New Science Building to Rise at CSULB

By Glenn Nagel, Dean, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

We are very pleased to announce that funds for the construction of the long-awaited CSULB Science Building have been included in the 2000-01 State budget. The 80,000 sq. ft. structure will be placed on a beautiful hillside location just north of Peterson Hall 3 (“Hard Fact Hill”). Fully dedicated to the practice of science, it will provide laboratories for the Departments of Chemistry and Biochemistry and Biological Sciences. The building, designed by A.C. Martin, who also planned the Beckman Institute at Cal Tech, has already won an Honor Award for Excellence in Design from the American Institute of Architects and promises to enhance not only education and research but add significantly to the beauty of our campus as well. Groundbreaking ceremonies are anticipated to take place early next year. We hope that many of our loyal friends and alumni will be able to join us for this very special and exciting event.

In gaining approval of this building, our College owes much to President Maxson and Provost Anatoli. Their vision and strong support for science and mathematics have been unwavering through the arduous approval processes on campuses, at the Chancellor’s Office and in Sacramento. Science is a top priority at CSULB and will continue to grow and thrive with the interest and support of the people of California, including you, the readers of this Newsletter, who are our closest friends.

While the State budget provides $28 million for construction, there are many needs the departments and the College have identified that are still required to achieve the margin of excellence we seek. We strive to integrate research and education and to provide students with a rich background in laboratory work and instrumentation that prepares them for careers in industry, research, medical science and education. There are many opportunities for our supporters to join us in pursuit of these goals through gifts and pledges, large and small. Opportunities range from naming the building and laboratories, to sponsoring specific laboratories, to providing the purchase of instruments and equipment items. Also, we never lose sight of the human side of science and mathematics and constantly seek ways of supporting students through scholarships and research fellowships and helping to support faculty, including many new assistant professors who are joining us and building their careers on our campus.

If you would like to find out more about our new Science Building (as yet unnamed) and about opportunities to increase its impact on science at Long Beach, I invite you to call 562/985-1521 or send an e-mail to myself: <gnagel@csulb.edu> or to Patricia Maxwell: <pmaxwell@csulb.edu>, our very capable Director of Development.

Dr. Bette Korber

Alumna Investigates Origin of AIDS

In a paper presented at the seventeenth Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections in San Francisco in February, Dr. BETTE KORBER, a Biochemistry graduate of our department (BS 1981, PhD Caltech), reported that the results of her research indicate that the HIV viruses probably passed from chimpanzees to humans in about 1930 as a result of hunting, butchering and eating chimpanzees. This finding challenges previous unsubstantiated assertions that HIV transmission evolved from chimpanzee cells used in testing polio vaccine in Africa in the 1950s. Her computer-based studies compared the composition of the genetic material of many current strains of the virus, extrapolating back to a common origin. Two different statistical investigations both pointed to 1930 as the cross-over date. These results were arrived at by the same computational techniques used to identify a common female ancestor of modern humans, termed “Eve,” who presumably migrated out of Africa between 100,000 and 200,000 years ago.

The Los Alamos National Laboratory, where Dr. Korber is employed as a geneticist, is the custodian of all the genetic sequence information on HIV reported throughout the world. Notices of her presentation were widely heralded in the popular press, including Time magazine (Feb. 14, 2000) and on the front page of the Los Angeles Times (Feb. 2, 2000).


Remarks by the Chair  

This year we conducted two facility searches and were able to hire the top candidate in the areas of both organic and analytical chemistry. Dr. Paul Buonora joined us in September as associate professor of organic chemistry and Dr. Krzysztof (Chris) Slowinski will begin as assistant professor of analytical chemistry in January 2001.

See more detailed information on these new faculty elsewhere in the Newsletter.

As we prepare to welcome Drs. Buonora and Slowinski, we are also experiencing the sweet sadness of bidding farewell to Drs. Devore and Wynston. Les Wynston joined the CSULB faculty in 1965, a semester after I had, and taught full time until he entered the Faculty Early Retirement Program in 1998. This spring, after teaching his last two courses, Survey of Biochemistry and Clinical Chemistry, he elected to take full retirement. Les will remain in Orange County and plans to continue his frequent journeys to Europe and Asia with his wife, Anna. Dr. Devore chose not to take advantage of the Faculty Early Retirement Program and retired fully in May.

In March we had the pleasure of welcoming Harvard professor Dudley Herschbach as our 21st Distinguished Lecturer. Dr. Herschbach gave two talks (see accompanying article) and spent two nights in Long Beach as

Dr. Dudley Herschbach:  
Allergan Distinguished Visiting Lecturer

under the sponsorship of Allergan Corporation, Dr. Dudley Herschbach, Baird Professor of Science at Harvard University and Nobel Laureate, this year was our 21st Distinguished Visiting Lecturer. He presented two talks titled “Sacred and Profane Love: Divinity” and “Maxwell’s Demon: Taming Unruly Molecules” on March 24.

The background for the title of his first talk, which was aimed at the education community at large and delivered to an overflow crowd of 200 students, faculty and staff, emerged as Professor Herschbach opened his lecture with Sacred and Profane Love, a 10th century painting by Titian. The painting depicts two maidens, one aloof and frowning but happily gowned, the other holding high a flaming torch but nearly nude. Herschbach suggested these maidens represent how humanists and scientists perceive each other, although which figure represents whom remains unclear.

In some cases, however, he noted that humanists do frown on scientists as lacking culture. He told of an English class he had in college, in which the instructor expressed pity for an engineering student who the teacher thought would “spend your career improving adhesive tape.” Actually, such engineers had done wonders, improving magnetic tape and computers and thereby, among other things, greatly aiding the composition of English themes!

Herschbach expressed his dismay at the schism between humanities and sciences and quoted I. I. Rabi, one of his scientific ancestors, that “science should not be taught as the geography of the universe uninhabited by humans.” One means to achieve this is to “teach by parables,” Herschbach said. As an example, he discussed the familiar ideal gas law, PV = nRT, asserting that the usual presentation of it robs “all the romance, all the beauty, all the connections” from an inherently fascinating subject. Herschbach’s parable began with Aristotle who, 2,500 years ago, explained the working of a water pump by his famous declaration that nature abhors a vacuum. Yet, “Aristotle must surely have known that a so-called suction pump will not lift water more than 34 feet.” This can be seen from ancient Greek art that depicts a series of pumps required to bring water up from a valley. Still, Aristotle’s dictum prevailed for over 2,000 years.

Galileo reinstated the water pump and likewise came up with an inadequate explanation; he thought the failure to raise water above 34 feet might occur because a taller column would break under its own weight. It remained for his student, Torricelli, to realize that the invisible “corpuscles of air”—whose existence had been put forward by Galileo himself—press down and lift water, but only to a height of 34 feet. If that is right, Torricelli thought, the corpuscles still lift mercury but only to a height one-thirteenth of that of water. To test his idea, he built the first barometer, from which stemmed a series of experiments that led to the gas law and much else.

“Herschbach described teaching and learning chemistry as being similar to ‘viewing an impressionist painting. Get too close and you are lost in detail, too far and it is just a blur. At a proper distance, wow, it’s awesome.’”

Level of abstraction—proper viewing distance—is crucial to teaching chemistry. Another essential aspect of teaching first-year chemistry, Herschbach emphasized, is vocabulary building. More new words or new meanings are introduced in beginning chemistry than in a first-year foreign language course, and the methods proven to be successful in language teaching should also be used in chemistry. On a lighter note, he said, when Harvard was founded in 1636, the curriculum offered only three courses: Hebrew, Latin and Greek. Teaching chemistry today is not unlike the early days of Harvard. Chemical kinetics is like Hebrew: down to earth, with limited vocabulary; thermodynamics is like Latin: highbrow with lots of words; and quantum mechanics is Greek.

Beginning students and veteran researchers share a special kinship, Herschbach said. Much of the time, both are confused. That worries the neophyte, but exhilarates the veteran, who relishes the possibility of learning something new. In frontier scientific research, unlike academic exercises, the first concern is not about finding “the right answer.” At the outset of research, nobody knows the answer; the concern is to formulate good questions and recognize promising perspectives. Thus, writing poetry has more in common with practicing science than juggling numbers to reach an answer at the end of a textbook. That is why Herschbach asks his chemistry students to write poems. He

“Beginning students and veteran researchers share a special kinship...much of the time, both are confused.” Dr. Herschbach

See page 3, Dr. Dudley Herschbach
Editorial

T his edition of the Chemistry & Biochemistry Newsletter repre-
sents the 25th consecutive year of its publication. When I became department chair in the fall of 1975, one of my priorities was to establish an alumni newsletter for the growing number of graduates.

The first Newsletter. In 1976 Dr. Robert Henderson and I co-edited the first edition of the Newsletter, a four-page publication. That issue reported the following:

- 356 bachelor’s and master’s students graduating since the founding of the department in 1958. We now have over 2,000 graduates.
- The establishment of the School of Science with Dr. Roger Bauer as the first dean. Successive deans have been Dr. Fred Shair, Dr. James Jensen and presently, Dr. Glenn Nagel.
- The construction of the Microbiology Building, completed in 1977. That was the last addition to the Science Complex, but we now look forward to the new Science Building scheduled to begin construction early in 2001.
- The visit of Dr. Carl Djerassi of Stanford University as a Distinguished Lecturer, who lectured on “What will human birth control look like in 1985?” (Dr. Djerassi helped develop the first oral contraceptive.)
- The NSF-sponsored department review by Dr. Calvin VanderWerf of the University of Kansas who reported, “The work of the faculty is truly an outstanding—a remarkable—one...achieved with heavy teaching schedules, minimal dollar support, and limited space and facilities.” Some would question whether this has changed a great deal.

Gifts to the department. Elsewhere in this Newsletter is a detailed account of gifts to the department during the past fiscal year. I am pleased to report that cash giving reached an all-time high of $42,138. From individual donors the median gift was $100 and the average gift was $236.55. I have been told that the fraction of chemistry/biochemistry alumni who give annually is the highest for any department on campus. Thanks for your loyalty and support!

Dr. Dudley Herschbach:

He hoped the students who sought his classes would work as agents of science and carry it to civilizations. “Teaching humanities such as history without proper recognition of science is often downright fraudulent,” Herschbach declared. He cited polymer synthesis, although not mentioned in history books, as the single most decisive factor in the outcome of World War II. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was much less disastrous than the fall of Singapore three months later. That deprived the United States and its allies of virtually their sole supply of rubber, the most critical of strategic materials. The success of a crash program to build synthetic rubber plants stemmed, in turn, from the discovery of nylon. That resulted from a quest for artificial silk undertaken years before the start of the war; without it, we would have lacked a corps of polymer chemists and engineers capable of building the rubber plants on such an urgent time scale.

In his afternoon talk, aimed at a science audience, Herschbach described a method to produce a beam of molecules at very cold temperatures without refrigerants. He had, in fact, created a Maxwell’s Demon in the laboratory to select some slowly moving molecules and let others go, an ordering process that had long been deemed impossible. This opens up the prospect of attaining conditions in which molecules will interact as waves rather than particles. Professor Herschbach’s genius that had won him the 1986 Nobel Prize in Chemistry emerged once again as he viewed the impressionistic tableau of chemistry and brought into focus previously unrecognized aspects.

Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society. The CSULB SAACS Chapter was founded in 1959 by Dr. Julie Kierbow and has been a model chapter ever since, winning several national awards. Several alumni have told me how important involvement in SAACS was for them. It gave them leadership experience which benefited them in their lives after graduation. I would like to mention especially two former students. Judith Ramiliano Janowski, BS Biochemistry 1994, as a result of her experience in SAACS (she was president in 1994-95), now works as a program manager with the American Chemical Society in Washington, D.C. Quoting Judith, “I have to say being president of the Student Affiliates of the ACS at CSULB increased my chances of obtaining this position. They have been impressed with our chapter for years. Because of my experience with SAACS, I have creative ideas on how to increase awareness of our program...I’m constantly bringing to the ACS of my positive experience at CSULB and with SAACS.” Jim Brophy, BS chemistry 1985, was vice president of SAACS in 1984-85. After a short career as a chemist, Jim entered real estate management and is now owner of Chats, a coffee house, and Mango Fool, a popular restaurant, both in downtown Long Beach. He is active in the East Village Association and in Long Beach civic affairs in general. He once told me of the importance of his experience with SAACS, especially the leadership conferences which the University sponsored for campus organizations, and how this undergraduate training contributed to his business and leadership accomplishments in the community.

Personal. This fall I begin my 40th and final year of teaching at CSULB. Including my four years as a teaching assistant in the University of Kansas doctoral program, I will have spent exactly half a century in my chosen profession of chemistry! I have taught approximately 11,000 students, many of whom I clearly remember and some of whom I continue to communicate with. I’ve always counted it a privilege to teach, and I view with great pleasure the accomplishments of so many of my former students.

An annual publication of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry for past and present students and friends of the department. News items, feature articles, photos and comments are eagerly invited. All articles not signed in this issue of the Newsletter were researched and written by the Editor. The Newsletter and other departmental news and information may be accessed on the Internet at the following address:

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From left to right: Caroline Carter, Sara Cass, Allison Distinguished Visiting Lecturer and Nobel Laureate Dr. Dudley Herschbach, Dr. Niall Senehan, Diana Fernandez, Jennifer Guzzo, Dr. Darren Mayfield.
Dr. Paul Buonora: New Organic Chemist

Dr. Paul Buonora, previously a faculty member at the University of Scranton in Scranton, Penn., began his duties as associate professor of chemistry in our department in the fall semester of this year. Dr. Buonora received his BS and MS degrees from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and his PhD from the University of Virginia where he worked under the direction of Dr. G. J. McCarvey. He spent two years as a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Chemistry at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colo., where he was associated with Dr. A. I. Meyers. He subsequently joined the chemistry faculty at Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas, where he served as assistant professor of chemistry until his move to the University of Scranton.

His research interests include asymmetric organic synthesis and synthetic methods development. His recent work has focused on chiral gamma-aminobutyric acid derivatives. His additional interests include the history of chemistry and chemical technology.

Concerning his move to CSULB, Dr. Buonora stated, “I was looking for a university and department with a faculty who as a community are dedicated to the long-term future of the students. Given my interest in both laboratory research and pedagogy, I also want to be able to balance these areas. After researching the programs and visiting the department, I am very happy to join a department that fits the ideal of what I was looking for.”

Dr. Buonora has a web page which may be visited at <http://xyline.chem.ucla.edu/~buonora/>.

Roger Acey. I extended my sabbatical and spent the fall semester of 1999 in Germany. While in Europe, I was fortunate to make contact with two students who wanted to come to the States to work in my lab. Morton Bongaard, a PhD student from Denmark, joined the lab in March and is working on cloning the gene for metallothionein from crab. Morton’s wife, Elsebet, and young daughter, Johanne, are also here in Long Beach. Rick van Minkeleken, an undergraduate from the Netherlands, spent the fall semester working with Dr. Martin Jadus on a joint project at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Long Beach.

The spring semester and summer were spent in my lab helping us purify proteins from plants.

Markus Sack, a PhD student from Germany, spent three weeks with us teaching students how to transform plants and use them as hosts to produce proteins. The lab definitely took on an international flavor.

Two undergraduate students joined the lab this summer, Jennifer Castellana and Bertha Macias; both undergraduate students. Jennifer is a member of the NSF Scholars Program and Bertha is an MBES Scholar. Working with tobacco plants and bacteria, Jennifer and Bertha are finding the optimum conditions for expressing Arteria metallothionein.

Jeff Snelander, BS Biochemistry 1997, spent the summer working on purifying a cholesterase from Arteria. He has since entered a PhD program at UCLA.

Monty Badger, Tom Kelly and Hong Ma have completed their degrees and are gainfully employed. Jason Atalia, Jenny Hong and Eric Stevens are in the process of writing their theses.

Fortunately, the lab is well funded; we have grants from the NIH AREA and VA Minority Initiative programs with Dr. Martin Jadus at the VA. As part of a collaborative effort with Dr. Zed Mason for Biological Sciences and Dr. Feimeng Zhou from CSU Los Angeles, we were able to secure a NSF grant for over $1 million. The focus of the grant is to study the mechanism of metal transfer from metallothionein to apo-proteins. Ten students are supported by the grant.

I’m sure most everyone associated with the department in recent years knows Mike Mustillo. He is a local high school teacher who works with us as a part-time research associate.

Denis Anjo. I have a great group of students this year! Paul Sierocki, a graduate student, is working on pH buffers for electrochemistry at carbon electrodes. Ed Flores is investigating the background signal observed with activated carbon electrodes as a function of pH. Jared Ashcroft is researching surface modifications of carbon electrodes in non-aqueous solutions. Ryan Meacham and Tomo Sakurai are developing a polymer-based carbon electrode. Ed Flores will be working on an undergraduate thesis for the University Scholars Program. Some of the old students will graduate: Tomo Sakurai is planning on graduate school and Ryan Meacham will be teaching next semester.

I have participated in the recruitment of a new analytical chemist for next year, Dr. Chris Slowinski. Dr. Slowinski is interested in electrochemical kinetics and theory, and he will be taking on research students when he arrives.

Peter Baint has been appointed Assistant Department Chair. He was voted Mayfield Outstanding Lecturer by the students of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics during the spring semester. In addition, he received the 1999 Agnes Ann Green Distinguished Service Award from the Southern California Section of the ACS. Quoting from the citation published in the September 1999 issue of SCALACS, the section publication, “Dr. Baine’s more than a quarter-century of involvement and achievement in ACS affairs at all levels—local, regional and national—certainly qualifies him for this special recognition.” In addition to his membership on various sectional committees, he served as chair of the section in 1993. He is currently Councilor to the national ACS.

Jeff Coehberg. I’m taking a one-semester sabbatical leave in the lab of Dr. Tony Fink at UC Santa Cruz. Tony is an expert on the study of protein folding by biophysical techniques, and I’ll be studying the misfolding of the protein alpha-synuclein and its role in Parkinson’s disease.

Last year was a busy one in the lab. Three students are finishing their MS degrees this summer. Frank Le successfully completed a project involving the construction of chimeric neurofilament protein rod domains and began UCLA Dental School this fall. Gene Rozumov isolated and characterized a number of chimeric NF proteins. Gene will begin a PhD program in organic chemistry in the fall at UCLA. Paula Spencer is finishing some work on the lamprey neurofilament protein and plans to work for a biotech company. Undergraduate Kareem Morgan purified and characterized tailless NF-M protein. Kareem spent the summer doing research at UCSF. Dr. Beth DeBuss, the Dreyfus postdoctoral fellow who has been doing immunofluorescence studies of neurofilament protein assembly, moved to Phoenix with her family.

I have continued working with molecular modeling in our Chem 441AB biochemistry course. Beginning fall 2001 every student taking biochemistry will learn to download protein and nucleic acid structures from the databases and display and explore them with molecular modeling software. We are also looking forward to the new four-unit version of the Chem 443 lab course, which will have an expanded lecture component beginning spring 2001.

I’m writing this after my first week in Santa Cruz. My daily routine consists of riding my bike to the bus stop at the campus entrance, getting a lift up through oak-studded grasslands to the upper campus in the redwood forest, working in a lab with a view of redwood trees outside, and coasting home past a 180-degree view of Monterey Bay. I sure miss that view of the loading dock area from my office window in Peterson Hall.

Gina Definis is our new Administrative Coordinator for the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Gina is originally from Bakersfield and was employed by Bakersfield College for six and a half years. In January 1999 she moved to Southern California to work for the dean of Extension Services at CSULB, Dr. Robert Bethm. “I use my lunch hours to attend CSULB part time. Outside my work I coach youth cheerleading and am a professional Polynesian entertainer. I have been dancing for 27 years, and I had my own Polynesian dance group in Bakersfield, but now belong to a Polynesian group in Huntington Beach called ‘Westwind Productions.’”

Jerry Devore retired at the end of the spring 2000 semester. He and his wife, Anna, will move to Oroville, an old mining town north of...
Sacramento, where he will be tending his 10 acres of land and orchards and continuing his studies on theoretical chemistry.

Dorothy Golish. Although many of the long-time faculty members have now retired, I am still teaching at CSULB. I continue to serve as undergraduate advising coordinator for the department. My husband and I recently visited Ohio State University, where our son, Matt, now teaches history, and to see Matt’s family (including three children). Daughter, Judy, is an engineer at Boeing, working at Huntington Beach on the space shuttle.

Liuan Li. The new inorganic laboratory experiments, developed by Dr. Peter Baine and myself, have been added to Physical Chemistry Laboratory, Chem 373, and were offered for the first time in the spring of 2000. A number of students and staff members have been exposed to colorful inorganic compounds and measuring their physical properties.

Mohammed Shaaban from UC Irvine joined my group in January. Jennifer Dulaila and Marta Marutina worked with me for their undergraduate research experience and have completed the BS in Biochemistry. They presented their research at the Southern California Section ACS Undergraduate Conference at Occidental College in April, 2000. My graduate student, John Liarakos, presented his work at the National ACS meeting in San Francisco in March, 2000. We have had two papers published, which brings to a total of four refereed publications in 1999. Part of Dmitry Pervitsk’s work was published in J. Amer. Chem. Soc. 1999, 121, 10217.

Marco Lopez. Members of my research group, the “Heme Team,” who are finishing their MS degrees, are Danny Ponce and Phat Hoang. In addition, Richard Newton graduated. New to the Heme Team this last year are undergraduates Jennifer Hines and Juan Lopez and graduate student Kian Kani. Continuing master’s students are Jeng Leng and Vipal Patel who are both working to complete their theses in late summer or fall. James Stinnett will likely finish in the fall or winter. Continuing undergraduates are Alex Nunez and Jose Pena. For this summer Jose was awarded a MIRIT fellowship to study at the Cambridge University in England. There was a need for a faculty member to act as chaperone for the five MIRIT students from Southern California. I was asked if I would be willing to go in July and August and I consented. I spent 10 weeks in Cambridge during the summer of 1997. This year I returned to study with Dr. Sir Tom Blundell, head of the Department of Biochemistry, and will continue to learn about molecular modeling of proteins.

Last summer I joined with some 10 faculty in formulating ideas and writing a grant application to the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and we were recently notified that it was funded. Dr. Merryfield is the program director and is busy getting the program in motion.

In November 2000, Dr. Roger Bauer, Dr. Henry Fung and I accompanied Dr. Merryfield to the National Minorities Programs Symposium in Phoenix, Ariz. The students had a good time, and their poster presentations were all done quite professionally.

Under the leadership of Dr. Laura Kingsford, chair of the Department of Biological Sciences, eight faculty from Chemistry and Biochemistry; the two of them are revising one paper and getting a second one published. Dr. Merryfield has continued to serve as coordinator for General Education Implementation. What this mostly entails is doing, as Garrison Keillor says, what has to be done; in particular, I run lots of workshops, give lots of presentations, answer lots of questions and try to spot problems before they become crises.

Congratulations to Kingson Tong, who finished his MS thesis this year and is working in San Diego. Currently in the lab are new graduate students Cathy Barra and Mike McAllister; undergraduate Kristi Fox; and Mat, an associate of Dr. Marcin Majda Slowinski, currently a postdoctoral associate of Dr. Marcin Majda Slowinski, will become assistant professor in the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department in the spring semester of 2001. Dr. Slowinski received his MS and PhD degrees (highest honors) from the Department of Chemistry, Warsaw University, Poland, where he studied electrochem istry and spectroscopic characterization of binuclear polyazaamacrocyclic complexes of copper and the dynamics of long-range electron transfer in model systems. In 1995, two years prior to receiving his PhD, he was recipient of the NATO Grant Award and was selected to attend the NATO Summer School of Supramolecular Chemistry. In 1995-96 he was Visiting Scholar at UC Berkeley.

He has published 11 papers in leading scientific journals and is an author of a general chemistry textbook in Polish for high school students. His research plans at CSULB include investigating electric conductivity of single molecules wrapped between two metallic contacts with particular emphasis on c-conjugated molecular wire candidates, tunnelling-spectroscopy of metal and semiconductor nanocrystals, and properties of phospholipid monolayers and bilayers. Commenting on his faculty status in our department he states, “At CSULB I have found the rare coexistence of quality teaching and research programs. I was especially impressed with the quality of undergraduate research and the large number of undergraduate students involved in faculty research projects.” His wife, Katarzyna, is a graduate student at UC Berkeley.

Douglas Mcabee. The 1999-2000 academic year saw a considerable expansion in the number of lab members. Graduate students George Liarakos, Pat Pierce, Daekeun Joo and Thanh Nguyen, are nearing completion of their thesis work; all plan to finish by the end of this summer. Daekeun is getting married this summer; he is entering medical school at the University of Cincinnati in August. Thanh has taken a job with Allergan Corporation in Irvine. Pat will return as a lecturer in the department this fall.

Two new graduate students are Cathy Overstreet and Vincent Yee. Cathy is bringing her enthusiasm and work ethic to focus on structure-function analysis of the hepatocyte-binding domain of lactoferrin. She is working to introduce various mutations into a bovine lactoferrin cDNA for subsequent expression and functional analysis. Vincent has chosen to expand on our previous work examining the effects of transition metal overloading of hepatocytes on the dynamics of the asialoglycoprotein receptor.

Three undergraduates entered the lab during the summer of 1999. Sonia Botero and Karina del Toro joined the lab as participants in the college BRIDGES program; both were there working on making cDNA/plasmid constructs for subsequent mutagenesis. Karina transferred to UCLA in the fall, and Sonia has stayed on in the lab throughout the year as an MBRs fellowship recipient. Kevin Walsh, an undergraduate, also joined the lab last summer, initially studying the calcium and pH requirements for lactoferrin’s interaction with asialoglycoprotein receptors. Sonia and Kevin have joined Cynthia Vetting-Kidder and Sergio Lopez as undergraduate research assistants. Cynthia has continued her work on preparing lactoferrin cDNA/plasmid constructs, and Sergio has begun to project an isolate lactoferrin mRNA from rat premayoid tissue in an effort to clone the rat lactoferrin gene.

We have published one manuscript (Mcabee, D.D., Jiang, X., and Walsh, K. B. 2000; “Lactoferrin binding to the rat asialoglycoprotein receptor requires the receptor’s lectin properties.” Biochem. J., in press). An invited review on lactoferrin is currently in press (Mcabee, D.D. 2000; “Lactoferrin,” in Encyclopedia of Molecular Medicine, Wiley). We were awarded a grant ($50,289) from Research Corporation to fund our structure-function analysis of lactoferrin. I’m in the process of writing a competitive renewal of my NIH grant.

I have prepared and used Websites:

http://www.chemistry.natsci.csulb.edu/441A;
http://www.chemistry.natsci.csulb.edu/chem441B/ for my undergraduate biochemistry course.

I’ve been designated interim director for the biochemistry graduate program in the last half of 2000, filling in for Dr. Jeff Kohlberg who is on sabbatical leave.

Margaret Merryfield. In May I concluded my final term as chair of the Planning and Educational Policies Council. The day of the final meeting was the day I heard that the grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (described elsewhere in the Newsletter) had been funded. I immediately found myself with a new challenge—running the Honors in Biological Science program.

I have continued to serve as coordinator for General Education Implementation. What this mostly entails is doing, as Garrison Keillor says, what has to be done; in particular, I run lots of workshops, give lots of presentations, answer lots of questions and try to spot problems before they become crises.

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Dr. Dorothy Golish

See page 6, Staff & Faculty
We have been fortunate to have had the services of so many persons who made important contributions to our department over the years, but who, for various reasons, chose to continue their careers elsewhere or have retired. We remember some of them in this column. We would like to hear from others as well.

Dr. J. Kenneth Bartlett (professor 1954-56), the first faculty member in the chemistry program at what was then Long Beach State College, has retired from Southern Oregon State College in Ashland, Ore. where he was professor of chemistry and chair of the department. “I’m still alive and kicking, albeit with reduced speed, here in Oregon. Fishing is still good nearby.”

Dr. Annie Bianchino (lecturer 1981-84, 1988-92), now professor of chemistry at Fullerton College, spent her sabbatical leave in Dr. Roger Akeley’s lab at CSULB, learning techniques in biotechnology and applying them to plants.

Dr. Ephraim Ben-Zvi (lecturer 1984-91), retired and living in San Marino, Calif., sends his best wishes to the faculty and staff.

Dr. Michael Block, former member of the Chemistry and Biochemistry Advisory Council representing Unocal, is editor of the ACS publication, Chemical Innovation, successor to CHEMTECH.

Dora J. Henderson (Mrs. Robert B. Henderson) has moved from Los Alitos to San Jose, Calif. to be near her daughter, Katie, and two grandchildren, Dorothy and Edith.

Dr. Margaret “Peggy” Kline (lecturer 1984-88), professor of chemistry at Santa Monica College, reports “Our new sciences building is finally finished! Please come for a visit and a tour.”

Dr. Darwin Mayfield (professor of Chemistry 1956-1990; Emeritus 1990) continues to enjoy the weekly interactive talks he has been giving as an education volunteer at the Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific since it opened two years ago. He has learned to identify most of the 200 varieties of multicolored fish that inhabit the 340,000-gallon tropical reef exhibit. The weekly Chemistry and Biochemistry seminars help to acquaint him with the many advances made during the 10 years since he retired. Last April, Darwin teamed with Ken Nakayama of the department to write questions, check lab procedures and supervise two groups of high school students who had advanced to the State Finals of the National Science Olympiad.

Dr. Steve McDowell (assistant professor 1985-1990) is associate professor and chair of the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City. “I am over-seeing and administering development of a new biotechnology curriculum supported by the Cargill Company and involving three programs: Chemistry, Biology and Chemical Engineering.” If former students or faculty would like to contact him, his e-mail address is: <smcdowell@silver.sdstate.edu>.

Dr. Larry Schaller (visiting professor 1975-76), has retired from full-time employment and lives in Oakland, Calif. “I am starting my own financial planning business and making plans for part-time teaching in the fall. Marjorie has been teaching high school English and continues to do free-lance writing for magazines and such. All three kids have found themselves in the computer/software business and seem to be prospering.”

Dr. Senozan and I are collaborating on an article on the history and limitations of the Henderson-Hasselbalch equation. We are having fun reading early papers and doing calculations. We plan to send this paper to the Journal of Chemical Education. I have received many e-mail messages from past students in Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Hong Kong and Taiwan. It is definitely wonderful to hear from all of you and thank you for writing.

Wanda White, our new departmental secretary, is a former employee of the Geography Department and International Studies Program. She transferred to our department in October of 1999 as our administrative support assistant II. Wanda is a full-time employee, full-time parent and part-time student majoring in business administration. Hobbies include drawing, painting, weight training, writing songs and shopping.

Leslie Wynston. After 35 years of teaching at CSULB, I retired at the end of the spring 2000 semester. I remember fondly a lot of the biochemistry students I’ve taught, and I hope they all have had successful careers. As Anna and I love to travel, we will be increasing the number of trips, both abroad and to parts of the United States we’ve not seen before.

Faculty E-mail Addresses

Henry Po. While on sabbatical leave in the fall of 1999, I continued to carry out research in computational chemistry to study the rotational energy barriers of small molecules. I have always wanted to do research in computational chemistry and this sabbatical leave gave me the time and opportunity to explore a new area. Two papers from my research group have been accepted for publication. They will appear in the Journal of Coordination Chemistry and the Journal of Structural Chemistry (THEOCHEM) this summer.

Janet Hunting and Monica Weiss graduated last year. Janet went to Cornell to pursue her PhD, and she is presently in Professor di Salvo’s research group. Monica is an analytical chemist in a biotech company in Orange County.

Some faculty at Annual Awards Dinner. Left to right: Dr. Robert Louieben, associate dean, College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics, Emeriti Professors: Dr. Ed Harris, Dr. Van Lee, Dr. Gene Kolbus.
New Appointments to the Chemistry & Biochemistry Advisory Council

Affiliated with our department is an active group of about 30 scientists and business persons who help us forge a link with the chemically related community in the area. It is a mutual support group. Members of the Advisory Council help us place our graduates, are available for technical advice and help provide resources for the maintenance of our educational programs. We in turn refer potential employees to them and offer our help in other ways; for example, use of our technical library and occasional instrumental and consulting services. New representatives joining the council in the past year:

Jean Kigozi, Advisory Council representative from Lab Support.

Jean Kigozi. Ms. Kigozi has a BS degree in food science and technology from Bristol University in England and an MS in Nutrition from the University of New Haven. Her employment history includes nine years’ experience in the food industry in various roles such as microbiologist, research and development technologist and quality assurance manager. She has been account manager for the past year at Lab Support and most recently was a part-time lecturer at CSU Los Angeles, teaching nutrition computing skills and cultural foods. She represents Lab Support on the Advisory Council and has been instrumental in securing funding from her company for the annual Lab Support Scholarship.

Denise Lutz. Ms. Lutz earned a degree in biology from UC Davis, with an emphasis in molecular and cellular biology and a minor in English. At UC Davis during and after graduation she was an assistant consulting toxicologist in projects relating to chemical exposure, toxicity, new drug applications, environmental litigation, and environmental testing. She worked for Advanced Sterilization Products, a Johnson & Johnson company, through Kelly Scientific Resources as a senior research technician in the R&D department and from that experience was appointed a scientific recruiter with Kelly Scientific Resources. She is a co-Advisory Council member, together with Eman Talei, representing Kelly Scientific Resources. See photo below.

Dr. Wayne K. Stuckey represents Aerospace Corporation on our Advisory Council, replacing Dr. Seymour Feuerstein who served with distinction on the council for several years. Dr. Stuckey received his AB and MS degrees from Pittsburg Kansas State University and his PhD in chemistry from Kansas State University. He joined the Materials Sciences Laboratory of the Aerospace Corporation in 1966 and became successively manager of the Analytical Methods Section, head of the Materials Analysis Department, research scientist and senior scientist in the Mechanics and Materials Technology Center. In 1999 he was named Distinguished Scientist of the Space Materials Laboratory at Aerospace Corporation in El Segundo. His interests include materials characterization, space environmental effects on materials, spacecraft contamination and durability of materials for space.

Eman Talei, initially a scientific recruiter with Kelly Scientific Resources (KSR), was recently promoted to sales manager. Prior to joining KSR he worked for a biotech company in Thousand Oaks as a research associate and also has had two years of experience in a clinical laboratory as a laboratory assistant, performing HIV quantification assays. He has a BS degree in microbiology and molecular genetics from UCLA. As a student, Eman worked for UCLA’s Immunology Department, researching protein binding affinities. He is a co-Advisory Council member with Denise Lutz, who together are responsible for obtaining funds for the Kelly Scientific Resources Awards for Excellence in Chemistry and Biochemistry.

New Chemistry Computer Lab

by Rob Soukup, Instrument Technician

As many of you may have read in the 1999 Newsletter, the department was in the planning stages for construction of a computer laboratory dedicated to chemistry. Well, the plans have been implemented and now the department has a fully functional computer laboratory with 23 workstations!

Peterson Hall 2, Room 221, was chosen for the new lab. The old counter tops, utility trays and cabinets were removed. Beige and white floor tiles were installed in a computer-generated pattern and the room was re-painted. Cabinetry from another room was modified and refinished before being recycled into the new lab, plus new counter tops were fabricated on site and installed. Most of the above was performed by our very talented College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics shop personnel, Jim McKibbin and John McLarath.

The installation and configuration of all the computers fell on my shoulders. Ray Grace, Chemistry Stockroom technician, and I set up an assembly line for installing the operating systems on the computers and configuring the software. I decided to set the computers up in a “dual boot” configuration so that the users would have the option of running “Windows” or the new Unix-like “Linux” operating system.

The lab was completed during the spring 2000 semester, so fall 2000 is the first full semester where the lab is available. I expect usage of the facility to grow as the faculty write more computer-related exercises and assignments into the curriculum.

Dr. Theresa Rohr-Kirchgraber

Elected Fellow: American College of Physicians

Theresa Rohr-Kirchgraber, BA 1984, MD Cornell University, an internist and specialist in adolescent medicine at SUNY Upstate Medical University Hospital, Syracuse, N.Y., has been elected a Fellow of the American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine (ACP-ASIM), the society of internists. This distinction recognizes her achievements in internal medicine, the specialty of adult medical care. Dr. Rohr-Kirchgraber was elected upon the recommendation of peers and the review of ACP-ASIM’s credentials subcommittee.

The American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine is the nation’s largest medical specialty organization.
A holiday canned food drive, a trip to U.S. Borax, National Chemistry Week, San Francisco...the list this year is long! Our goal for 1999-2000: to implement community service with our responsibilities as Student Affiliates of the ACS.

We started off in October with a trip to the ACS regional meeting in Ontario, Calif. After an undergraduate poster session and a few speakers, we ended the day with dinner.

During November and December, SAACS sponsored a canned food drive. A beautifully decorated box was placed outside the chemistry stockroom where everyone from the department had an opportunity to make their contributions. Members Dmitry Pervitsky and Maria Matutina helped deliver the box of canned goods to a church in Long Beach for distribution to the needy.

Our fall semester field trip led us to U.S. Borax laboratories. Our tour guide gave us an extensive history of the mining of boron and its application in today’s world.

On Nov. 6, SAACS assisted with National Chemistry Week on campus. Students from local high schools came to hear our faculty speak on majoring in the sciences at CSULB. The Student Affiliates assisted with registration.

We ended the fall semester with a holiday dinner party for the Long Beach Boys’ Youth Home. SAACS teamed up with Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society and Mortar Board senior honor society to donate food for 40 boys. Chemists do make good cooks! The spring semester proved even more eventful! On March 24, we were honored to help host our Distinguished Visiting Lecturer and Nobel Laureate, Dr. Dudley Herschbach from Harvard University. Members helped promote Dr. Herschbach’s visit and donated the food for a breakfast reception.

Also in March the Student Affiliates attended the ACS 2000 national meeting in San Francisco. We met chemists from all over the world, attended student poster sessions where our own department graduate student, John Liarakos, presented a poster. We heard several speakers on topics ranging from new methods in organic synthesis to the human genome project. We ended the weekend with Irish coffee at the famous Buena Vista.

On April 5 the Student Affiliates arranged a question and answer session on the health professions, with Dr. Les Wynston as the resource person. Several students attended and the session proved a success.

Our major project for the spring semester was to renew our hallway display cases. Every member put in several hours of hard work cleaning, restoring and redecorating. SAACS plans to make this a yearly project so that our cases always look attractive. We managed to place second in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics competition for the most informative display cases.

Our last project for the year combined science and community service. Members volunteered for Career Day at Hill Middle School in Long Beach. With the help of Tom Gutrey, we presented a chemistry magic show and answered students’ questions about careers in science.

The Student Affiliates have enjoyed a busy and exciting 1999-2000. Next year, SAACS will surely accomplish even more under the strong leadership of incoming president Jennifer Guzzo, a biochemistry/music major.

CSULB Enrollment Exceeds 30,000

Student enrollment during the fall semester of 1999 reached 30,011 according to the Office of Institutional Research. This represents a 4% increase over the previous year. The number of high school graduates entering the university was reported to be 3,483, a 24% increase over the previous fall semester. More than 425 of entering high school students received Advanced Placement credit. Cal State Long Beach ranks second in total student population among the California State University system’s 23 campuses. San Diego State, with an enrollment of 31,413, is the most populous campus.

Dr. Julie Parker Kierbow

Prior to joining our faculty in 1957, she was employed as a scientist at Oak Ridge National Laboratories. Her teaching assignments in our department included courses in general chemistry, inorganic chemistry and radiochemistry. When Peterson Hall 3 was opened in 1962, it boasted a state-of-the-art radiochemistry laboratory which was designed by Dr. Kierbow and used by her for a course in radiochemistry. She also taught the second semester of general chemistry on a regular basis and introduced radiochemical experiments into the laboratory curriculum.

Through her efforts, a chapter of the Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society was established in 1959 with Dr. Kierbow as the first faculty advisor. SAACS has had a continuous record of service to the department and its students ever since. She was known in our department for her humorous crusade to “stamp out NH₄OH,” a misleading formulation often found in textbooks at the time.

Dr. Kierbow remained active in her retirement, reading textbooks for the blind. She was preceded in death by her husband David Kierbow and leaves no close relatives.

In Memoriam

Dr. Julie Parker Kierbow

Dr. Julie Parker Kierbow, a member of our faculty for 20 years prior to her retirement in 1977, passed away suddenly at her home in Sun City, Ariz, on Aug. 29, 1999. Dr. Kierbow, a native of Fayetteville, Ala., received her BA degree from Ohio State and her MS degree from the University of Hawaii, both in chemistry. Her PhD in inorganic chemistry was obtained from the University of Colorado.

Stanley R. Davis

Word has been received from his family of the passing of Stanley R. Davis, BS, 1971. Stanley was a member of Dr. Henry Po’s research group while a student at CSULB.
The total value of gifts to the department, in-kind and cash, during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000 was $47,152. Gifts from business and industry amounted to $17,064 in cash and $1,270 in in-kind gifts.

We wish to acknowledge the help of the following persons in assisting us in securing gifts for the department: Nancy Dunn, Jean Kigoshi, Joyce Kunishima, Denise Lutz, Dr. Ray Maddalone, Dr. Ken Marsi, Patricia Maxwell, Dr. Steve Ruckmick, James Richards, Eman Talei, Dr. Erkan Unver.

Matching gifts were received from the following companies (employees whose gifts were matched are given in parentheses):

- Allergan, Inc.*
- ARCO Corp.*
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- IBM
- Kelly Scientific Resources*
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- Merck & Co.*
- National Starch and Chemical Foundation (Ablestik Labs.)*
- TRW: Industrial Affiliates Program*

*Companies are members of the Chemistry and Biochemistry Advisory Council.

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The Office of University Relations and Development is informed of all gifts, and you will receive a personal letter of acknowledgement from the department. You might investigate the possibility that your company matches employee gifts. In that way, the value of your gift to the department is multiplied.

If you are contacted through the Phonathon program and a gift is requested, please specify the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department as the recipient of your gift, if that is your intention.

Thank you!

Honor Roll of Individual Donors (July 1, 1999–June 30, 2000)

- Courtenay W. Anderson
- D. M. Anjo, PhD
- Chris D. Appleton
- Silverio P. Arano
- Prabha J. Bhatia
- Michael F. Baker, PharmD
- Nina C. Bao
- Robert B. Bao, PhD
- Ephraim Baez-Zvi, PhD
- Stuart Berryhill, PhD
- Susan Tarian Brentnall, PharmD
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- Carmella Lupash
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- Phillip D. Marchis
- Kenneth Marsi, PhD & Irene Marsi
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- Gregory L. Whitaker, DPM
- Virginia M. Whitcher
- Nell K. White
- Delyse R. Buss Williams, MD
- Leslie Wynston, PhD
- Kenneth Yamaguchi, PhD
- Ming F. Yuan

Plan of Some of Our 1999-2000 Graduates

- Monty Darder
  MS Biochemistry
  Dow Agricience, San Diego
- Alma Cortez
  BA Chemistry
  Physician Assistant Program
- Daekeun Joo
  MS Biochemistry
  Medical School
  University of Cincinnati
- Thomas Kelly
  MS Biochemistry
  Bausch & Lomb
- Tong Keynes
  MS Biochemistry
  Biotech, San Diego
- Frank LE
  MS Biochemistry
  Dental School, UCLA
- Hong Ma
  MS Biochemistry
  Biotech, San Diego
- Maria Matutina
  BS Biochemistry
  Harbor-UCLA Research Institute
- Michael McCullister
  BS Biochemistry
  MS Program, CSULB
- Ryan Meacham
  BA Chemistry
  Teacher, Los Angeles Unified
- Karazm Morgan
  BS Chemistry & Biochemistry
  Law School
- Christopher Nguyen
  BS Biochemistry & BA Chemistry
  Dental School, USC
- Thanh Nguyen
  MS Biochemistry
  LG Chem, Inc.
- Kevin Phillips
  BS Biochemistry
  PhD Program, Harvard U
- Pat Pierce
  MS Biochemistry
  Instructor, CSULB
- Eugene Razumov
  MS Biochemistry
  PhD Program, UCLA
- Tomo Sakurai
  BS Chemistry
  Graduate School, Japan
- Paula Spencer
  MS Biochemistry
  Amon, Thousand Oaks, Calif.

Gifts by Individuals

During the 1999-2000 fiscal year the department received gifts totaling $47,152. Of this amount, $28,818 was given by individuals: $25,074 in cash and $3,744 in in-kind gifts. The faculty, staff and students of our department are very grateful for your generosity.

Cash gifts received are used for scholarships, awards, the seminar program and purchase of supplies and equipment for which there is not adequate state funding. Also, the costs of publishing the Chemistry & Biochemistry Department Newsletter are met with private giving. You may give an income-tax-deductible gift directly to the department by making a check to:

CSULB FOUNDATION/CHIMISTRY FUND
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY & BIOCHEMISTRY
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH
1250 BELFLOWER BOULEVARD
LONG BEACH, CA 90840-3903

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Kelly

Scientific Resources Awards

Through the efforts of Eman Talei and Denise Lutz, members of our Advisory Council representing Kelly Scientific Resources, and Nancy Dunn, district manager of Kelly Scientific Resources, the department is the recipient of $2,500 for five $500 individual awards to students who have accomplished outstanding work in the major areas of chemistry. It is proposed that these awards will continue in future years. Awards were presented to five students at the department’s annual Awards Reception and Dinner on May 11 on campus.

We are grateful for Kelly Scientific Resources participation in this recognition ceremony. Areas of excellence and awardees are:

**Endowed Awards**

**ROBERT B. HENDERSON AWARD**
The Robert B. Henderson Award was established by Dr. Henderson’s family, colleagues and friends to honor his memory. Dr. Henderson was a member of the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department from 1955-1983 and a distinguished scientist and teacher of organic and general chemistry. Recipients for this award are chosen from among bachelor’s and master’s graduates as those best exemplifying Dr. Henderson’s scholarship and commitment to the profession of chemistry. This year’s award of $1,000 was presented to Kevin Phillips.

Kevin is a May 2000 summa cum laude graduate with a BS degree in biochemistry who will enter the PhD program in chemistry this fall at Harvard University.

**KENNETH L. MARS! SCHOLARSHIP**
This $1,000 scholarship, established by faculty, staff, family, friends and former students on the occasion of Dr. Ken Marsi’s retirement, is used to defray registration fees of outstanding junior and senior chemistry or biochemistry majors.

This year’s scholar is Sotiria Contos who will be a senior this fall. She plans on continuing for her PhD in organic chemistry after graduation in May 2001. Sotiria also received the Toni Horalek Award for departmental service for her leadership as president of the Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society.

**MICHAEL MONAHAN FELLOWSHIP**
The Monahan Award was established through a generous bequest of Dr. Michael Monahan, an alumnus of our department who received his BS in chemistry in 1963 and his PhD in 1968 at UC San Diego in physical organic chemistry. While an undergraduate he was a research student of Dr. Robert Henderson. He was a distinguished scientist and a member of the faculty at the Salk Institute and subsequently a senior research scientist with Beckman Instruments. Dr. Monahan was also the founder and president of California Medicinal Chemistry Corporation. In 1985-87, following his retirement, he served as a lecturer in our department. According to his will, the income from his bequest is to be used to support student research in our department. This is the third year this $2,500 award has been given.

**Dmitry Pervitsky**, this year’s Monahan Fellow, a native of Belarus where he received a degree in chemical engineering, is a master’s student of Dr. Lijuan Li. In addition to the Monahan Fellowship, he also this year received the Hypercube Award for academic excellence. Dmitry is studying metal nitrosyl interactions with imidazole-based ligands using UV-vis spectroscopy. Dmitry was also last year’s recipient of this award.

**SPYROS PATHOS IV AWARD**
The Spyros Pathos IV Award is presented annually to a student excelling in the second semester of general chemistry, Chemistry 111B. This year is the fourth year that the Pathos Award has been granted. The award is made possible by friends of Spyros Pathos IV, who was an undergraduate chemistry major in our department at the time of his death in 1993.

Jennifer Kauk and Eva Morlok are this year’s awardees. Jennifer, a biology major with an option in cellular and molecular biology and genetics, is a junior who is interested eventually in a career in research or teaching. Eva is a biochemistry major who plans to attend graduate school and then become a college teacher of chemistry. She is a junior and an undergraduate research student of Dr. McBee.

**DAVID L. SCOGGINS AWARDS**
This award memorializes David L. Scoggins, a 1968 BS chemistry graduate of CSULB and a graduate student and teaching assistant in the Department of Chemistry at the time of his death in 1969. This award recognizes outstanding scholarship and promise by a graduating chemistry or biochemistry student who intends to pursue a career in one of the health-related professions.

The Scoggins scholar this year is Veronica Armandarez, who spent the summer in a research program in the Dominican Republic.

**JOHN H. STEIN AWARD**
The Stern Award, consisting of a cash prize, is given in memory of Dr. John H. Stern, internationally known for his work in solution thermodynamics and author of many publications in that field. The award was established by colleagues, former students and friends of Dr. Stern, who was a member of our faculty from 1958-1984 and a distinguished teacher of physical and general chemistry.

Kevin Phillips, also the Henderson Scholar, and a recipient of four other department and college awards this year, was named as the Stern awardee for 2000.

Eva Morlok, Pathos awardee.

Veronica Armandarez, Scoggins awardee.

**Analytical Chemistry.**

**Biochemistry.**

Michael Eagan and Maziar Nabavi: Both students will graduate in May 2001. Michael plans to enter medical school and Maziar will apply for MD/PhD programs. Both are biochemistry majors.

**Inorganic Chemistry.**

Yvonne Burris. Yvonne is a candidate for the BS degrees in Chemistry and also Biochemistry. Following completion of her undergraduate work this fall, she plans to enter graduate school.

**Organic Chemistry.**

Matthew Harris. Matt is a junior biochemistry major and plans to attend medical school following graduation.

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Eva Morlok, Pathos awardee.

Veronica Armandarez, Scoggins awardee.
$1.6 Million Grant for Honors in Biological Sciences, Biochemistry and Chemistry

by Margaret Merryfield Director

To make this happen, the grant provides support for course development as well as faculty development in such areas as how to assist students in improving their writing and speaking skills or how to be an effective mentor. Support for travel is also available. Funds are provided for a staff member to assist students and faculty in preparing manuscripts and presentations and for research equipment for new faculty as well. With the proposal now funded, the hard work of realizing these goals begins. We are recruiting the first group of pioneers to the freshman seminar; later in the year, we will recruit a group of advanced students willing to commit to a senior thesis as well as a research experience. Down the road, we hope the curriculum will be self-sustaining and will attract students in several of the other sponsored programs that support undergraduate research.

The purpose of the Lab Support Scholarship is to identify and encourage outstanding community college transfer students to enter our chemistry and biochemistry programs as majors and to foster closer relationships with nearby community colleges.

The department would like to express its gratitude to Jean Kipetz, account manager with Lab Support’s Carson office, for facilitating this scholarship. She is a member of our Chemistry Advisory Council.

Awards to Chemistry/Biochemistry Students

David Suggs
Mendenhall Memorial Award: VERONICA ARMANDAREZ
Departmental Honors at Graduation: KEVIN PHILLIPS & CHRISTOPHER NORTON
Diagnostic Products Corporation Scholarship:
DMITRY PEROVSKY & HELENE PAO
Horak Award for Departmental Service:
SORANIA CONTOS
Hypercube Award:
ANDREA CHEN
Kenneth L. Marsi Scholarship:
SORANIA CONTOS
Lab Support Scholarship:
TINA CHAMBERS (Cerritos College)
Michael Monahan Memorial Summer Research Fellowship:
DMITRY PEROVSKY
Robert B. Henderson Memorial Scholarship:
KEVIN PHILLIPS

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES & MATHEMATICS AWARDS
Khalil Salem Award: KEVIN PHILLIPS
Robert B. Rhodes Award: KEVIN PHILLIPS

Lab Support Scholarship Awarded to Cerritos College Student

Tina Chambers, Lab Support Scholar.

Lab Support, a division of On Assignment, Inc., an agency which provides temporary professional assignments in laboratories, has established a $2,500 scholarship for area community college transfer students who intend to major in chemistry or biochemistry at CSULB. This is the sixth consecutive year in which this award has been conferred. Previous awardees have transferred to CSULB from Cypress College, Citrus College, Mount San Antonio College, Irvine Valley College and Long Beach City College.

The awardee for 2000-2001 is Tina Chambers of Lakewood, a transfer student from Cerritos College, who intends to continue on to graduate school after receiving a BS degree in biochemistry. Tina looks forward to a career in pharmaceutical research and development. Her GPA at Cerritos College is 3.96, and she was a recipient of the Academic Excellence Award this year at Cerritos College.

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The College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics has just received a major grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) to create an “Honors in Biological Sciences” program. The grant will bring in $400,000 per year for four years. In addition to providing summer stipends and academic-year support for 20 to 30 undergraduate students annually, the program will also support the creation of honors curricula for students majoring in biological sciences, biochemistry, chemistry and related areas. As evidence of the strength of the proposal, the level of funding actually exceeded the original request.

The proposal includes several elements to address the strengths and weaknesses of our undergraduate programs. Several points of consensus existed: undergraduate research as the highest priority, concern over students’ communication and critical thinking skills, and a desire to retain talented students in the major. Participants also saw an opportunity to introduce the emerging field of bioinformatics into the undergraduate curriculum.

The result of these discussions is a curriculum that builds on both the general education curriculum and the major. New first-year courses to be created include “Ideas in Biological Sciences,” a seminar for incoming freshmen that will introduce the program, research opportunities and key ideas and developments in the biological sciences, and a critical thinking course for science majors.

The “Bioinformatics” course will be designed for second-year students. The junior year, students will select a research supervisor and take a course in “Research Design and Scientific Methods.” Typically, students will do research in the summer before the senior year and continue the project through the senior year. At that time they will enroll in “Senior Thesis.” In addition to writing a thesis, students will be expected to give a public presentation of their research, either at a regional or national meeting or at a local venue. Seniors also have the option of taking a general education capstone course, “Scientific Literacy,” which will include a service-learning component, such as working with college outreach programs or working as a peer mentor.

Inorganic Chemistry:
YVONNE BURNS

Yield from a recent major grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) will coordinate the component of this program focused on increasing access to undergraduate research.

Acknowledgments

Andrea Chen, Freshman Chemistry awardee.

Eric Sundberg, Freshman Chemistry awardee.

Antonia Duran, Merck awardee in Organic Chemistry.

Helene Pao, Diagnostic Products awardee.
We very much appreciate the time you have taken to inform us about yourselves, and we always enjoy hearing from you. The information which you send about your careers is often shared with students who are considering professions in chemistry, biochemistry, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, law, etc. All degrees noted are in chemistry unless otherwise specified. Alumni having both bachelor's and master's degrees from our department are listed under the year they received their bachelor's degree. To communicate about the Newsletter or to send information, write to: Dr. Ken Marsi; Department of Chemistry/Biochemistry, California State University, Long Beach; Long Beach, CA 90840. FAX: 562/985-8557. E-mail: kmarsi@csulb.edu.

Dr. Fred Dorer
BS 1964, PhD 1971, Washington, retired provost and academic vice president at CSU Bakersfield, assists the president with fundraising and University reaccreditation. He and Marilyn continue to live in Bakersfield, and “I am trying to learn golf.”

Dr. David F. Fagerburg
BS 1976, PhD U of Washington, retired from Eastman Chemical Company in December 1999 and is now a full-time professor of chemistry (organic and polymer chemistry) at Northeastern State Technical Community College in Bristow, Okla.

Donald J. Fenn
BS 1969, is employed as senior research chemist in the Technology Department of U.S. Borax, Inc. in Valencia, Calif. “I am in my 35th year at U.S. Borax and currently involved in product application research relative to the plastics industry, and primarily for flame-retardant applications.” Chemistry graduates, Jan Schirick Copeland and Robert Dea, are also employed with U.S. Borax.

Dr. Gary Hatsaway
BS 1964, PhD UC San Diego, is the director of the Protein Analytical Laboratory at Caltech. “We published two papers concerning new technologies in mass spectrometry. Sun, Allen, has finished high school and has been accepted at UC San Diego. Son, Sean, was married and daughter, Helena, bought a new BMW!”

Dr. Norman Hester
BS 1968, MS and PhD UC Riverside, is technical director at Trusddl Laboratories in Torrance, Calif. His daughter began college in the spring of 2000. Chemistry graduate, Jos Bethlum, is also employed with Trusddl Laboratories.

Frederick W. Howel
BS General Science and Life Science 1954, is now retired after careers as a high school science teacher and contractor. Fred received his degree with a concentration in chemistry from CSULB four years early than the graduation of the first chemistry degree in 1958.

Johanne Estenssoreyn Myerson
BS 1963, MS 1967, is associate industrial hygienist with the State Compensation Insurance Fund in San Francisco. Younger son, Raymond, and wife Jaqueline were married in January. They are both music majors. Older son, Robert, is a computer programmer, and his wife is an environmental studies master’s candidate currently working as an industrial hygienist for Federal OSHA. They live in New York.

John Nelson
BS 1969, JD Loyola Law School, an attorney and partner at Nelson & Nelson in Orange and a member of the Chemistry/Biochemistry Advisory Council at CSULB, made a presentation to the council and chemistry faculty and students in the fall semester of 1999 on “Science and the Law,” with particular reference to the Dow-Corning breast-implant litigation.

Raymond E. Ouellette
BS 1964, is associate environmental scientist with Kennedy/Johnson Consultants in Irvine, Calif. “I provide assistance to companies with environmental permitting and compliance problems. I work with clients to identify specific regulations that are applicable to their operations and help them come into compliance.” Ray is active in the Orange County Section of the American Chemical Society.

Dr. Arie Passchier
BS 1961, PhD U of Washington, is manager of the Materials and Processes Laboratory with Boeing in Anaheim, Calif. He has worked with Rockwell and its successor, Boeing, for 32 years. Son, Jason, was married to a Japanese girl, and we attended two ceremonies: one in Anaheim in March and later in Japan where they were married again in a Buddhist ceremony.

Dr. Arie Passchier (left) with family at son Jason’s wedding.

Burton "Ron" Rawding
BS UCSB, MBA 1980, is national sales manager, North America Fabric Care, with Goldschmidt Chemical Corporation. The Rawdings have five grandchildren.

Dr. Betty Jane Buri
BS MS Chemistry 1978, PhD UC San Diego, is research chemist with the Western Human Nutrition Research Center of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. “My husband, Kurt Ameller, and I celebrated our 15th anniversary this year. My research is in carotenoids (plants pigments that might delay cancer) has been going well. I’ve been invited to give talks at the International Vita- min A Consultative Group meeting in Durban, South Africa and the International Carotenoids meeting in Cairns, Australia.

Dr. Betty Jane Buri and husband, Kurt Ameller, in Egypt.

Dr. Arie Passchier (right) with his wife.

Dr. Thomas H. Draper
BS 1972, is Director of Systems Development and Supply Chain Management with McDonald’s Corporation in Oak Brook, Ill. Chris is an examiner for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award during 1997-1999. Many of you may have had a course in physics at CSULB from his late father, Dr. George Appleton.

Dr. Ted A. Bailey
BA 1973, BS Visual Science, OD Optometry, is an optometrist with Stephen D. Placzek, MD in Santa Cruz. He works with cataract, glaucoma and laser vision correction patients. He volunteers with The Flying Samaritans and is a sailing and horseshoe riding enthusiast.

Prabha Bhalja
MS Biochemistry 1975. “I have just learned how to use e-mail and planning to learn more about computers. My daughter, Kiran, is at Boston U, planning to major in International Studies; my son, Aneesha, is in high school and has dreams of becoming a space engineer and designing space aircraft.” Prabha’s husband, Jyotindar, is an MD who practices in Anaheim.

Dr. Betty Jane Buri
BS MS Chemistry 1978, PhD UC San Diego, is research chemist with the Western Human Nutrition Research Center of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. “My husband, Kurt Ameller, and I celebrated our 15th anniversary this year. My research is in carotenoids (plants pigments that might delay cancer) has been going well. I’ve been invited to give talks at the International Vitamin A Consultative Group meeting in Durban, South Africa and the International Carotenoids meeting in Cairns, Australia.

Gregory Doransan
BS 1977, MS 1983, works with Danville Materials. “Danville provides innovative products to dental professionals. My job is to build a development lab and production facility in Orange County.” He is also a consultant to CoCensys, helping the company transfer operations to Purdue Pharma, the company which purchased CoCensys last September. His son, Nick, continues as a chemistry major at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. His girls all play AYSO soccer, and Greg referees several games each week.

Rick Goyt
BA 1977. “I have worked for Dow Chemical, 3M, Syva and now for myself. I was in marketing and sales and helped start the drug detection business (both illegal and therapeutic).” In recent years he has been a detective in senior housing facilities. This past summer he opened a new assisted living facility, “The Manse on Marsh,” located in San Luis Obispo. He is executive director of the home. Information about this facility can be obtained at www.themansee.net. “You would think that a chemistry degree and elder care don’t go together. The discipline and knowledge I learned from my major are asset. I understand the medical side, including pharmacists, as well as anyone in the field.”

Tom Johnson
BS 1978, MS U of Washington, is a professional photographer in Hollywood and had an exhibit of some of his work at the Market Gallery in Los Angeles on April 28 of this year.

Continued on page 13
Continued on page 14
ly married with two cats. My husband and I both work at Alliance. I am proud to say I still work with chemistry and that my son has served me well! Other CSULB chemistry graduates employed at Alliance are Gary Beck, Stan Huth, Carl Martin and Thao Tran.

Dr. Larry Matsunoto


Dr. David Maynard

M.S. 1988, PhD UC Riverside, is chair of the Department of Chemistry at CSU San Bernardino.

M. Anthony Moore

M.S. 1987, is employed by ALH & Com- pany, a division of the Eason Group in Fountain Valley.

Richard Richwenger

BA 1987, works with lettuce as an industrial distributor specialist. He and wife, Tish, have three children: Russell (7), William (3) and newly born Tate Joseph.

Dr. David E. Tass

BA Biochemistry 1996, PhD USC, gradu- ated from the USC School of Medicine, Department of Pathology: Children’s Hospital, Los Angeles. His research was in the area of tumor cell biology and molecular genetics of pediatric sarcomas. David is employed as a field application specialist with Promega Corporation, lives in Long Beach and has two children.

Dr. Gerald Uretsky

BA 1987, PharmD UC San Francisco, is employed as an pharmacist specialist physician with Kaiser Permanente in West Los Angeles.

Karen Watson

BS 1989, works for Pyramid Labs in Costa Mesa as the senior chemist.

Nina Bao

MS 1994. “I worked as a chemist for five years in the nutritional supplements industry. Now that my son is finishing his last semester of the academic portion of the pharmacy program at the University of the Pacific, I have decided to teach high school science and math and will enroll in the credential pro- gram this fall at CSULB.

Oren Beske

BS Biochemistry 1994. “My work is now focused on the cell biology of poliovirus infection. I have been work- ing on making movies, time-lapse video microscopy in certain organelles inside the cell and watching as the virus replicates. I’ve presented many posters at meetings, and plan to complete my PhD within a year.” He and Michelle Shaw will be married in October.

Delina Brassard

BS Biochemistry 1994, BSB Accounting 2000, is an in-house accountant with Tom in Bloomington, Minn. and planning to take her CPA exam later this year.

Dr. Brian Colligan

BA 1993, Southern California Col- lege of Optometry, is Toohilich Health Center Optometrist and a member of the Indian Health Service in New Mexico.

Dr. Marco Goldenberg

BS Biochemistry 1990, MD U of Kansas 1994, is a family physician with Family Health Care Medical Group—Los Pinos. “I moved into practice in March of this year and live and work in Camarillo. Wife, Judy, and sons, Tommy (4 1/2) and Nicholas (2), are all happy and healthy.”

Dr. Alexander Greer

MS 1992, Chemistry Engineering, is assis- tant professor in the Department of Chemistry at Brooklyn College of the University of New York. “I have one graduate and five undergraduate students working in my lab. Our Petro- leum Research Fund Type G proposal was accepted for funding. I have served on two master’s thesis committees and presented a poster at the Oxygen Socie- ty meeting in New Orleans last November. The poster was titled, ‘Neighboring group participation in the DNA-lasing antitumor antibiotic Leucomycin Studies on the intramolecu- lar non-bonding S=O interaction.’”

Dr. John Hecht

BS Chemistry Engineering 1994 and Chemistry Minor, PhD UC Berkeley, is employed as a drying/particle formation specialist at Eastman Kodak in West Chester, Ohio. “I am an in-house consultant for a variety of consumer products, including laundry detergent (Tide), paper towels (Booster paper towel), instant coffee, denture adhesive and more.”

Judith Ramillano Jankowski

BS Biochemistry 1994. “I am now work- ing at the ACS in the Department of Career Services in Washington, DC, specifically as program manager, Local Section Career Programs. My depart- ment helps chemists with resume writing, interviewing tips, and career transitioning by providing workshops and seminars. I do anything from marketing the upcoming presentations (training workshops, speaking to undergrads about career options in chemistry, career counseling, etc.). I’ll be traveling several more times a year to both national and local con- ferences as well as the seminars and workshops that I organize. I am also president of the Student Associates of the ACS at CSULB increased my chances of obtain- ing this position. They have been impressed with our chapter for years.”

Robert Reaga

BA 1993, is full-time manager at the Grill on the Alley Restaurant in San Jose, Calif., a sister to the well-known restaurant of the same name in Beverly Hills, website: www.thegrill.com.

Robert Stevens

BS Biochem 1993, is a law student at Northwestern School of Law of Lewis and Clark College in Oregon. “This sum- mer (2000) I will be interning at an international environmental public inter- est firm based at the University of London, the Foundation for International Environmental Development. They do a lot of policy work for the UN and devel- oping nations. I think my Peace Corps experience really helped me get the position because FIELD works with the Alliance of Small Island States and the South Pacific Commission. A co-op project which I was associated with while in Tonga.”

Lisa Tabrizadeh

BA 1990, MS 1994, is professor of chemistry and chair for the School of Physical Sciences and Technologies at Irvine Valley College and recently pur- chased her first home in Irvine.

Char Taylor

BA 1991, is physician assistant and medical officer with the Peace Corps. “I am currently in my third year here in Armenia and it looks as though I will stay another year. Armenia is a fascinating and beautiful mountainous country with an interesting yet tragic history.”

Leonard Van Wijk

BS 1992, is an environmental chem- ical/technical sales representative with North State Environmental in Long Beach. “I have been in the environmen- tal field for eight years. My PhD, Good-Van Wijk, was a chemist major at CSULB. We bought a home in Duarte two years ago.”

Levente Von Wijk and wife, Gina Good.

Stephen Westerhout

BA 1994, MD Linda L. U, has com- pleted his internship in surgery at the University of Maryland and has taken a residency in anesthesiology at Ohio Health Sciences University in Portland.

Dr. Gregory Whittaker

BS Biochem 1990, DPM Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine, is a fourth-year student at Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. “I will graduate from Nova in May 2001 and complete my transitional year at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and then begin my residency in anesthesiology. Upon com- pletion of my residency I will work as staff anesthetist for the Army for four years.”

Silverio P. Arako

BS Biochemistry 1996, is a fourth-year medical student at UC Davis.

Andrew Bailey

BA 1998, is a research assistant at the Uniformed Medical School in Bethesda, MD. He assists Dr. F. Pyrli in finding a cure for scabies. He uses Topamine, PCR, ELISA, and other techniques in my research. I am very excited to do basic research at this university.”

Dr. Robert Kond and wife, Rhonda.

BS 1993, PhD Texas A&M, accepted a position as a research chemist with Aingen in Thousand Oaks in April after completing a postdoctoral position at the University of Pennsylvania. He and wife, Rhonda, live in Ventura. Rhonda is a legal assistant in Santa Barbara.

Robert D. Smith

BA 1993, is full-time manager at the Grill on the Alley Restaurant in San Jose, Calif., a sister to the well-known restaurant of the same name in Beverly Hills, website: www.thegrill.com.

Dr. Alexander Greer.

BS 1993, PhD Texas A&M, accepted a position as a research chemist with Aingen in Thousand Oaks in April after completing a postdoctoral position at the University of Pennsylvania. He and wife, Rhonda, live in Ventura. Rhonda is a legal assistant in Santa Barbara.

Dr. Robert Reaga.


Daniel Booker


Tang Dinh

BS 1995, MS UC Irvine, is employed as a synthetic organic chemist with IDDN Pharmaceuticals in La Jolla. He was recently promoted from assistant research scientist to associate research scientist. According to IDDN’s director, Mr. Van Dinh, his contribution to the inflammation program has been invaluable. His work on developing novel therapeutic compounds, as well as his work on both diastereomers of the prodrug “warhead” are keys to IDDN’s success in this area.“

May Eladak

BA Chemistry, BS Biochemistry 1999, is a graduate student and associate in the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is planning to graduate in the next 2 years and do very well; thanks for the great education I received at CSULB.

Marjan Faridpak

BS Biochemistry 1997, is a high school chemistry and physical science teacher at Mission View High School.

Daniel Farken

BS Biochemistry 1996, is completing his studies for the Phd at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in Baltimore.

Kyle Finley

BA 1995, completed his first year of dental school at Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine. “I am now on a four-month Applied Profes- sional Experience rotation where I gain hands-on experience working as a dental assistant. I am helping through the end of my time working toward my dental career. I hope to move to Boston, but I sure do miss sunny California.” Thanks CSULB for all the sup- port and great memories.”

Nancy Gardner

MS 1994, is a part-time lecturer in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at CSULB. “I enjoy teach- ing freshman chemistry and working with students.”

Dr. Dana Anne Haley

BS Biochemistry 1995, PhD UC Los Angeles, received her PhD in molecu- lar/medical pharmacology earlier this year. She has taken a position as a post- doctoral pharmacology scientist with Wyeth, Inc. in Sunnyvale, Calif. She is author of a publication appearing in J. of Molecular Biology, v298, 61-72 (2000).”

Michael Hall

BA 1995, is training supervisor for Pacific Maritime Association in Avon- ton, Calif. “I’m continuing to work for the FMA in the Ports of Los Angeles/Long Beach, along with my work in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve.”

Jaxon Haughton

BA 1994, was married to Vondale Smith on July 8 of this year. Jaxon works with American Training Resources. “We are producers and

Continued on page 15

Chemistry Biochemistry

14
distribution of employee training videos.
I spend my days on the telephone calling human resources and safety directors of companies. The greatest frustration in my life is now the game of golf. I started about seven months ago with a set of clubs I bought for $10 at a yard sale. I have since put about $400 into new equipment and am no better than when I first started!"
In addition to meeting fully its obligations of nondiscrimination under federal and state law, CSULB is committed to creating a community in which a diverse population can live and work in an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the rights and sensibilities of each individual, without regard to economic status, ethnic background, political views, sexual orientation, or other personal characteristics or beliefs. Complaints which allege discriminatory acts or decisions, and inquiries concerning the application of these nondiscrimination and affirmative action statutes may be referred to the Director, Affirmative Action at 562/985-4101, 1250 Bellflower Boulevard, Long Beach, California 90840-0115.

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