Looking Back—
Dr. Guy White

A conversation with Dr. Guy White, a native South Carolinian and one of the oldest living alumni of the chemistry department’s class of ’29, quickly becomes immersed in some of the grand old names of USC chemistry. White’s talk of his time in the department is filled with names familiar to students, faculty, and friends of the department—Copenhaver, Lipscomb, Bouknight, Davis, and others.

White, who turned 94 in June, began undergraduate studies in chemistry at USC in 1925. White recalled, “I was an undergraduate assistant to Dr. William Burney, and after I graduated, Joe Bouknight became Burney’s assistant.” Burney, who had studied under Dr. Robert Bunsen (of Bunsen burner fame) in Heidelberg, was a professor in the chemistry department from 1880 to 1931, and was chair of the department for many years. Bouknight went on to become a USC chemistry professor, and has both a teaching award and a lecture hall named for him in the department.

As a sophomore, White was an assistant for yet a third of USC chemistry’s “old timers,” Dr. Guy F. Lipscomb. White

History Repeats Itself in Department’s Legacies

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry alumni Dr. H. Willard Davis and Dr. David Pond both help to ensure the success of the department through their memberships in the Friends of Chemistry and Biochemistry Club; however, each also enjoys a more personal legacy here.

Dr. H. Willard Davis recalls the first time that he and his wife Mary were introduced by their granddaughter Mary Peyton Davis. Dr. Davis recalls, “She introduced us as Granny and Pa—she didn’t know that we had names.” Mary Peyton is certainly aware of her grandfather’s name now. As a third-year graduate student in USC’s Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, she is well acquainted with his status as a former chair of the department, as well as the namesake of the department’s annual H. Willard Davis lectures.

Dr. Davis entered USC as a chemistry undergraduate in 1933, and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering (which at that time, was awarded by the Department of Chemistry) in 1937.

After completing graduate work at the University of Cincinnati, he returned to USC in 1941 to teach chemistry and chemical engineering. He served administrative roles as the chair of the Department of Chemistry, then as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and finally as vice president and vice provost for Advanced Studies and Research. He retired from USC in 1977.

When asked if her grandfather had a role in her decision to choose chemistry as her field of study, Mary Peyton said, “Genetically, maybe. I think he had an indirect role; I knew he was a chemist and a teacher, but we didn’t really talk about science until I was in college.”

Dr. Davis added, “We didn’t talk much about chemistry for two reasons—for one, organic was my specialty, and I don’t think she likes it very much. Second, I taught my last chemistry class in 1962, so I may be a bit out of touch.”

You Can Help!

Help perpetuate the department’s tradition of producing outstanding chemistry students by making a donation to one of our scholarship, fellowship, or lectureship funds. See the enclosed envelope for more information.

Thank you!
Adams’ Research a Catalyst for a Cluster of Awards

Catalysts are required for a number of industrial processes, from oil refining to the making of polyester. A single metal is usually at the heart of a catalytic reaction; for example, a car’s catalytic converter uses platinum. USC’s Dr. Richard Adams is working with his research group on new and better catalysts that use not one, but two kinds of metals, also known as cluster compounds or mixed-metal catalysts. Adams’ work on these new catalysts has earned him many recent honors, from the local level to the international.

At the March ACS meeting in Anaheim, California, Adams received the ACS Award in Inorganic Chemistry for his work with metal-carbonyl cluster compounds and resultant contributions to better understanding of these compounds and their application as catalysts. Adams was also recently honored internationally with a Humboldt Research Award from Germany’s Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. In addition, Adams has recently accepted two awards from local ACS sections, the ACS Georgia section’s Charles Holmes Herty Medal in May, and ACS Carolina-Piedmont section’s Stone-Will Award for outstanding and valuable achievements in chemistry in October.

Traditionally, two main types of single-metal catalysts prevail in industry: homogeneous and heterogeneous. Homogeneous catalysts are often chosen due to their high selectivity; that is, they yield a high amount of one product. Due to low reactivity, however, it is often difficult to separate the product from its catalyst, and extensive energy is required.

Conversely, heterogeneous catalysts have low selectivity and high reactivity; they yield low amounts of a variety of products that are more easily separated from their catalyst, requiring less energy. In industry, these catalysts are used more widely than their homogeneous counterparts, Adams explains, because “heat, or energy, is money.” Despite their wide use in industry, a main drawback to these catalysts is their low yield of desired product.

Adams explained that in his work, he attempts to explore a “bridge between the two” types of catalysts by creating catalysts that use two metals instead of one. “But I hope even more that cluster compounds can provide a better understanding of how heterogeneous catalysts work,” he added, “For some reason, the two different metals working together seem to be better than the two working separately. We want to figure out why.” Cluster compound catalysts, like their heterogeneous counterparts, produce transformations on multiple sites, but they do so “under homogeneous conditions,” Adams said, “so they can be studied in greater detail.”

Adams uses x-ray crystallography to study the catalytic reactions; this technique allows him to create three-dimensional, stop-action images of the catalysts at work. He studies the catalysts in solutions as well, hoping that he can apply what he learns from these simpler conditions to more complex industrial processes. Adams anticipates that the more efficient mixed-metal catalysts will supplant their single-metal counterparts in industry. “We expect these kinds of catalysts to be what industries will use 20 or 30 years from now,” he said.

Adams is a leader in the field of cluster compound research, and was ranked as one of the world’s most cited inorganic chemists in a recent analysis of data compiled by the Institute of Scientific Information. His is a co-editor of the Journal of Cluster Science and American regional editor of the Journal of Organometallic Chemistry.

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would collect and distribute papers for Lipscomb’s organic chemistry course, and remembers the professor’s unique method of calling roll on the days that tests were returned. White explained with a chuckle, “Professor Lipscomb would announce, ‘Mr. Jones, 75; Mr. Smith, 60.’” During the summer at USC, White worked at Columbia’s waterworks conducting water analyses.

White was only the second student to graduate from USC with a degree in chemical engineering, which at that time was awarded by the Department of Chemistry. When White graduated with his bachelor’s degree on June 12, 1929, he was only two credits shy of a master’s degree, so he stayed and received it a little over a month later before moving on to the University of Pittsburgh for doctoral work. White worked at the Open Hearth Steel Works, Pell City, Alabama, in the summer between USC and the University of Pittsburgh.

To ensure that graduates of this department were well prepared for graduate school, the faculty gave White a thorough oral exam, including questions from text books that were only in italics. This exam made a lifelong impression on White.

The diligence toward academic preparation espoused and practiced by Copenhaver and other members of the USC chemistry department served White well, as he earned his Ph.D. in chemistry from Pittsburgh in 1932. He received recognition for his work with Dr. Alexander Lowy on an electrochemical method of dye analysis, which was to replace the more common chemical method.

At Pittsburgh, White maintained close contact with USC faculty, while also maintaining a long-distance relationship with his fiancée, Beth Carson, daughter of the USC chair in the Department of Physics at that time, Dr. Ashmead Courtenay Carson. After a long engagement, and White securing a permanent position at American Inca near Asheville, the couple married in November 1933.

The wedding was well attended by members of the USC scientific community. White said, “At that time, Carolina was very small community. Everyone loved Professor Carson, and I was marrying his

Please see White on page 4
Department Welcomes New Physical Chemist

When beginning her undergraduate studies, Donna Chen, now the newest member of USC’s chemistry faculty, applied as a computer science major to the Rochester Institute of Technology in her hometown of Rochester, New York.

“I don’t remember exactly what drew me to computer science. I think that my parents just hoped I’d do something technological,” Chen said.

An advanced placement chemistry course, however, taken during her senior year of high school changed her plans, and Chen ended up attending the institute as a chemistry major. While there, she did research at Eastman Kodak as part of the school’s cooperative education program. In this five-year program, students complete a year of course work, then divide their time over the remaining four years between classes and research in industry. Chen appreciated the wealth of experience this program offered her. “RIT is a small teaching school, so working at Kodak gave me the opportunity to work with instruments and techniques unavailable at school,” she explained. Her experiences in industry also gave her a chance to work in a variety of areas of chemistry. “I synthesized my own molecules, coated them into films, and then studied their photochemistry, which introduced me to p-chem techniques,” Chen said.

Despite an undergraduate focus on organic synthesis, Chen chose physical chemistry as a graduate student at Harvard University. Under the direction of Dr. Cynthia Friend, Chen studied reactions on metal surfaces in an ultra-high vacuum environment, using various spectroscopies to deduce reaction mechanisms. After completing a Ph.D. in 1997, Chen began postdoctoral work at Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore, California. At Sandia, she used scanning tunnel microscopy to study the growth of metal nanoparticles on oxide surfaces.

At USC, Chen plans to “merge what I did as a graduate student with what I did as a postdoc.” She plans to use ultrahigh vacuum techniques to investigate film growth and surface chemistry, and scanning tunneling microscopy will be used to image chemical reactions on the atomic scale. The goal of such research is to design better heterogeneous catalysts. These catalysts are used in a host of important industrial reactions, including petroleum refining processes, ammonia synthesis, and oxidation chemistry.

So far, Chen has enjoyed her time here at USC, finding that, “The department is incredibly collegial, and people really go out of their way to help.”

Completion in Sight at GSRC, Moving is Imminent

by Scott Goode

The Graduate Science Research Center (GSRC) is rapidly approaching its occupancy date. The contractor is nearly finished, a preliminary punch list has been compiled and addressed, and the architect, Jack Miller of the HOK firm, will certify the building as “substantially complete” and prepare a “final” punch list. The only major ongoing construction process is that of the cleaning crew. In addition, two subcontractors hired by USC are still in the building. One is a crew that pulls communications cable (voice and data) to approximately 600 locations and the other is the air and water balancing crew. Both should be finished some time in February.

The building has been landscaped, the exterior (save some corrective work on the roof) is complete, and the lab systems have all been installed. Every single electrical receptacle, fume hood, and cabinet will be checked by an engineer. The largest single task is balancing the airflow.

In a typical lab, there are six diffusers that bring conditioned air to the lab. The airflow is engineered to go from occupied areas (student work areas) and sweep into the hoods. A synthetic lab will have four hoods, a ventilated storage cabinet, two ventilated gas cylinder cabinets, and a general exhaust. The plans specify the airflow at each of these locations, and the balancing subcontractor will ensure that the airflow rates are correct.

The ventilation system is the heart of a modern chemistry research building and the one in the GSRC is state-of-the-art. Five leviathan air handlers, one for each floor, chill air to 55 degrees F (which dehumidifies it) and send it to the labs. A hot-water reheating system, operated by the lab’s thermostat, will adjust the temperature as needed. There is no air recirculation—the conditioned air is exhausted by the hoods and other lab exhaust systems. Most labs are at negative pressure, so any fumes generated will not migrate to the halls or move out of the lab. Some rooms, such as the clean room, are at positive pressure so dust particles cannot flow into the rooms.

Research groups are beginning to plan to move their labs. Moving could begin in February, but March is much more likely, considering the complexity of the process. While we will miss the Jones Physical Science Building, we are all looking forward to new, bright, spacious, and safe labs in the GSRC.
In fact, Mary Peyton notes, her current research has its roots in the time that Dr. Davis was finishing his teaching career. She is currently working on elemental analysis by laser ablation microwave-induced plasma spectroscopy. She will graduate with a Master of Science degree in December, after which she plans to move to the Washington, D.C. area and pursue a career in forensics.

As for Mary Peyton’s decision to attend USC for graduate school after earning a BS in chemistry at the College of Charleston in 1997, Dr. Davis said, “I certainly didn’t discourage her, but I was very careful not to pressure her. I wanted her to be able to do it on her own.”

In fact, Mary Peyton kept her lineage a secret for as long as she could, though due to some sleuthing on the part of then-admissions secretary Dr. Peyton Teague, Mary Peyton laughed, “it wasn’t hidden for long.”

Alycen Pond Nigro, a May 1999 Ph.D. graduate, also inherited a legacy that tied her closer to USC than the average student. Both Alycen’s parents attended USC; her father, David, earned a Ph.D. in chemistry in 1968 under Dr. Bob Cargill. While she felt no pressure from her parents to attend USC after receiving a bachelor’s degree from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1994, Alycen said, “I have been raised that USC is good and Clemson is bad,” but she mainly chose USC for its large public university atmosphere, and the general feeling she got from the campus and environs. Alycen added, “My parents really enjoyed their time in Columbia and assured me that it was a fun place to live. They were right!”

Dr. David Pond, now vice president of Chemical Technology at Eastman Chemical Company in Kingsport, Tennessee, was pleased that Alycen chose USC, as it allowed him to keep in close contact with the department and witness the changes that had occurred since he was a student. He said, “While Alycen was a student, I enjoyed going back and seeing the faculty, and seeing her have experiences that were somewhat the same, yet different from mine. Overall, I got a kick out of her going there.”

While Pond’s focus at USC was organic chemistry, Alycen chose to study biochemistry. He recalls encouraging Alycen toward biochemistry as an area “with a lot of future potential.” Alycen said, “When I decided to go into biochemistry at USC, Dad took a class on the subject so he could understand what I was talking about and the papers I wrote.”

Alycen is currently a postdoctoral research associate with Dr. David B. Goodin at Scripps Research Institute, engineering novel metalloprotein catalysts, specifically utilizing the cytochrome c peroxidase system.

When asked what it’s like to have two Drs. Pond from the same department and school in the family, Alycen said, “Let’s just say that my sister, who has degrees in education and English, gets really tired of talking about science and USC at the dinner table.”

*Do you know of other departmental legacies? Let us know using the enclosed envelope or any of the contact methods listed on page 6.*

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daughter.” When asked if members of the chemistry department like Dr. Copenhaver attended the wedding, White said, “Was Copenhaver at our wedding? Copenhaver was in our wedding!”

White says that the wedding and subsequent honeymoon date were included among the stipulations of his job at American Inca. “I wanted to get married, so once I got my permanent job, I said, ‘Well, in two months I want my vacation,’” White said. When the time for his vacation arrived, he said, “We married between paychecks.”

Dr. White spent 30 years with American Inca in Asheville, where he was involved with the viscous rayon process, in which pulp suspended in carbon disulfide is extruded through platinum nozzles into a fixing solution of acid and salts. As expected of any good industrial chemist, he improved the process so that tank carloads of carbon disulfide were saved monthly.

His efforts were considered so valuable in the production of fabric for tires that he was deferred from military service in World War II. In his last few years, White spent his time as a recruiter for new chemists for American Inca.

White currently lives in Columbia.

*We hope to have an article on one of our alums from the early years of the chemistry department as a regular feature in USC Chemist. If you have stories, or know of someone who does, please contact us.*
A New Tradition of Honoring Graduates

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry recently established a new tradition to honor its graduates, holding receptions which coincided with both May and August 1999 commencements. These receptions, for new alumni and their parents and advisors, were held at the Faculty House on the USC Horseshoe.

The May reception honored three doctoral, three master’s, and 19 bachelor’s graduates, while at the August reception, three doctoral, three master of science, one master of arts in teaching, and 11 bachelor’s graduates were honored. The Department presented each graduate with a book of photographs of the USC campus. A representative of the USC Alumni Association attended each reception and presented each graduate with a gift package that included a free one-year membership in the association. Both receptions had an excellent turnout, with faculty, students, and parents enjoying fine food, drink, and conversation.

The department also saluted a guest of honor at each event. May’s gathering served as a setting for an official farewell to Dr. James Tour, who after nearly 11 years as a chemistry professor at USC, left in July for a new position at Rice University in Houston. In August, the department honored Dr. Wolfgang Herrmann, a recipient of an honorary degree at USC’s commencement ceremony that weekend (see article, page 7). Dr. Dunlap, chair of the department, presented both Tour and Herrmann with signed copies of “South Carolina: A History” by Walter B. Edgar.

Department Presents Student Awards

The department is proud to be the home of a number of talented students who have been recognized at the departmental, university, and state levels. Following are some recent honorees.

**Life Scholars**

The State of South Carolina recently began awarding Life Scholarships of $1,000 per semester to South Carolina high-school graduates to attend colleges and universities in the state. To be eligible, a student must maintain a 3.00 grade point average for at least 30 credit hours per year. Forty-five USC chemistry majors, listed below, were awarded Life Scholarships for the 1999-2000 academic year.

- Brandie Andrews
- John M. Aronson
- Patrick Atkinson
- Jonathan Black
- Nefertiti Brown
- Eric Childers
- Brandi Clelland
- April Coker
- George Cooper
- Jessica Craft
- Rita Cuthbertson
- Mary Dalton
- John Dantzler
- Keith Davis Jr.
- Rolando Davis
- Jason Ford
- Michael Gowan
- Stephanie Hooper
- C. Morgan Jones
- Brent Keener
- Courtney King
- Charles Kinney
- Amanda Klicka
- Steven Krusinski
- Agatha Lynn
- Dennis Martin
- Kristen Matthews
- Randolph Meekins
- Christopher Munnerlyn
- Nicole Munns
- Megan Nikolai
- Shital Patel
- Angela Powell
- Kyle Proffitt
- Lan Quan
- Carrie Saneris
- Matthew Slamske
- Sandra Shotwell
- Christina Soldano
- Kimberly Spencer
- Marisha Swinger
- Pamela Tisdale
- Kelly Whitted
- Timothy Williamson
- James Wilson

**South Carolina Honors College Undergraduate Research Fellows**

This year, the USC Honors College awarded 21 undergraduate research fellowships, seven of which went to chemistry majors. The $1,000 fellowships, matched by the department, funded research projects for the following students:

- Joshua Aronson
- David Arrington
- Andrew Hughes
- Angela Johnson
- Ben Morris
- Andrew Rampey
- Ripal Shah

**Bouknight Teaching Award Winners**

The following graduate students were honored for outstanding teaching during the spring 1999 semester:

- Rosemarie Chinni
- Vanessa Kinton
- Amy Ledbetter
- Narendra Meruva
- Laurie O’Daniel
- Katherine Stitzer

**Durig Travel Award Winners**

These students were awarded travel funds to present research at national and international conferences:

**June 1999**

- Eric Brauns
- Kristine Eland
- J. Chance Carter
- Susan Glenn

**October 1999**

- Shalawn Jackson
- Mark Sochaski
- Dimitra Stratis
Faculty and Student News

Dr. Richard Adams was the 1999 ACS Inorganic Award Seminar Winner and was honored at a symposium at Northwestern University in October. He was also awarded the 1999 Charles Holmes Herty Medal by the ACS Georgia section and the 1999 Stone-Will Award by the ACS Carolina Piedmont section.

Drs. John W. Baynes and Suzanne Thorpe organized a Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry team for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation Walk for the Cure in October. The team raised over $2,700 for diabetes research. Dr. Baynes was also appointed to the editorial board of a new journal, BioGerontology, to be started in January/February 2000 by Kluwer Academic Publishers in the Netherlands.

Dr. Mark Berg was granted tenure at the level of associate professor.

Dr. Thomas Bryson married Jo-Reba Nesbitt in July.

Dr. R. Bruce Dunlap was awarded the South Carolina Alliance for Minority Participation Outstanding Research Mentor Award.

Dr. Micky Myrick was a member of a team that received the 1999 Imaging Solution of the Year Award from Advanced Imaging Magazine in the Military, Law Enforcement and Forensics division for a project to produce instantaneous three-dimensional maps of ocean waves. Dr. Micky Myrick married Dr. Donna Chen on August 14.

Adaku N. Njoku was accepted to do independent research at the University of Minnesota for summer 1999.

Dr. Timothy Shaw was promoted to associate professor with tenure. On June 12, he married Tracy Benjamin.

Letter from the Chair

I want to employ this column to draw your attention to three important matters. First, in February 2000 we begin the movement of research laboratories, major instrumentation facilities, most faculty, graduate student, postdoctoral, and support staff offices to the new Graduate Sciences Research Center (GSRC); we expect the process of moving to require at least three months. We are very excited about the prospect of working in a state-of-the-art research facility. I will be communicating with you at a later date on our plans for the dedication of the GRSC.

Second, please note that this issue features an article on Dr. Guy White, Jr., BS and MS, chemical engineering, class of '29, as the first of a "Looking Back" series which will provide first person accounts to chronicle earlier days in this department. Please contact us if you know of stories of alumni, friends, and faculty of this department that would provide insight into the history of this department.

Third, I am very pleased to provide you an update on the status of the Bouknight Scholarship Fund coupled with the announcement of a major gift to that fund. The latter fund honors the late Professor Joseph W. Bouknight, who taught general chemistry and inorganic chemistry at the University of South Carolina to over 15,000 students from 1942 until his retirement in 1972. Dr. Bouknight, who was the recipient of the AMOCO Outstanding Teaching Award in 1962, was a very effective and caring instructor. The Bouknight Scholarship Fund was initiated in 1987 by a bequest from the estate of a friend and former student, Mr. Thomas Stokes; Dr. Bouknight matched the bequest, and his own estate provided a major contribution following his death in 1995. Nearly 200 donors have contributed to the fund since its inception. A major fund raising effort held in conjunction with the Dedication of the Bouknight Auditorium on October 16, 1998 was a major success resulting in sixty-seven Bouknight Chairholders ($500), fifteen Bouknight Patrons ($250-$499), and forty-nine Bouknight sponsors ($100-$249). As of November 1999, the value of this fund exceeded $126,000.

At Professor Bouknight’s request the proceeds from the latter fund are used to support the Bouknight Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards (six awards of $50 each per academic semester) and to underwrite Bouknight Scholarships for undergraduate chemistry majors whose career goal is to teach high school chemistry and related sciences. Two former Bouknight Scholarship recipients, Ms. Andrea Jurgens and Mrs. Annette Deavor Havens, are currently teaching chemistry at Ridgeview High School and Camden High School, respectively. A third recipient, Mr. James Wilson is a junior chemistry major associated with the South Carolina Honors College here at USC, while a fourth recipient, John Muir Sallie, graduated on December 13, 1999 with an interdisciplinary major in chemistry and physics and will begin work on his Master of Arts in Teaching degree in the Summer of 2000. For the 2000-01 academic year, the proceeds of the fund will support scholarships of $1,750 to at least three highly qualified chemistry majors.

Our long-term objective is to raise a $400,000 endowment for the Bouknight Scholarship Fund. The proceeds from such an endowment would support four $5,000 scholarships each year for prospective high school chemistry teachers. It is my great pleasure to inform you that a major step toward achieving the latter goal has been taken through a $25,000 gift to the Bouknight Scholarship Fund from Rhodia Silicones North America located in Rock Hill, South Carolina. We are very thankful that Rhodia Incorporated has joined the previous donors in underwriting the development of high school chemistry teachers. We continue to seek new gifts for the Bouknight Scholarship Fund.

R. Bruce Dunlap
Alumni News

Joseph H. Burckhalter, '34, was awarded the University of Illinois Alumni Achievement Award in May. This is the highest honor the University of Illinois Alumni Association bestows. The award recognizes his research which led to a cure for malaria and advanced the fight against AIDS and infectious diseases.

David W. Wallace, '41, recently endowed the Mada Still Wallace Scholarship at USC in memory of his wife.

John E. Mahaffey, BS '48, has retired and is an emeritus professor at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. He served as a professor and chair of the Department of Anesthesiology for 32 years.

William C. Floyd, '76, is a scientist at GenCorp in Chester, S.C. His son, Tripp, was accepted to attend the Governor’s School for Science and Math in Hartsville, S.C. this fall. Tripp’s main interest is in chemistry.

Greg Ayers, BS '79, practices dentistry in Greenville, S.C. He began an all-volunteer dental program in the upstate called “Smiles for a Lifetime.” This program treats uninsured children from the ages of 3 to 17. The “Smiles” program, recently presented the Vanguard Award as the best new volunteer program in South Carolina, will branch out this year to other major cities in the state. Ayers says, “I knew p-chem would come in handy sooner or later!”

Angela McCaskill Roberts, '79, is using her chemistry background as a homeschooling mother of three sons, ages 7, 9, and 15. She is a minister’s wife living in the mountains northwest of Knoxville, TN.

David Potter, '92, a senior medical student at the Medical College of Wisconsin, was awarded that institution’s Armand J. Quick Award for outstanding scholarship in biochemistry in May.

David Lynn, '94, received a Ph.D. from the California Institute of Technology in June, and is currently a postdoctoral research associate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Gary S. Bartley, Ph.D. '96, is currently a research scientist at Protein Delivery, Inc., in Durham, N.C., researching oral insulin and the synthesis of treatments for breast and cervical cancers. Before this, he was a postdoctoral associate, then a research associate II at Research Triangle Institute.

Rebecca Bullard-Dillard, Ph.D. '96, currently an assistant professor of biology at Claflin College in Orangeburg, S.C., was awarded that institution’s 1998-1999 James Hunter Award for Excellence in Teaching and Education (Claflin College Professor of the Year). She was also named chair of Claflin’s Department of Biology this year, and is a member of the Diversity Advisory Committee at the Medical University of South Carolina College of Health Professions.

Corrine Fantz, Ph.D. '98, was awarded her first grant in the amount of $60,000 a year for two years. She is currently a postdoctoral research associate in the clinical chemistry program at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

Katherine Hines, '98, began her medical school studies at East Tennessee State in August.

David J. Steadman, Ph.D. '98, was recently awarded a two-year Army postdoctoral fellowship grant. He is currently researching prostate cancer at the Lombardi Cancer Center at Georgetown University.

At USC’s commencement exercises on August 7, Dr. Wolfgang A. Herrmann, a German chemist nominated by Dr. Richard Adams, was presented an honorary doctor of science degree. Herrmann is president of the Technical University of Munich, and like Adams, is one of the world’s most-cited chemists in the field of new catalytic processes using organometallic chemistry. Herrmann has authored about 500 scientific papers and co-authored 42 patents.

Adams remarked that he nominated Herrmann “because of his outstanding research accomplishments and the large industrial investments that Germany has made in South Carolina.” Adams has known Herrmann for about 15 years, mainly through their interactions at research conferences. Currently, both are regional editors for the Journal of Organometallic Chemistry.

Adams assembled the nomination materials in conjunction with Dr. Oswald Schuette of the Department of Physics. The nomination then had to meet the approval of the chemistry department chair, the dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, USC’s honorary degree committee, President John Palms, and finally the Board of Trustees.

Accompanying Dr. Herrmann on his visit to South Carolina were his wife Freya and their three daughters. In addition to commencement exercises, Dr. Herrmann and his wife were special guests at the department’s graduate reception, and the family also enjoyed tours of USC and of Columbia. Herrmann presented two seminars to Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry students and faculty, as well. After the weekend of commencement festivities, the Herrmann family moved on to Charleston for some relaxation and sightseeing before their return to Germany.
Looking Back

This photo was graciously proffered by a dear friend of the department, Max Gergel (B.S. Chemical Engineering, '42). The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry extends our warm thanks to Mr. Gergel. We would also like to invite other friends and alumni to submit any such photos to USC Chemist that might provide a glimpse into the history and intellectual life of the University of South Carolina. You may contact us at:

USC Chemist, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208
email: miller@mail.chem.sc.edu
tel: 800.868.7588.

Pictured, from left to right, are former USC Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry faculty members Dr. Willard Whitesell, Dr. H. Willard Davis, Dr. Guy Lipscomb, and Dr. James Copenhaver; taken in front of "old" LeConte College, circa 1942.