

BARNARD CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

January 1973

During the three years that have elapsed since the last newsletter we have been overwhelmed by larger classes and new courses. Now that we have a new academic calendar that gives us a four week break between terms, we have time to get off a brief newsletter to show that we have not forgotten you.

The Department

The staff still consists of four people of professorial rank plus part time teachers. The total number of students taking chemistry, by contrast, has risen steadily in the past five years; the enrollment in the first year course, for example, has doubled in that period. Similar increases have been experienced by chemistry departments all over the country and are clearly the result of a revival of interest in medicine and the health sciences. Next year we expect to have 20 or so additional students in Chemistry 1,2 from a new four-year program in nursing education initiated by Columbia's School of Nursing.

Our staff continues to provide a basic three-year sequence of courses. Quite a number of students are now taking biochemistry and graduate-level chemistry courses at Columbia. Three years ago, at the suggestion of our majors, we revised our curriculum, cutting general chemistry to one term. Organic chemistry then begins in the spring term of the first year and continues in the fall of the second year. With only one term of general chemistry there is less duplication of work done in high school, and the exciting and important field of organic chemistry is reached sooner. Moreover, this enables us to spread the physical sequence over two years, a more comfortable program for the majors. In the spring of the second year an intermediate laboratory course restores to the curriculum some aspects of quantitative analysis that were sorely missed when the formal quant course was dropped. The new curriculum is not without its problems, not the least of which is the logistics of giving introductory organic to a class of 100. We have mixed feelings about it but expect to retain it for at least another year or so.

This past September the department, assisted by a grant to the college from the National Science Foundation, was able to purchase a very fine Perkin Elmer infrared spectrophotometer. We have long needed such an instrument with a resolution good enough for physical chemistry experiments and faculty research. Aside from acquiring this major item, we have spent the past three years learning to live with the wide variety of instrumentation we have. Likewise, we have learned to live with--if not love--the vagaries of our new ventilation system and other aspects of Altschul Hall. At least floods due to breaks in the distilled water lines are infrequent now.

This was to be the Revolutionary Year when Barnard and Columbia students had open access to each other's courses. The impact has not as yet been dramatic. Both chemistry departments are so overwhelmed by students that there is no incentive for competition. We had hoped to see a substantial number of Columbia men in our classes, but this happened in only two courses. We've traded final examinations with Columbia. We agreed to use the same book and cover the same topics in the introductory, fall term general chemistry course. And this year we instituted a new "second track" full year course in physical chemistry for biochemists, biologists, and premeds. This grew out of a one term course I had given for two years; now I teach the first term, Professor Flynn of Columbia teaches the second, so a good deal of consultation and joint planning has been required. This past term I had a class of 55, 20% from Barnard, 80% from Columbia (CC, GS, Grad Facs).

Staff News

Dr. Bernice Segal, Associate Professor, taught an honors class in general chemistry last term and will again be giving the introductory physical chemistry lectures and physical chemistry lab next term. She has been working hard on an x-ray structure determination of a new inorganic compound she made. Her son Danny went to the Rose Bowl parade as a member of the Tenafly High School Band. Her daughter Elizabeth is finishing high school this year. The Segals took a trip last summer to England and Scandinavia.

Dr. Jacqueline Kroschwitz, Assistant Professor, handles the organic class, a major assignment now with 100 in the first term and 85 in the second. Summer before last she and her husband took a marvelous trip to Japan.

Dr. Alexander Mazziotti, Assistant Professor, and his wife Jan have just become the proud parents of David Arthur, 2.806 kg, born January 10, 1973. Last term he taught the quantum chemistry course; he himself is a theoretical quantum mechanician. Next term he will again teach Chem 2 and statistical mechanics.

I taught Chem 1 and the aforementioned special physical course last term and have intermediate lecture and laboratory courses in the spring. My book "Ionic Reactions and Separations" has just been published by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich; it is a revised version of the old qual book intended for use in a general chemistry course. I have also written a review chapter on Acid-Base Behavior for a book on the physical chemistry of organic solvent systems that should be out soon.

Dr. Grace King, Lecturer in Chemistry, is still in charge of the Chem 1,2 labs but spends most of her time in the Dean of Studies office where this year she is advisor to the senior class. She has been premed advisor for several years. Last year she managed to get 70% of a bumper crop of premeds into med school and is coping this year with an even larger group. Summers at Jolly Island in New Hampshire enable her to maintain unbroken the thin thread of sanity. Andy King is a senior geology major at Middlebury College. My wife and I hope to spend next year on sabbatical in England.

Our three loyal assistants: Mrs. Barbara Goodstein ('60), Mrs. Olympia Jebejian, and Mrs. Libby Miller ('60) have been joined this year by Mrs. Carol Milstein Zitrin who was with us until 1960 and had to leave because of ill health--she has a Master's degree from the University of Chicago.

We meet Dr. Emma Stecher in the neighborhood and at the opera. She is again teaching an organic lab and a general chemistry lab at Pace College. She seems to enjoy this and finds the students an interesting lot, if very different from Barnard women. We all remember with great pleasure the smashing party the chemistry alumnae threw for her when she retired. Dr. Helen Downes, who was chairman from 1945-1960, is still at Foulkeways, a residential community at Gwynedd north of Philadelphia. We talked with her recently over the telephone and can report that she sounded as active as ever.

Is there anyone among you who would like to keep your hand in in chemistry? We need another assistant for next year: this involves 15 hours a week (2 days) and would pay \$3800. Get in touch with me if you are interested: 280-2074 is my office phone.

Alumnae News

Most of these items come out of a large manila envelope full of clippings, notes, post cards, and letters that have accumulated since 1970. Since some of the information may be stale news I have often indicated the date of our information. Do bring us up to date.

Elizabeth Turnauer ('48) was celebrated on the Women's Page of the New York Times, Thursday, May 21, 1970, for her Viennese pastry and other cookery.

Roselin Seider Wagner ('50) is teaching freshman chemistry four days a week at Hofstra.

Ruth Meyer Polen ('48) is living in East Lansing, Michigan where her husband is Associate Professor of Poultry Nutrition at Michigan State University. She is doing substitute teaching in the Lansing public schools; previously she had taught chemistry in upstate New York (Barnard Alumnae, Summer '72)

Harriet Hamann Snell ('52) published with J. Greyson the article "Water Structure in Solutions of the Sodium Salts of Some Aliphatic Acids," J. Phys. Chem., 74, 2148 (1970).

Rochelle Reibman Hirschhorn ('53) is Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine at New York University School of Medicine. She is interested in control mechanisms in cell division and published a paper in Nature on Template Capacity of Stimulated Lymphocytes.

Judy Goldstein Levin ('55) wrote (9/15/70) about her work at NIH and her children, Joshua and Daniel. Her husband is with the International Monetary Fund.

Judith Schwack Joseph ('56) has her MAT from William Patterson College in Wayne, N.J. and, as of last October, was looking for a job as elementary school teacher.

Liane Reif Lehrer ('56) was appointed Assistant Professor of Biochemical Ophthalmology at Harvard in June, 1971. We are delighted to have copies of her latest publications for our files: four papers on glutamine synthetase in J. Cell Biol., 51, 303, 348 (1971); Biochim. Biophys. Acta, 264, 186 (1972); Arch. Ophthal., 86, 72 (1971). Erica Thea was born September 21, 1969.

Nicole Higginbotham Simon ('58) wrote in 1971 to announce the birth of Mathew Keiler, October 16, 1971. She's glad to be back working in biochemistry: a Ph.D. project at Boston University School of Medicine supported by fellowships from AAUW, NIMH, and the Scottish Rites fund for research. Her husband is full professor of Germanic Languages and Literature at Harvard.

Phyllis Margolis Zucker ('59) wrote in December 1971 that she was enjoying her studies in Michigan's School of Public Health.

Marian Bennett Meyers ('59) was the principal organizer of the alumnae party for Dr. Stecher.

Marge Fridecky ('60), according to our spies, is holding a top management job with Union Carbide.

Judy Shapiro Reich ('60) opened private practice in dermatology in Mt. Kisco in January, 1970.

Julia Brandes ('61) wrote Dr. Stecher in 1970 that she was about to join the Permanente Medical Group in San Francisco as an internist-nephrologist.

Murrie Weinger Burgan ('61) reported in May, 1970 that she was about to become Assistant Editor of Circulation, a journal of the American Heart Association. Her daughter Ellen was then two years old.

Dorothy Memolo Bheddah ('61) worked for Cybernetic International Corp. some years back as a programmer. She's been class correspondent recently. Her first child, Karen, was born April 12, 1970.

Dana Levine ('62) taught organic at Ramapo College in Mahwah and visited with us at reunion time last June. More recently she's been teaching at Fairleigh-Dickinson in New Jersey.

Myra Drickman ('62) was in a space program job financed by Bell Telephone but is now attending NYU as a medical student.

Marian Slutsky Rothenberg ('62) is on the staff of Physics Today and is the author of an article in the latest issue. She too paid us a visit at reunion time.

Naomi Weintraub ('64) married Harvey Cohen and lives in West Virginia. As of April, 1970 she was a member of a public interest law firm called Apalachian Research and Defense Fund which is suing chemical industries who are major polluters of air and water resources.

Lydia Chylak Bazarko ('64) sent us Christmas greetings recently. She's still working as a research chemist at Sherwin-Williams. Her husband is a lawyer in his own firm, and Andrew, 6, and George, 4, are in school.

Diane Fabiny ('64) recently married Wallace Byrd. She has coauthored a paper.

Helen Bernstein Berman ('64) visited us a year or so ago. She was then at the Institute for Cancer Research in Philadelphia. Her eighth paper "The Crystal Structure of a Trisaccharide, Raffinose Pentahydrate" was published in Acta Cryst., B26, 290 (1970).

Rosemarie Salerni ('64), last we heard, was in Pittsburgh on a cardiology fellowship.

Adele Ludin Boskey ('64) came back from a year at Imperial College, London to take a position at the Hospital for Special Surgery, Cornell Medical College

Barbara Pearson Wasserman ('64), as of April 1970, expected to be one more year as a medical resident in Rochester.

Barbara Hudson Roberts ('65) and her husband both have fellowships at the National Heart Institute in Bethesda, Maryland.

Ruth Freund Ashman ('65) announced the birth of Deborah Ann, May 20, 1970. Ruth was planning to join the University of Maryland Hospital as resident in pediatrics on July 1 of that year.

Carol Rosenzweig Rosen ('65) reported in 1970 that she was the San Antonio Seven Colleges Alumnae Chairman. She has a son Barry and a daughter Suzanne; the Summer '72 Alumnae magazine reported the arrival of Sheri Leigh last March.

Lea Hayes Fischbach ('65) now lives in Washington where her husband is a lawyer. She comes to visit us with her two boys now and then.

Paula Kreisman Bernstein ('65) received her Ph.D. in Inorganic Chemistry from Cal Tech in June, 1971 and has had two years of post doctoral experience with Professor Harry Gray and Dr. William Schaefer of Ca Tech. She was co-author of two papers on nickel and cobalt dichlorobis(diarsine) complexes: Inorganic Chem., 11, 3035, 3040 (1972).

Mary Jane Incorvia Mattina ('66) is now living in Lenox, Mass.; her husband has a job with Kimberly-Clark Corp. in Lee. She has taught at Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield. Her publication on the planar rotation of π -allyl ligands in metal complexes, J. Organometallic Chem., 19, P13 (1969) was not reported in the last newsletter.

Helen Stern Sunshine ('66) is completing work on her Ph. D. at Columbia. The paper "Metal Binding in Thionucleotides", J. Amer. Chem. Soc., 94, 8936 (1972) has just appeared. She and her husband have a son Gabriel and expect another baby shortly.

With sorrow we must report that Pat Henson ('66) died suddenly on March 15, 1971 of a cardiac condition with bronchial complications.

Susan Pincus Burk (Feb '67) stopped to see us at reunion time last June. She was enthusiastic about substitute teaching of chemistry and physics in high school in N. Wilbraham, Mass.

Judy Herzfeld ('67) received her Ph.D. in Biophysics from MIT in Dec., 1971 and spent '71-'72 at Harvard in a program studying science and public policy. Last summer she delivered a paper at the IVth International Biophysics Congress in Moscow.

Toby Berger ('67) is an Instructor in Geography at Barnard and advisor to the class of '76.

Antonie Kaufman Chung ('67), last we heard, was getting her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

Sheila Tocman ('67) has her MAT, we hear, and is teaching school in Canton, Mass.

Susan Slosberg ('67) wrote in April, 1971 that she was going to Stanford for advanced work in education.

Marcy Wanta Vogt ('67) called a year ago to report she was thinking of doing graduate work in psychology.

Feige Rabinowitz ('68) wrote in April, 1970 that she was working as a research assistant with Professor Mathew Meselson of the Department of Molecular Biology at Harvard.

Medinah Blinder ('69) married Charles Popper in the summer of 1970. We hear that she is back at Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Sandra Shapiro ('69) and her husband Daniel are the proud parents of David Gershen according to last summer's alumnae magazine.

Ruth Bergwall Young ('71), as of a year ago, was transferring from NYU to the U of Penn because her husband George was entering a seminary in Phila.

Sandra Willner ('71) did graduate work in biochemistry at the U of Penn after leaving Barnard; she is now a student at Jefferson Medical School.

Lynne Jacobson ('71) worked for a while but now she is a graduate student in the Chemical Engineering Department at Columbia. She comes over to use the library once in a while.

Gayle Knapp ('71) has visited us several times; she is enjoying her graduate work in biochemistry at the University of Illinois in Urbana.

Helen Turner Oen (Oct '69), Teresa Chan ('72), and Sara Kramer ('72) are all graduate students in chemistry at Columbia.

Ellen Datloff went to Boston after graduation to look for a job; we hope she found one but have not heard from her.

Leslie LiDonnici ('72) likewise has not written, but we think she is doing graduate work in chemistry.

Merril Gersten ('72) is a student at Cornell Medical College, Babette Horn ('72) is a medical student at Georgetown, and Elisabeth Post ('72) is at Upstate Medical Center. Dolores Sicheri ('72), our first biochemistry major, is attending medical school at NYU.

Addenda

Dr. Stecher has just sent me some Christmas cards she received with the following news items:

Frances Ryder Zwanzig ('51) reports that both children are now in junior high school. Frances runs the editorial office of Reviews of Modern Physics. She and her husband spent a pleasant two weeks on the Riviera last summer.

Gertrude Neumark ('47) has been asked to give an invited talk at the American Physical Society meeting in San Diego in March.

Barbara Kerben ('70) is now in her third year at Downstate Medical School and is much occupied with clinical work at Kings County and associated hospitals.