Chair’s Message

Greetings of the Season from the faculty and staff of the Wright State Chemistry Department. I’m told there is an old Chinese curse that goes, “May you live in interesting times.” Whatever the case, the year 2001 was certainly an interesting one, both good and bad, for the Chemistry Department and the University.

First the bad news. Due to the faltering economy the state of Ohio expects to have a $600 million shortfall in revenues this year, and this shortfall was bound to impact Wright State’s budget. In the spring the university suffered a $7 million cut in subsidy, and this fall a second cut of $5 million was announced. On top of this John Fortman told us he was retiring (see article on the right). John will be sorely missed.

But there was good news also. Our alumni, faculty and students continue to accomplish great things, and two of our faculty members were promoted to higher ranks: Audrey McGowin was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure, and Suzanne Lunsford was promoted to Assistant Professor. Also, Mary Sparks joined the department as Senior Secretary, replacing Kelly Mader, who moved to another job. In addition, the department has gone through the arduous task of searching for a new faculty member in the area of environmental chemistry. We hope that by the time you receive this newsletter this search will have been successfully completed and a new faculty member hired to join us in the fall of 2002.

Finally, let me say that we love to hear from you and learn of your activities and accomplishments. Please use the enclosed form to bring us up to date. If you prefer, you can email me or Mary (mary.sparks@wright.edu) with your news. Best wishes for a very good year in 2002!

—Paul Seybold

Professor John Fortman Retires

John Fortman has retired after 36 years of distinguished service to the department and university. John retired at the end of June, and was feted in a Retirement Celebration on October 19th in which he presented a seminar on “Science and the Arts.” John received his B.S. from the University of Dayton in 1961 and his Ph.D. from Notre Dame in 1965. He joined the Wright State faculty in 1965 (along with George Hess and M. Paul Serve). He has served as Associate Chairman of the Chemistry Department since 1984.

John has received many honors over the years. In 1991 he received the University’s Presidential Award for Teaching, and in 1998 he was awarded the prestigious national Chemistry Manufacturers Association Catalyst Award for Outstanding Teaching of College Chemistry. As an American Chemical Society National Lecturer he has presented more than 200 talks to local ACS sections in 49 of the 50 states; and with Rubin Battino, he has presented their popular “Chem Demo” shows to about 8000 local middle and high school students each year for more than 20 years.

Although retiring from official duties, John will remain very active both at the university and in national affairs concerned with chemical education. He will continue both the Chem Demo shows and his travels as an ACS National Lecturer. (During the recent National Chemistry Week celebrations he gave 8 presentations in the Washington, D.C., and Baltimore areas.) He is organizing a symposium for the Orlando National ACS Meeting in April, and another for the Biennial Conference on Chemical Education to be held next July.

(continued on page 4)
Audrey McGowin Promoted to Associate Professor

Audrey McGowin has been promoted to Associate Professor of Chemistry. Audrey received her B.S. in Chemistry from Emporia State University, Emporia, KS, in 1985, and her M.S. (1989) and Ph.D. (1991) degrees in analytical/environmental chemistry from the University of Missouri, Columbia. She did her Ph.D. work at Missouri with Prof. Stanley Manahan. Audrey joined the Wright State faculty in 1994 as an Assistant Professor after working for three years at an analytical laboratory in Columbia, MO.

Audrey's research specialty is in environmental chemistry, where she has investigated the contaminants and decomposition products in compost materials and also “green chemistry” in the form of synthetic reactions carried out in supercritical carbon dioxide. She has published a dozen papers on environmental research topics. In the relatively short time she has been in the department she has become a popular mentor for M.S. students, with 10 M.S. degrees granted to students working under her guidance. In addition to presenting talks on environmental research she has been active in a number of joint research projects with grants funded by the National Science Foundation, the Wright State Foundation, and the Dayton Area Graduate Studies Institute. She presently leads a research group of four graduate students and one undergraduate research student. Audrey has taught a variety of courses in the environmental area as well as teaching in the freshman program.

Suzanne Lunsford Promoted to Assistant Professor

Suzanne Lunsford has been promoted from Instructor to Assistant Professor of Chemistry. Suzanne received her B.S. in Chemistry from Xavier University in 1990 and her Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry (with H.B. Mark, Jr.) from the University of Cincinnati in 1995. She is a coauthor of 10 scientific publications in the area of analytical chemistry. After a year of postdoctoral work at UC Suzanne began at Wright State in 1996 as Instructor in Chemistry. She has also held teaching positions at Cincinnati State and Miami University in Oxford, OH. At Wright State she has taught a wide variety of courses ranging from the Introductory course sequences to Teacher Training to Inorganic chemistry.

Suzanne's specialty is chemical education, and she has obtained a number of prestigious grants from different agencies including the Fund for Improvement of Post-Secondary Education, the Ohio Board of Regents, the Eisenhower Professional Development Program, and the CEHSP association. She has also presented her work at several professional meetings and runs workshops aimed at training teachers. She is leading the department's efforts to train Ohio middle and high school teachers and enhance their content knowledge in science.

In her free time Suzanne participates in a number of activities ranging from swimming and teaching baton twirling to selling real estate. She lives in Cincinnati and commutes up to Wright State.

Visit Us! The Chemistry Department's web site is: www.chm.wright.edu
Dan Ketcha gets P&G Grant

Procter & Gamble Corp. has awarded Associate Prof. Dan Ketcha a three-year $150,000 grant to establish a laboratory course in the area of combinatorial chemistry. As a result, Wright State will be the only university in Ohio, and one of just a handful in the country, to have such a course. Combinatorial chemistry is a relatively new approach in organic chemistry that has made great inroads in the pharmaceutical industry, especially in the search for new drug candidates. It involves the production and testing of huge numbers of compounds in very small amounts, more a shotgun approach than the traditional drug industry approach in which a small number of specific compounds are synthesized and tested. The idea is that among this great number of diverse compounds produced some will be found to have the desired biological activity.

Dr. Ketcha

Prof. Ketcha spent a sabbatical year in 1998-1999 at P&G in Cincinnati working on combinatorial chemistry. He says, "The knowledge and technology used by the drug industry is slowly filtering into academics. Right now there isn’t anywhere to learn combinatorial chemistry except on the job. Having this lab will prepare Wright state students with the skills industry needs."

As this article was being written, Prof. Ketcha was also been informed that he will be awarded a joint grant from the National Science Foundation to develop training courses in combinatorial chemistry.

Faculty Notes

William Feld—The Feld Group consists of graduate students Jim Sawyer, Mike Matuszewski, Stacey Fauley, Rachel Smith and Steve Sims and undergraduates Erich Baum, Matt Dalton and Kristina Weaver. The DAGSI program award (WPAFB) ended in June (Jim and Mike) and Mike stayed on as a SOCHE student. Funded research continues in the area of battery electrolytes. Jim finished his Masters degree and moved to the graduate program at Indiana University. He was joined there by Erich Baum. The DAGSI group (Jim and Mike) had a paper at the San Diego ACA meeting and Matt presented a paper in the undergraduate research symposium at the Chicago ACA meeting. Nancy is busy preparing for a recital (duet with her friend Wanda Coalson) in Bonn, Germany in December. Wanda’s husband and I are going as “roadies!” Laura is back in Dayton and works at Miami Valley Hospital as a Medical Social Worker. Adam is still at WSU six months and at Woodward Camp (PA) the other six months – we are counting on him graduating some day.

Eric Fossum spent the summer in the polymer branch at AFRL working on processable thermally stable polymers. The project was funded through a summer faculty fellowship program. Students (M.S.) graduated, David P. Bernal and Jack Kousis; both are currently seeking employment. Current funding comes by way of the Research Corporation and the American Chemical Society - Petroleum Research Fund. On a personal note, my wife (Renae) and I are expecting our first child in February.

Paul Seybold's research group had a highly productive year in 2001. Kevin Gross finished his M.S. research on theoretical prediction of pK, with 3 papers published and 3 more in press or in preparation. Grad students Chad Hollingsworth, Casey Kelly, and Steve Peterangelo are busy preparing their research results for presentation at a Quantum Chemistry Symposium to be held in Florida in February, and undergrad Matt O’Malley has done excellent work in the areas of QSAR and cellular automata models. M.S. grad Rory Korzan is getting very interesting results on factors influencing epoxide ring opening as he continues research part time while teaching full time in Springboro.

Ken Turnbull’s year, after factoring in the amount of time he spent awake with the stress of one newly walking son, was actually 2.5 years long. The long standing house redo became a house redon’t, so making over has become covering over. With luck, and a lot of Liquid Nails, one of the Turnbull mansions should be up for sale in the spring. For the second summer, Ken worked at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in an attempt to make better NLO materials (feel free to fill in your interpretation of the acronym). However, his first love hasn’t been forgotten and the frontiers of sydnone research again were eased back by 1 or 2 millimeters!
**David Grossie** was appointed the Assistant Chair of the department following John Fortman’s retirement. Congratulations and condolences are being accepted. He is continuing to tend to the departments computers and the department web server. He has also capitalized on research collaboration with three of the synthetic organic chemists in the department (Feld, Ketcha, & Turnbull), publishing the x-ray and crystal structure of three new compounds.

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### Alumni Notes

**Michael Cox M.S. '77** is Research Director, Detergent Intermediates and Surfactants, at Sasol North America, Austin, TX. michael.cox@us.sasol.com

**Marc Porter B.S.'77, M.S. '80** returned to WSU to present a departmental seminar on Sept. 28 describing Marc's work on “Nanometric Platforms.” Marc directs a large (ca. 25 member) research group at Iowa State University. Marc and his wife **Shelley Coldiron M.S. ‘87** have started two high tech companies to capitalize on new discoveries. Mporter@porter1.ameslab.gov

**Michelle Fugett BS '84, M.S. ‘86** is an Exploratory Project Manager at Pfizer Global Research & Development in La Jolla, CA. michelle.fugett@agouron.com

**Jeff Schreier B.S.'89 and Kathy (Stuubs) Schreier B.S.’92** are celebrating the birth of Clarice Helen Schreier on Nov. 16, 2001. Kathy and the baby are said to be doing great! k.m.schreier@worldnet.att.net

**Kalpana Krishnaswami M.S. '91** has moved to India with her husband Raghu, as Raghu now works for GE in Bangalore. Kalpana ran her own computer science company for three years prior to the move. kkalpana@vsnl.net

**Jim Eutsler B.S.’99** is working at Procter & Gamble in Cincinnati and pursuing an MBA degree at Xavier University. eutsler.jr@pg.com

**Jeff Cox B.S. '99** is working as a Quality Control Analytical Chemist at Roxanne Laboratories in Columbus, OH. Roxanne is a subsidiary of the German pharmaceutical firm Boehringer-Ingelheim. Jcox28@columbus.rr.com

**Andrew Weisner B.S. '01** has been named a Graduate Council Scholar and given a Graduate Council Fellowship to pursue his M.S. degree in the WSU grad program.

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### Did You Know? Units update

- The ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter. 
  - Eskimo pi

- Time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement. 1 bananosecond

- Half a large intestine. 1 semicolon

- Basic unit of laryngitis. 1 hoarsepower

- 453.6 graham crackers. 1 pound cake

- 16.5 feet in the Twilight Zone. 1 Rod Sterling

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### 2001 M.S. Graduates

- **David P. Bernal (Dr. Fossum)**
- **Sarwat Chowdhury (Dr. Turnbull) University of Illinois Chicago, Ph.D. in Chemistry**
- **Heather Dyar (Dr. Katic) Teaching at Wilmington College**
- **Tim Frazier (Dr. Goldfarb)**
- **Kevin Gross (Dr. Seybold) Air Force Institute of Technology, Ph.D. Program in Physics**
- **Holly Krall (Dr. Katic) Fairday Technologies Corp.**
- **Nicole Terese Richard (Dr. Bombick)**
- **James R. Sawyer (Dr. Feld) Indiana University, Ph.D. program in Chemistry**

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