored the effects of nanoparticle exposure on membrane structure with physiologically relevant giant unilamellar vesicles, essentially spherical lipid bilayers that model a cell membrane. Mike Counihan (‘16) split his summer between the Thompson and Frey labs and continued work on the project to understand the role of salt and electrostatic screening.
on membrane behavior. Alex Campbell (’15) delved deeper into the Huntington’s project, specifically focusing on using a physiologically relevant brain lipid membrane system with results showing the protective nature of cholesterol against protein aggregation.

There was a variety of projects going on in Prof. Funk’s lab during the 2013-2014 academic year. Darcy Merrill (’14) developed a new variation of an oxidative, palladium-catalyzed cyclopropanol ring-opening. We found that catalyst loadings of less than 1 mole % were possible when the appropriate ligand and solvent were used. The next step is to develop a kinetic resolution of racemic cyclopropanols using a chiral ligand. Becky Sponenburg (’14) continued on with her project involving the exploration of how cyclopentadienone substitution impacts the reactivity of a class of iron catalysts for the oxidations and reductions of organic compounds. The Chemistry Department’s new GC with an autosampler was a huge help! Travis Beard (’14) synthesized a class of poly(methacrylates) bearing photocleavable crosslinks and explored their properties before and after irradiation with UV light. Dan Grudsky (’14) synthesized and explored the photocleavage of a simple aromatic triazene as a model for a more complicated compound we hope to access.

Four new students joined the Funk lab in the summer of 2014. Dan Ruff (’15) and Kathryn Fodale (’16) continued making progress on the iron project. They both did 12-15 reactions per week as they explored how a catalyst’s substitution impacts its reactivity. Kevin Mrugalski (’15) and Rowan Meador (’16) worked on synthesizing a linker that will (hopefully) be used to tag, purify, and ultimately assist in identifying site-specifically a type of post-translational modification of proteins called O-GlcNAcylation. These two projects will continue on throughout the 2014-2015 academic year.

While on sabbatical, Professor Grzybowski has been studying the reaction of boronic acids with tetrafluoroborate. This uncharacterized reaction was first noticed in the unusual electrochemical behavior of ferrocenium boronic acid in the presence of tetrafluoroborate anion. Since that initial observation, the reaction has been found to occur with any boronic acid that possesses sufficient Lewis acidity.

Professor Jameson’s research students worked on two projects last year. One project involves the preparation of new ligands for rhenium based targeted nucleide therapies. This spring, Mia Gooding (’14) and Michelle Black (’14) successfully used the “click” reaction to append a glucose derivative to, respectively, a pyridine tripod ligand and an imidazole tripod ligand. Work continues on synthetic application of Troger’s base. Danny Zeng (’15) has prepared two new pyrido-Troger’s bases. Among several new Troger’s bases he prepared, Joshua Sgroi (’16) synthesized a fluorescent thiophene derivative. Kristen Baker (’16) worked on the preparation of macrocyclic Troger’s base derivatives. Mark Carnivale (’14) worked on developing a new experiment for the organic lab: synthesis of Hantzsch ester and its use in the reduction of cinnamaldehyde.

Professor Wedlock’s laser was kept busy last year as he and Alexa Riddle (’14) used resonance Raman spectroscopy to study the geometric changes involved in molecular photodissociation. Over the course of the year they studied the dissociation dynamics of ethylene sulfide and propylene sulfide and determined the anharmonicity constants for the carbon-sulfur anti-symmetric stretching vibration.

Over the academic year, Professor Koren A. Lipsett worked with three students. Miles Paszek (’14) continued his work to further understand the mechanism of pathology for the Rdy CRX gene mutation that causes blindness in a pedigree of cats. Miles was able to verify his cloned transcription factors, NRL and NR2E3 and was successful in expressing NRL in E. coli. Kaytie Innamorati (’14) continued investigating the genetic link of deafness in a pedigree of Spanish Colonial Mustangs. Kaytie was able to sequence the remaining exons (except exon 1) for KIT and completed sequencing EDNRB. She conclusively showed that the sabino mutation is not responsible for deafness. Kelly Murphy (’14 Bio) began a new project that studied the genetic basis for hair loss (alopecia) in the blue-coat Doberman. Kelly successfully sequenced MLPH, which codes for a melanosome transport protein, and demonstrated that this gene is not solely responsible for alopecia.

During the summer, Alecia Achimovich (’16) followed Kaytie’s footsteps and systematically sequenced exon 1 of KIT, re-sequenced exon 7 of EDNRB, and then tackled three genes (MLANA, MITF and PMEL17) and was able to demonstrate that MLANA and MITF do not have mutations responsible for deafness in this pedigree of horses. The amplified exons from PMEL17 will be sequenced this fall. In addition, Dr. Lipsett worked with Lana McDowell (’15, Psych) and Dr. Siviy to develop a qPCR method to measure the levels of rat dopamine and
Research in The Nano Lab continues to focus on the synthesis and applications of gold nanorods. Gold nanoparticles are of particular interest to Prof. Thompson and his students due to the unique way in which the absolute size of the particles dictates their optical properties and surface chemistry. Our research investigates how we can harness these properties to derive new functionalities for applications in drug delivery, sensing, and environmental toxicology. During the school year Aidan Caravana ('14), Bryan Stokes-Cawley ('14), Andrea Sitton ('14), Ida DiMucci ('15), and Thomas Brock ('16) all worked in the lab on their various projects. Bryan and Ida continued their work on the partitioning of naphthol derivatives into the surfactant layer of gold nanoparticles while Aidan studied the polymeric stabilization of gold nanoparticles in organic solvents for the incorporation into thin polymer films and Andrea continued her work on the incorporation of gold nanorods into pH sensitive hydrogels for advanced sensor applications. The summer of 2014 saw Ida DiMucci return for a second summer of research to continue her work on the partitioning of naphthol derivatives into the surfactant layer on gold nanorods. Additionally the Nano Lab welcomed some new faces with the arrival of Laura Lee ('15), Mike Counihan ('16), and Kevin Lerner ('17). Laura took over the environmental toxicology project and spent the summer processing samples for analysis on the ICP-OES to quantify the amount of uptake of gold nanoparticles into tadpoles. Mike worked on setting up the new Raman spectrometer in order to characterize the packing of the surfactant layer on gold nanorods while in the presence of naphthol derivatives. Kevin worked on understanding how the addition of hydrophobic additives affects the outcome of the standard seed mediated synthesis.

Publications/Presentations 2014

Prof. Shelli Frey gave a talk titled “The role of protein and membrane context in the interaction of polyglutamine peptides with lipid membranes” at the Biophysical Society Meeting in San Francisco, CA in February. Her co-authors included Gettysburg College students Warren A. Campbell ('15), David Van Doren ('16) and Karlina J. Kauffman ('12). Additionally, Kathleen A. Burke, and Justin Legleiter from West Virginia University were also co-authors. Two of Prof. Frey’s students presented posters at the same Biophysical Society Meeting: Katie Brennan ('14) presented “Surfactants, salt, and pH alter nanoparticle – model cell membrane interactions” with Luke Cuculis ('12) as a co-author, and Carly Strelez ('14) presented “Determining surface activity and membrane interactions of Ranaspumin-2 and an engineered derivative” with David Wendell from the University of Cincinnati as a co-author.

Prof. Tim Funk and some his research students traveled to the 247th American Chemical Society Meeting in Dallas, TX in March, and three of his research students present posters. Travis Beard ('14) presented “Synthesis of a photocleavable crosslinker for dental resins”, Darcy Merrill ('14) presented “Synthesis of α,β-unsaturated ketones using an oxidative Pd-catalyzed cyclopropanol ring opening”, and Becky Sponenburg ('14) presented “Effect of cyclopentadienone substitution on the oxidative and reductive activities of iron catalysts”. All three posters were also presented at Celebration 2014 at Gettysburg College.

Prof. Don Jameson published a paper titled “Application of Crystallization-Induced Asymmetric Transformation to a General, Scalable Method for the Resolution of 2,8-Disubstituted Troger's Base Derivatives” in the Journal of Organic Chemistry (J. Org. Chem. 2013, 78, 11590–11596). There were many undergraduate co-authors including Tom Field ('12), Monica Schmidt ('11), Alyson DeStefano ('10), Chris Stiteler ('11), Vince Vendito ('03), Brooke Krovic ('04), Chris Hoffman ('07), Matt Ondisco ('08), and Matt Belowich ('07). He also gave a lecture to the Sceptical Chymists at Gettysburg College titled “Tröger’s base: the chemistry of curved, chiral molecules” in September 2013.

Prof. Koren Lipsett’s students presented a number of posters this year. Miles Paszek ('14) presented “Investigating the DNA binding and transactivation activity of rdyCRX as a molecular basis for retinal dysplasias in Felis catus” at the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the Experimental Biology 2014 Annual Conference in San Diego, CA in April. Kaytie Innamorati ('14) also presented a poster at the same conference titled “Determining the genetic basis of equine deafness via candidate gene studies”. Miles and Kaytie both presented their posters at Celebration, as well as, Kelly Murphy who presented a poster titled “Candidate gene study of melanophilin in Canis lupus familiaris in causing coat color dilution alopecia”.

serotonin receptors, as compared to various housekeeping gene, in relationship to treated and untreated Sprague-Dawley (a control) or Fischer rats (a model for human autism spectrum disorders).
Alexa Riddle (’14) presented her work with Professor Mike Wedlock at the 78th Annual Intercollegiate Chemists Convention at Albright College. Alexa’s presentation was titled “Resonance Raman Spectroscopy of Episulfides.” Alexa presented a poster on this project at Gettysburg College’s Celebration.

Prof. Luke Thompson and his group were busy this year. He published a paper with his colleagues at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign titled “Homing peptide-conjugated gold nanorods: the effect of amino acid sequence display on nanorod uptake and cellular proliferation” in Bioconjugate Chemistry (Bioconjugate Chemistry 2014, 25, 1162–1171). He also gave a talk at Pittcon in Chicago in March titled “Exposure of gold nanoparticles to wood frogs” with co-authors Andrea Sitton (’14) and Gettysburg College Biology Department professors Gerardo Carfagno and Peter Fong. Prof. Thompson’s students were busy spreading the nano message, too. Andrea Sitton (’14) also presented a poster at Pittcon titled “Optical detection of pH with gold nanorod-infused hydrogels” and gave an oral presentation at the 78th Annual Intercollegiate Student Chemists Convention at Albright College in April with the same title. She won 1st place in the Analytical Division for her talk! Bryan Stokes-Cawley (’14) also presented a poster at Pittcon titled “Quantifying the partitioning of hydrophobic solutes into the surfactant bilayer on gold nanoparticles” with Ida DiMucci (’15) as a co-author. Aidan Caravana (’14) also gave an oral presentation at the Intercollegiate Student Chemists Convention titled “Stability of citrate capped gold nanoparticles in organic solvents and the formation of polymeric thin films”. Bryan and Andrea also presented their Pittcon posters at Gettysburg College’s Celebration, and Aidan gave a poster titled “Gold nanoparticles in organic solvents and the formation of polymeric thin films”.

**Gifts to the College**


If you designate your gift for the Chemistry Department – Special Gifts Fund, it will directly support the Department and help pay student stipends for summer research. The Department received gifts to the Special Gifts Fund from the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh, Alexandria L. Craig ’07, Constance Hedland Lee ’64, Donald L. Oakley ’61, Deborah E. Otis ’73, Oscar W. Weber, Wallburga Mank Weber ’63.

In addition we have received gifts for the Wallburga Weber ’63 Endowed Scholarship from Janice M. Warnquist, Laura Weber, and Wallburga Mank Weber.

Donna Plank wishes to thank all of the alums who made contributions to the Chemistry Department in her name in honor of her retirement from the College.
News from Our Graduates

60’s TOM GEORGE ’67 was awarded an honorary doctorate from Phranakohn Rajabhat University in Bangkok by the Prince of Thailand. Two Chemistry alums from the 60’s returned to the classroom during alumni weekend in June. NANCY HUNTER NELSON ’64 and FRED SCHUMACHER ’69 attended Professor Shelli Frey’s Alumni College course, “Life in the Lab.”

80’s ALLISON CAMPBELL ’85 was elected to the Washington State Academy of Sciences. Allison is director of the Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. An article in the May 26 issue of C&E News that dealt with universities tailoring programs to meet the needs of the pharmaceutical industry featured WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE ’85 as one of the panelists in the discussion. Bill is currently vice-president of drug discovery at Arian Pharmaceuticals in Cambridge, MA. MARJORIE SQUIRES ’88 wrote that she is currently teaching at Felician College in Northern NJ. Marjorie is married with two children.

90’s MATT SZAP ’91 stopped by the Department during last fall’s Homecoming Weekend. Matt is the Manager of Multimedia Projects at GE Healthcare in Piscataway, NJ. In his spare time Matt tries to keep up with his three children and plays bass in GE’s corporate band, which made it to the finals of the Fortune Magazine 2011 Battle of the Corporate Bands at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland. Fresh from completing her doctoral thesis, KELLY BIEDA BUTZLER ’92 stopped by the Department last spring. Kelly is an associate professor at Penn College of Technology in Williamsport, PA. ADAM STEEL ’92 stopped by the department last summer. Adam was visiting colleges with his son, prospective Gettysburgian, Adam J. Steel. DAVE NELSON ’93 and ADAM STEEL ’92 attended Donna Plank’s retirement reception to help us celebrate Donna’s 55 years at the College. RICH CARTER ’93 has co-founded a company, Valliscor, that offers "innovative solutions to fluorinated building blocks, enantioenriched scaffolds and custom synthesis needs" (quote from http://www.valliscor.com/index.html). Rich is a professor at Oregon State University. MATT NELSON ’98 has moved to Virginia where he works for Chemetrics in Midland, VA. This moves forces Matt to retire from teaching lab sections of General Chemistry at Gettysburg. MAUREEN MILLER ELLIOTT ’99 and her husband Jamie welcomed their son Jamison Riley into the world last October. Maureen teaches at Eaglecrest High School in Aurora, Colorado.

00’s LAUREN CELANO ’00 was quoted in the May 26 C&E News article that dealt with universities tailoring programs to meet the needs of the pharmaceutical industry (see William Shakespeare ’85 above). Lauren is the founder and CEO of Propel Careers, a search and career development firm located in Boston. BROOKE KROVIC ’04 and her husband, Ivi, welcomed their baby girl, Ljiljana, into the world on July 9. WALT KOWTONIUK ’05 has accepted a job offer to join Third Rock Ventures in Boston. In an example of how small the world is MEGAN CAMPBELL ’06 crossed paths with Professor Grzybowski in the Milwaukee airport last fall. Megan has completed her Ph.D. in neuroscience at the University of Wisconsin. TOM COX ’08 stopped by the Department over Homecoming Weekend. Tom works for Matheson in Allentown, PA. MIKE FARRELL ’09 received his MD degree from The Commonwealth Medical College last spring. Mike is currently a resident in general surgery at Christiana Care in Delaware. JULIE MAYLOR LADE ’09 is currently a graduate student in the Department of Pharmacology and Molecular Sciences at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. JESSICA WALLICK ’09 wrote that one of her highlights of grad school so far has been a trip to Grenoble, France to present her research. Jess is currently a grad student at the University of Delaware.

10’s JULIE VRANA ’10 returned to campus last summer to participate in a panel that discussed life in graduate school with the HHMI summer research students. Julie is finishing her Ph.D. at West Virginia University. MONICA SCHMIDT ’11 has received a summer research award from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research in Bethesda, MD. Monica is currently a D.M.D. candidate at the Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine. KATHLEEN HILLERY ’12 has been accepted into Officer Candidate School to become a Nuclear Engineering Officer on surface ships. At the moment, Kathleen lives on dry land in Nashua, NH. JOE FORTENBAUGH ’13 has begun graduate studies in chemistry at Penn State University. JUSTIN VICTORIA ’13 works as a chemist in the Forensic Lab of the Ocean County Sheriff’s Department in Toms River, NJ.

Keep those cards, letters and e-mails coming - we enjoy hearing from you! If you can provide information about your classmates, we like that, too. For those who prefer to correspond electronically, you can find our email addresses through the departmental web page: http://www.gettysburg.edu/academics/chemistry/