

Summer 2012
Volume 8

KSU Chemist

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Dear Friends –

It is difficult to believe that this is already the eighth newsletter since we re-instituted them. So much has happened over that period, and several big changes are looming, yet one thing has remained constant: our students, faculty and staff continue to bring great credit to our department!

Last Fall, Angela Grommet, junior in Christer Aakeröy's research group, was named a Goldwater Scholar - our department's 15th overall. Jackie (Johnson) Rankin, B.S. 2011 and now at the University of Illinois, was awarded an NSF Graduate Fellowship, the fifth student from our department to receive this prestigious fellowship in the past five years.

This Spring, it was announced that *two* of our graduate students, Evan Hurley and Steven Klankowski, will receive KSU Research Foundation Doctoral Research Scholarships. Steven is a third year student in Jun Li's group and Evan is a fourth year student in the Aakeröy group. These highly competitive awards recognize students of exceptional academic achievement whose research has the potential for disclosure of intellectual property and/or commercial application.

Senior Scientific Glassblower Jim Hodgson received the Presidential Award of Excellence for Unclassified Professionals in the category of Productivity, Creativity and Innovation. At a special reception ceremony, President Schulz read Jim's award citation, which spoke to his scientific, artistic, technical and interpersonal skills - all of which are things that we've known and admired for a very long time!

Jun Li earned promotion to the rank of Professor of Analytical Chemistry and



Christine Aikens earned (early) tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor of Physical Chemistry. Ryszard Jankowiak received an appointment as Ancillary Professor of Physics and also earned a sabbatical leave: Ryszard will spend Spring 2013 conducting research in Milan and Estonia with colleagues who collaborate on his NSF and DOE grants. Dan Higgins was chosen by *Analytical Chemistry* to be the Guest Editor for the journal's special virtual issue on Novel Optical Probes. Collectively, our faculty members also continue to shine: during fiscal year 2011, the department had another record year of extramural research support, exceeding \$3.75 M.

In October, we welcomed John Collins back to campus as our Distinguished Chemistry Alumni Lecturer: John spoke to a large crowd on "The New Patent Act and Its Impact on University Research and Technology Transfer".

The Alumni Advisory Council held its meeting in April this year, and the highlight was a session for students on "How to Distinguish Oneself in Today's

Job Market". Johanna Häggström and John Berschied each gave terrific, insight-filled presentations to the packed house in King 4.

Donna Wright, our wonderful Accountant II, retired last Fall after 36 years at KSU. We were fortunate to be able to attract Lisa Percival from Geography to fill that position. Our Storekeeper Arlon Meek also retired after 34 years at KSU and we were glad to be able to hire Ralph Hudson to take over those duties.

Also on the horizon: Earline Dikeman, our indispensable Director of Laboratories (and so much else), has announced that she will retire in 2013 after 41 years (!) with us.

We lost a dear friend of the department last year: Jerry Patrick passed away in October. Jerry created a distinguished departmental lecture series and teaching awards for both KS high school teachers and our own GTAs in memory of his wife, Phyllis. Thanks to the generosity of his son, Kerry, these tributes will continue.

We're now into the fifth year of rocky times for higher education in Kansas: our state budget cutbacks show no signs of being reversed and honestly it has been frustrating not to be able to reward our colleagues' amazing accomplishments with any merit increases over that period. Yet, the department continues to thrive, in large measure because of the support we receive from so many of you. Despite the strong headwinds, we have much to be proud about: thanks for helping to sustain our excellence.

Eric Maatta



Mr. Ohno's Cranes Come Home

Thanks to the generosity of Robert and Carol Culbertson, one of Mitsugi Ohno's delicate and beautiful crane sculptures is back home in our department. The cranes, about 8" tall, were commissioned by KSU President Duane Acker in the late 1970s, and Dr. Acker presented them to Mr. Culbertson's father. In the photo at right are Jim Hodgson, Mrs. Nao Ohno, Robert Culbertson, Carol Culbertson and Eric Maatta.



Photo credit: Sheila Walker

Before and After



The photo at left was taken in a teaching lab in CB during May 2011 prior to the start of fume hood duct replacement. Similar scenes could be found in 49 CB labs over a nine-month period! All of the 147 hoods in CB now have excellent face velocities (right) and feature energy-efficient self-closing proximity sensors on the sashes.



Our Newest University Distinguished Professor

Christer Aakeröy has been named University Distinguished Professor, joining Ken Klabunde and Duy Hua as our department's recipients of the University's highest academic honor. Since joining our department as an Assistant Professor in 1996, Christer has established himself as a world leader in supramolecular chemistry. His research output is both prolific (49 publications since 2005) and influential (> 500 citations per year). He has delivered plenary lectures at conferences around the world and has organized symposia for various scientific societies, including the newly-created Gordon Research Conference on Crystal Engineering. He is shown below surrounded by members of his current research group which includes three visiting scientists, seven Ph.D. students, one M.S. student and two undergraduates. Congratulations, Christer!



Photo credit: David Mayes, K-State Communications and Marketing

Donors to the Chemistry Department 7/1/11 - 6/30/12: Thanks to one and all for your support!

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Generous contributions from the individuals, corporations and organizations above have helped us to support talented undergraduates, attract quality graduate students, enhance our instructional and research equipment, host outstanding scientists for interactive visits, and send our students to conferences to present their research findings. Should you be interested in contributing (or if you have any corrections), please contact Director of Development, Sheila Walker (1-800-432-1578; 785-532-7511; sheilaw@found.ksu.edu). We would be honored to have your support.

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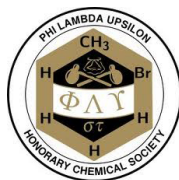
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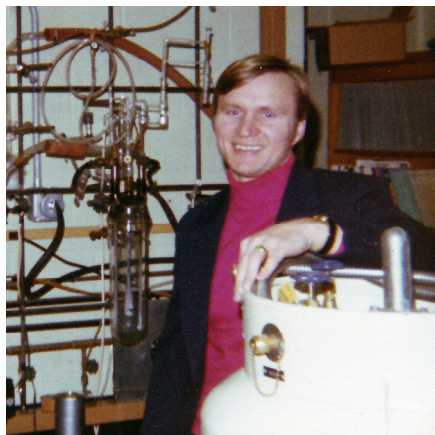
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better yet, stop by.
We'd enjoy hearing
from you.



Our Alpha Epsilon chapter of PLU - chartered in 1931 - has long been an integral part of many of the department's activities. It sponsors an annual lectureship; hosts our Fall departmental picnic; and offers travel stipends to members presenting their research at conferences. It is completely student-run and is self-supporting through sales of laboratory manuals for our undergraduate courses each semester. PLU also presents several classroom and research awards each year. In 2012, these awards went to: Emilie Guidez (Graduate Research Award); Allan Prior and Kanika Sharma (Graduate Classroom Award); Brian Barngrover (Mitsugi Ohno Award); Thi Nguyen and Feng Li (Departmental Research Award); Pamela Maynez (Senior Award); Mattithyah Tillotson (Junior Award); Michael Woodworth (Sophomore Award); and Christine Spartz (Freshman Award).

Say it ain't so, Ken!



Despite repeated urging, pleading and even attempted bribing by his colleagues, Ken Klabunde has announced that he will retire from the department in August 2013. Among his 43 years as a Chemistry professor, 34 will have been spent here: he arrived at K-State in 1979 as Head. He served nine years as Head, was named University Distinguished Professor in 1988, and was the Founder of NanoScale Corporation. With more than 500 publications and scores of patents, his research accomplishments have brought tremendous

recognition to the department. The 171 members of his research team over the years have included 46 Ph.D. students, 60 postdocs and 33 undergraduates.

We will hold a special celebration to honor Ken. Tentative plans are for a reception on campus the afternoon of Friday May 31 and a symposium in the department featuring his coworkers and colleagues on Saturday June 1. Check our website for details as we draw near.

A Round of Applause for:

Khanh Hoa Tran Ba, 3rd year Ph.D. student supervised jointly by Takashi Ito and Dan Higgins, who received both the 2012 Fateley-Hammaker Collaboration in Research Award and the 2012-13 Clifton Meloan Analytical Chemistry Scholarship.

Steven Klankowski, 3rd year Ph.D. student in Jun Li's group, who received an NSF fellowship to attend this Fall's CMMI Engineering Research and Innovation Conference.

Ayomi Perera, 4th year Ph.D. student in Stefan Bossmann's group, was judged best at the KansasBio Capitol Research Summit in Topeka, and was the Grand Prize winner at the NSF EPSCoR Energy poster session in Sun Valley, ID.

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