A
fter nearly three years of building, packing and moving, and many more years of planning and development, the University of South Carolina Graduate Science Research Center (GSRC) is complete and happily occupied by the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. On October 19, 2001, under a beautiful autumn sky, the College of Science and Mathematics (COSM) sponsored a dedication ceremony where honored guests, faculty, alumni, and students welcomed Dr. Harry Gray for the keynote address and Rear Admiral Jay Cohen for additional remarks.

This dedication ceremony was filled with excitement for chemistry and biochemistry faculty, students, and alumni, as well as other guests from the COSM and across the University. The keynote address by Dr. Harry Gray “set the tone for the caliber of work that is being done and that will be done in our state-of-the-art research labs,” said Dr. Gerard Crawley, Dean of the COSM. Dr. Gray is the California Institute of Technology Arnold O. Beckman Professor of Chemistry and the director of the Beckman Institute. Guests of the dedication ceremony were also able to hear remarks from Rear Admiral Jay Cohen, director of the Office of Naval Research, Department of the Navy. Dr. Cohen’s address was especially important, as a grant from the Department of the Navy contributed toward the resources needed to build the GSRC.

A special part of the ceremony was the singing of the national anthem by Amy Ledbetter Rogers, who received her Ph.D. in chemistry in 2000 from USC. So shortly after the September 11th attack, Rogers’ performance of the national anthem moved many audience members to tears. She said, “It was very moving to see the military out in the crowd saluting while I was singing. I was very honored to be asked to be a part of the building dedication.”

Representatives from state and local government were seated on the platform with then USC President Dr. John Palms, Dr. Harry Gray, Dr. Jay Cohen, Dr. Amy Rogers, Dean Gerard Crawley, Dr. Dan Reger, Dr. Jerry Odom (USC provost and chemistry faculty member), and student representative, Regina Wragg. Also in attendance were many former chemistry students and faculty, as the dedication was an excellent opportunity for alumni from all over the country to come “home.” Guests and alumni joined in honoring Dr. Guy Lipscomb, former chair of the chemistry department, as his son, Guy Lipscomb Jr., unveiled a portrait that he had painted of his father. This painting is currently displayed in the GSRC. The dedication offered many other exciting highlights, including tours of the new laboratory facilities, as well as the opportunity for guests to meet faculty and students.

The GSRC, a 158,000-square-foot facility, has increased the space available for departmental research by over 75 percent. The building was designed specifically as a chemistry research building and features a state-of-the-art system to control fume hoods, as well as many other features that make the GSRC a safer and more energy efficient research environment. Dr. Thomas Bryson, director of the graduate program, expressed the overall sentiment of researchers, saying, “It’s wonderful to be in a brand-new, very safe research facility.”
From the Chair

My first year as the department chair has had many positive moments, but also some difficult ones. Among the positives, two of our outstanding faculty, Scott Goode and Cathy Murphy, were promoted to full professor based on very strong files of accomplishment. Both Scott and Cathy started their academic careers here at South Carolina, adding to the long list of faculty who have been promoted over the years from assistant professors to full professors with tenure.

We have also been able to hire two new faculty members, both in new slots for the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. The department lost seven positions in the early 90s due to budget problems in the state, and we have slowly built back up to nearly where we were at that time.

John Lavigne, an organic chemist with his Ph.D. from the University of Texas, joined us in August after an unusual postdoctoral experience doing research in a start-up company. One of our own undergraduates, Lee Ferguson, has just accepted an offer to join us next fall. After a Ph.D. in analytical environmental chemistry at the State University of New York-Stony Brook, Lee is doing postdoctoral work at the Pacific Northwest Laboratories with a world-renowned mass spectrosocist. He is working in the area of proteomics, and will bring biological as well as environmental projects to our department. This second hire was made possible by a large statewide grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The grant was written and is directed by Professor John Baynes, a chaired professor in our department (see featured article on Professor Baynes).

The state budget shortfall and the downturn in the economy have created many difficulties. My first day on the job was greeted with a 3 percent budget cut. This cut was on total budget for the last fiscal year, and has drastically reduced our operating budget, although salaries are not affected. Things got worse for the state and the budget was cut another 1.25 percent in April. We are still facing another possible 3–5 percent cut in the middle of this fiscal year. These cuts will certainly make it more challenging to continue our outstanding record in teaching and research. One result of the cuts you will notice is that this newsletter has been combined with our Academic Highlights letter and changed from biannually to annually.

On a positive note, I believe that the new president of the University, Dr. Andrew Sorensen, will recognize the treasure he has in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and make sure our momentum is not stopped.

An interesting development is that despite the financial problems—maybe even because of them—our undergraduate population is up substantially. The number of students in our first-semester introductory chemistry course has gone from 600, to 700, to 840 over the past three years. We have had to increase both the number and size of the sections that we teach. Class size may reduce next year; the University had a higher percentage of acceptances from qualifying students than is normal. Of course, never discount the fact that the football team is winning, which has a surprising effect on applications and enrollment.

The one area that concerns me the most about the department is that these hard financial times will lower the number and quality of our graduate students. The key to the success of this department over the years has been to couple outstanding faculty with high quality graduate students. We must maintain that combination to remain successful. One of the methods we use to attract outstanding students is to offer them Teague graduate fellowships (named for Peyton Teague, our graduate director for many years), over and above their normal teaching/research assistant stipend. We have solicited our personnel and corporate friends to support the Teague Fund so that we can continue to attract the best graduate students. Please feel free to make a contribution to this fund!

Dr. Daniel Reger

College-Wide Graduation Reception

This year, the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry began participating in the College of Science and Mathematics graduation reception for its undergraduate and graduate students. The College of Science and Mathematics reception was held on May 11, 2002, on the patio of the new Graduate Science Research Center. Dr. Gerard Crowley, dean of the college, offered congratulations to the students and their parents. The heads of departments in the college also extended their best wishes to the new graduates. The reception, which is held every year, was an excellent time for the graduates to mingle with faculty, their fellow students, and the dean while enjoying fine food, drink, and conversation.
People in the chemistry department have been seeing new faces among the faculty this past year. Both Dr. John Lavigne and Dr. Vitaly Rassolov have a varied array of experience that makes them great additions to our department.

Dr. Lavigne joined the chemistry faculty this fall. He is a graduate of St. Lawrence University in New York, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry and a master’s degree in education. He then spent two years at St. Lawrence coaching cross-country and track and field before going on to earn his doctorate in organic chemistry from the University of Texas at Austin, where his specialty was molecular recognition. Prior to his appointment at the University of South Carolina, he spent two years at a medical diagnostic company in Austin called Labnetics.

At USC, his research involves using molecular recognition to organize molecules into secondary structures. “With that in mind, there’s a materials quest and also molecular electronics,” he said. “There’s a lot of overlap with myself and other people in the department, and even outside of the department—the nanocenter, for instance, as well as engineering and physics. The nanocenter brings a lot of that together.”

Dr. Lavigne, who was inspired to become a chemist after good experiences with chemistry professors during his freshman and sophomore years of college, came to the University of South Carolina for his first teaching job so that he could be at a good research school. “I want to do research, be a good teacher, and provide a quality chemistry education for the students of South Carolina,” he said.

Dr. Rassolov, who is originally from Russia, came to the University in August 2001. He studied in Moscow at the Institute of Physics and Technology, where he earned his master’s degree in chemical physics. In 1988, he spent a year in the peace studies program at the University of Notre Dame. He went on to earn his Ph.D. in chemistry there, working with Dan Chipman, from the Radiation Lab at the Department of Energy, and Bob Shuler. While at Notre Dame, he studied the ways electrons behave in liquids after they are ionized by radiation, and on the ways to compute properties of radicals.

At Northwestern University, where he did his postdoctoral studies, Rassolov studied with John Pople and Mark Ratner. There, he did research in density functional theory, modeling of chemistry of transition metal elements, and charge distributions in nanostructures.

Dr. Rassolov’s research interests fall into broadly defined quantum chemistry.

“My particular focus is on theory development for properties of hard-to-compute molecules, theory of reaction rates, and of electronic conduction in nanosystems,” he said. His research in chemistry is also a family affair: His wife works with him, doing research in quantum chemistry.

The University and the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry welcome these new faculty members, and look forward to the meaningful contributions they will undoubtedly make to the department.

Induction into Phi Beta Kappa is one of the highest academic honors that a student can receive, and the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry supports students in their quest to join this national honor society. Paying the student’s initiation fee is one way that the department shows its pride for these high-achieving students, and this year the department funded initiation fees for a record 12 students.

The chemistry department is the first department on campus to pay the application fees for students, and now other departments are following suit.

According to Lorraine Aun, a member of Phi Beta Kappa’s executive council at USC who works in the international office, “[The chemistry department] stands out because they’ve done it historically and given recognition to their students regarding their excellent achievement. We thought it was a wonderful way of encouraging the students and their commitment to excellence.”

Students who have recently been initiated into Phi Beta Kappa are also appreciative of the department’s efforts to encourage them academically, and say that it’s a great reward to students who have performed well.

“It’s such an honor to be chosen for the organization, and the fact that the department is willing to support me by paying the initiation fee makes it even more of an honor,” said senior Emma Broom, who was selected to join Phi Beta Kappa this year. “I think it’s a wonderful way for the chemistry department to encourage students to pursue high academic goals.”

Although Phi Beta Kappa attracts members from all disciplines, a majority of a student’s academic work must emphasize conceptual rather than applied material. Since a good deal of a chemistry student’s time is spent in labs working on applied material, those students who are inducted from the chemistry department tend to have a very well-rounded course load in the liberal arts. “It’s exceptional that science students are recognized for their achievements in liberal arts,” said Aun. “These are the people you want taking care of you in the future—they are not just scientists, they’re well-rounded. They’re high achievers in science who draw from multiple disciplines.”

Supporting students in achieving their academic goals is a task that the chemistry department does not take lightly, and paying initiation fees for our Phi Beta Kappa students is one way that we show our appreciation for our students’ hard work.
2001–2002 Proves to Be Exciting and Productive Year for Baynes

The 2001–2002 academic year was a good one for Carolina Distinguished Professor John W. Baynes. He had a major role in the establishment of the South Carolina Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network (SC-BRIN), was named a Trustees Professor, and had a National Institute of Health research grant funded for an additional five years, among other accomplishments.

Baynes Receives $6 Million Grant to Establish SC-BRIN

In August 2001, Baynes was awarded a three-year, $6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to establish the South Carolina Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network (SC-BRIN). Baynes is the principal investigator for this statewide consortial grant (www.brin.sc.edu), designed to enhance biomedical research activity at all of South Carolina’s universities and four-year colleges. It includes funds for hiring new faculty at Clemson University, the Medical University of South Carolina, the USC chemistry department, and the USC School of Medicine.

The SC-BRIN grant includes support for research enhancement at the College of Charleston, Furman University, and South Carolina State University, which may permit the purchase of research instrumentation and the hiring of new faculty and postdoctoral fellows. It also provides stipends for undergraduate students, release time for faculty researchers, support for summer undergraduate research programs and inter-institutional seminars, and co-sponsorship of activities in collaboration with the South Carolina Academy of Sciences.

The Training and Mentoring Core of SC-BRIN, directed by Bruce Dunlap, also collaborates with the SC-EPSCoR office to support more than $1 million in research grants that network faculty and student researchers among South Carolina institutions.

Baynes Named Trustees Professor

In May 2002, Baynes received the University’s prestigious Trustees Professorship Award. This award is given annually to the faculty member who holds the rank of tenured full professor and demonstrates a record of teaching excellence, as well as a record of outstanding performance in research and in public service activities. Baynes is the fourth recipient of this award; two of the three previous awardees have been from the College of Science and Mathematics, including Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry chair, Dr. Daniel Reger. In presenting the award, Provost Jerry Odom noted Baynes’s long-term contributions to teaching, administration, and research. These include his co-authorship of an internationally recognized textbook in medical biochemistry, his role in development of the department’s mass spectrometry laboratory, his service as a former department chair and director of medical biochemistry in the School of Medicine, and his outstanding research program on diabetes, atherosclerosis, and aging, now in its 26th year of continuous funding from the National Institutes of Health.

Provost Odom was quick to point out the role of Research Professor Suzanne Thorpe as co-investigator and Baynes’s constant companion in their joint research program. Baynes and Thorpe, married in 1975, have continued to work together in the supervision of postdoctoral, graduate, and undergraduate students since their arrival at USC in 1976. Baynes notes, “As you might expect, we don’t always agree with one another, but when we disagree, we either agree to disagree—often firmly—or we reach a consensus. For our postdoctoral fellows and students, this can create a dilemma. When they receive advice on two different ways to achieve the same experimental goal, they have to make a choice. The experience in decision-making prepares them for the day they will launch their own independent careers in research.”

Receiving MERIT Status from the NIH

In June 2002, Baynes and Thorpe received notice from the National Institutes of Health that their research grant on “Glycation of Protein in Diabetes” had been awarded Method to Extend Research In Time (MERIT) status. These awards typically go to researchers with strong track records and whose grant scores are in the top 1-2 percent of those undergoing peer review at the NIH. The MERIT award provides Baynes and Thorpe with five more years of funding for their research, and also permits an additional five years of funding on administrative review without the necessity of a formal competitive renewal application. This is the third consecutive MERIT award for this research program, the first two for eight years each in 1986 and 1994, placing Baynes and Thorpe’s research program in the top echelon of NIH-supported research programs.

Their research is also funded by a grant from the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and by an industrial contract. Over 20 postdoctoral fellows, 25 Ph.D. candidates, and 10 master’s
students, and 20 undergraduates have contributed to this research program. The research group currently includes three postdoctoral fellows, four graduate students, a senior research technician, and an undergraduate student.

Other Accomplishments

August of 2002 was also an exciting time for Baynes. He received notice that the NIH would be funding a two-year, $2 million supplement to the SC-BRIN grant, raising the total investment to $8 million over a three-year period. The BRIN supplement provides additional resources for expansion of research programs at four-year institutions, for funding of new interinstitutional grants, and for expansion of library resources for science research.

Then, Elsevier/Harcourt announced that they were planning to publish the second edition to Baynes’s textbook on medical biochemistry. Baynes began this academic year by contracting for retirement in 2006 through the Teachers and Employees Retirement Program, although he quickly adds that this was a purely financial decision.

“The rumors of my retirement are greatly exaggerated,” said Baynes. “It’s a pretty exciting time in my life right now. The BRIN program provides a unique opportunity to influence research development across the state, and Suzanne and I and the many researchers in our laboratory are making some of the most exciting and important discoveries of our careers. As long as the funding is available, my health permits, and our research provides hope for treatment of diabetes and its complications, we’ll find a way to continue our work here at USC. We’re hoping to attract more students to our group this year. The University is going to make great strides in biomedical research during the next decade and we plan to contribute to that progress.”

For more details on John Baynes and Suzanne Thorpe’s research program on the chemistry of aging and age-related diseases, please check out their Web site: www.chem.sc.edu/graduate/baynes3.html.

Jeffrey O. Boles (Ph.D. ’92) has recently been promoted to director of the environmental science Ph.D. program at Tennessee Tech, after serving as interim director for one year. He is also president of the biochemistry and biotechnology section of the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists. His research focus is on plant growth acceleration and the development of new selenium containing amino acid analogs.

William W. Burns (BS ’68) has retired from pediatric practice after a 20-year career as a medical officer in the Navy and a second, civilian career in Spartanburg. “I’m proud of the new GSRC building, even though my freshman-year honeycomb dormitory was razed to make spaces available. The old PSC was brand-new when we moved into it during my senior undergraduate year!”

Jim Deavor (Ph.D. ’83) is a professor of chemistry at the College of Charleston and the interim dean of the School of Sciences and Mathematics. He was also the chemistry and biochemistry department chair from 1995–2001, and received a distinguished teaching award in 1991. He lives in Charleston with his wife, Janet, and their two children, Luke and Grace.

Andrea S. Drew (Ph.D. ’94) is the director of academic advising for the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Missouri at Kansas City, where she is also a research assistant professor of chemistry. She was married to Todor Gounev (Ph.D. ’95), who is also a research assistant professor of chemistry at UMKC, on March 11, 2002, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Kira Fisher (wife of Dr. Ron Fisher, deceased faculty) writes, “It doesn’t seem that long, that I have been in retirement for 10 years! I still hear from my former students via e-mail. I traveled abroad and in the USA; the big news: I will be a great-great-gramma!”

Marci Kunkle Harvey (MS ’94) teaches high-school chemistry in Clemmons, North Carolina, where she lives with her husband, Jason, and their new son, William Reece Harvey, who was born on April 18, 2002.

Ben and Angela Johnson Morris (BS ’00) live in Charleston, and are finishing their second year of medical school at the Medical University of South Carolina. They are expecting their first baby in October.

Gregory P. Mullen (Ph.D. ’86) died of cancer on August 10, 2002. At the time of his death, Mullen resided in West Hartford, Connecticut, and was an associate professor in the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Connecticut Health Center, where he’d been a faculty member for the past eight years. An active and valuable teacher and researcher, he was recognized as a world expert in the field of DNA repair mechanisms. He is survived by his wife, Mary Harrigan Mullen of West Hartford, and their three children, Sam, Robby, and Will.

Erik L. Nimz (Ph.D. ’93) is currently a senior research investigator with Pfizer’s veterinary medicine research and development division. He currently resides in Killingworth, Connecticut, with his wife, Katherine, whom he married on February 14, 2002.

Kelly Sepcic (BS ’90) earned an MS in organic chemistry from Georgia Tech in 1992, and is completing her Ph.D. in analytical chemistry at Georgia Tech. She is currently the director of flavor research and development for Coca-Cola in Atlanta, Georgia.

Shelby F. Shuler (BS ’99) graduated with an MS in chemistry from Virginia Tech. He will begin studies as a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Alabama.

Chris L. Thomas (Ph.D. ’95) is now a black belt in 3M’s Six Sigma Operations, focusing on applying Six Sigma improvement methodology to the corporate analytical organization. On July 17, 2002, he and his wife, Erica (BS ’94), became the parents of a boy, Ethan David.

Taffy Williams (Ph.D., ’75) is the president and chief executive officer of Photogen Technologies in New Hope, Pennsylvania. Recently, Photogen Technologies achieved a breakthrough in vascular plaque detection, with PH-50 as a blood-pooling agent. This study has yielded encouraging results that may have a significant impact on the early diagnosis and treatment of atherosclerotic plaque in patients.

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 lecture-faculty funds. See the enclosed envelope for more information.

Thank you!
Looking Back: Lowrie Beacham Jr.

I entered Carolina as a day student in September 1927, and lived on campus only the last half of my senior year. I was granted free tuition, and other fees amounted to about $40 per semester. These I paid by carrying The State on a route in Shandon and in my last two years with the aid of a Harper Scholarship fund paying $22.22 per month; there, I served as a lab assistant for Dr. Lipscomb, Dr. Copenhaver, and Dr. Burney until his death in 1930.

In June 1931, at the age of 19, I received my degree. Being financially unable to pursue graduate studies, I sought a job. I was fortunate, for the week after graduation I went to work as a chemist with the South Carolina Highway Department, which had its testing laboratory on the south side of the campus near Greene Street. My salary was $100 per month. Because of state budget problems, this was reduced the next month to $95. Much worse, at the end of the year the entire laboratory was downsized, retaining only married employees with families.

For the next 18 months, I was intermittently employed as a laborer in a textile mill near Spartanburg, in an A&P grocery store, and a filling station. With Roosevelt’s inauguration and creation of the NRA (“We Do Our Part”), the economy improved and I entered a training program with Calco Chemical Company at Bound Brook, N.J. (now American Cyanamid) at $80 a month.

However, in my senior year I had taken the Civil Service examination for junior chemist—a two day exam—and had been seeded 18 on a register of about 2,000. In late 1934, I was offered an appointment with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. I started in New Orleans, but in 1936 I was transferred to the FDA’s Food Division in Washington, D.C., at a salary of $2000 per annum. It was a great job, with fascinating problems, and very capable associates—each one an expert in his own field. I remained with the FDA for more than 30 years, through changes in the laws we were enforcing, changes in administrations, and several reorganizations. I became the director of the Division of Food Chemistry and Technology, the new name for the old food division I entered in 1936, but now five times larger with about 125 professional employees. As an interesting adjunct to my duties, I served as the head of numerous U.S. delegations participating in the WHO-FAO Codex Alimentarius Program on international food standards and labeling regulations.

After retiring, I became a consultant and for the next 10 years had interesting assignments in Saudi Arabia, Mexico City, Rome, and in Washington as consultant and assistant to the president of the National Food Processors Association.

In my private life, I married Margaret Louise Thorne in 1939 and we have three sons: Lowrie III, who earned his bachelor’s degree from Davidson College and his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Richard, who received his bachelor’s and Ph.D. degrees from Yale; and Robert, who earned a bachelor’s degree from Duke University and a Juris Doctorate and Master of Business Administration from the University of Virginia.

I hope I haven’t bored you with my account of an enjoyable career that began in South Carolina, had its foundations at the University of South Carolina, and is tinged with only one regret: that so little of it was spent in South Carolina.

We would like to invite other friends and alumni to submit any photos or stories to the USC Chemist that might provide a glimpse into the history and intellectual life of the University of South Carolina. You may contact us at:

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Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208
E-mail: chemweb@mail.chem.sc.edu
Phone: 800-868-7588
Burgess Wins College of Science and Mathematics Staff Employee of the Year Award

Sam Burgess, the chemistry department’s business manager, is well-known for his friendly banter and welcoming demeanor since his arrival in the department in 1994. When there are business and building maintenance matters to be dealt with, Burgess is always ready to help.

Now, Burgess’s contributions to the department have been recognized, not only by the department, but by the College of Science and Mathematics as well. This year, he was named the COSM Staff Employee of the Year, an award that recognizes an employee’s outstanding service. The award is based on nominations from peers and faculty, who stepped forth to praise this beloved staff member.

“Sam Burgess is the perfect employee—he is completely reliable, works hard, works smart, and is always cheerful,” said professor Scott Goode. “He is driven by the task, not the clock.”

Burgess has been with the department since July 1994. Originally from Denmark, S.C., he earned a BS in accounting from Voorhees College. Prior to joining the University, he worked as a branch manager with First Union National Bank. He then worked at Denmark Technical College as a senior accountant and interim business manager prior to joining our department.

Although the department’s financial resources are a major part of Burgess’s job, other duties factor into his position as well, and he handles them all with aplomb. “We have nearly 100 active research grants headed by 25 faculty members, with each grant having its own set of issues that can and do go wrong. When things get difficult, the faculty run to Sam to solve problems. Sam knows how to work with each faculty member. He is effective in this role, because he really is good at dealing with people,” said department chair Dr. Dan Reger.

Building maintenance and troubleshooting also fall under Burgess, and he works to ensure that whatever needs to be done is accomplished. “He can be depended on to get the job done, to get people to work together, and then to communicate effectively so that everyone involved is up-to-date on the situation,” said Professor John Baynes. “As one example, the movement of the department office and stockroom from PSC to GRSC was seamless, without interruption in service. Sam worked hard to make that happen.”

Dr. Thomas Bryson, director of the graduate program, adds, “Sam Burgess is a relentless problem solver, but he operates with great sensitivity to all his colleagues. He always has time to address the smallest problem in spite of the incredible departmental burdens that have been added to his job.”

The COSM Staff Member of the Year award includes a $250 award and a plaque, but Burgess considers his job satisfaction and the recognition by the people he’s worked with to be the greatest part of the reward. “I think that my rapport with everyone is outstanding. Furthermore, even if there have been other opportunities in other departments or colleges that I could have pursued, I have not because of the love I have for the department.”

Longtime Researcher and Teacher Retires

This year, the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry will say goodbye to Dr. Ruta Bly, a postdoctoral researcher and longtime organic chemistry teacher who retired in May. Since 1961, when she began working with her husband’s research group, Dr. Bly has been with the chemistry faculty and experienced many changes in the department.

Her first teaching experience was in the fall of 1967, when she substituted for Peyton Teague while he was on sabbatical leave. Later, when her husband spent his sabbatical at the University of California at Berkeley in 1973, she was a visiting lecturer there. She was also a research associate in Chuck Casey’s group at the University of Wisconsin in Madison during her husband’s second sabbatical leave.

“There was a slight tendency to regard Bob and me as a unit instead of as two separate members of the department,” she said. “Sometimes, if undergraduates could not find me in my lab, they would expect Bob to be able to locate me, while most of the time he did not have the slightest idea where I was and what I was doing.”

Bly characterizes the department as ambitious and forward looking, as well as very research oriented. She has enjoyed the informal interaction with both graduate students and faculty—in a way, she says, she is part of both groups—and appreciates having the freedom to do what she likes most, teaching and researching.

After retirement, Bly plans to stay with the department for a little longer. She is currently doing research in collaboration with Dr. Uwe Bunz, but as time allows, she hopes to become more involved in community service.
2001–2002 Academic Year Highlights

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Appointment of New Faculty
Dr. John Lavigne, assistant professor, physical organic chemistry
Dr. Vitaly Rassolov, assistant professor, physical chemistry

Promotions of Current Faculty
Dr. S. Michael Angel, associate professor, promoted to professor of chemistry
Dr. Mark A. Berg, associate professor, promoted to professor of chemistry
Dr. Uwe H.F. Bunz, associate professor of chemistry, promoted to professor of chemistry, awarded tenure
Dr. Scott Goode, associate professor, promoted to professor of chemistry
Dr. Catherine Murphy, associate professor, promoted to professor of chemistry

Reappointments of Chaired Professors
Dr. John Dawson, Carolina Distinguished Professor
Dr. Roy Wuthier, Guy F. Lipscomb Professor of Chemistry

Appointments of New Support Staff
Nanette Goodwin, administrative assistant, Biochemistry Section
Alice Hartzog, administrative assistant, Graduate Studies
Barbara Wachob, administrative assistant, Undergraduate Studies

Retirements
Ruta Bly, research and teaching professor

2001 State Service Awards
Dr. R. Bruce Dunlap, 30 years
Diane I. Jackson, 20 years
Virginia H. Rogers, 20 years
James D. Ham, 10 years
Michael L. Myrick, 10 years

Editorial Board Appointments
Dr. Catherine Murphy, Langmuir, American Chemical Society
Dr. John Baynes, Journal of Biological Chemistry, American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Dr. John Dawson, appointed to another five-year term as Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Inorganic Biochemistry, published by Elsevier Science
Dr. Hanno zur Loye, Journal of the South Carolina Academy of Sciences, SCAS

Faculty Awards and Honors 2001–2002
Dr. Richard Adams, 2001 Southern Chemist Award of the Memphis Section of the American Chemical Society and Outstanding South Carolina Chemist of 2001 Award by the South Carolina Section of the American Chemical Society.
Dr. Sam Amma, 50 years of membership in the American Chemical Society.
Dr. John Baynes, Certificate of Appreciation for supporting diabetes research through exceptional participation in the 2001 Walk to Cure Diabetes; leader, South Carolina Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network grant from National Institutes of Health.
Dr. Mark Berg, fellow of the American Physical Society, division of chemical physics.
Dr. George Handy, named faculty associate of Preston College at USC
Dr. Hanno zur Loye, Guest Professor, Shandong Normal University

Staff Awards and Honors 2001–2002
Sam Burgess, business manager, College of Science and Mathematics Staff Employee of the Year

External Faculty Appointments

The GSRC, a 158,000-square-foot facility, has increased the space available for departmental research by over 75 percent.
Organizations

Students for the Advancement of Chemical Sciences (SACS) 2002
Officers
Andrea Goforth, president
Robert Osborne, vice president
Ryan Priore, treasurer
Jonathan Scaffidi, secretary
Fred Parsons, safety officer
Judy Mwamuka, social coordinator

2001–2002 Fellowship Recipients

College of Science and Mathematics Dissertation Fellowships
Fall 2001
Neil Pschirer
Winfried Steffen
Summer 2002
Eric Ortlund

College of Science and Mathematics Incentive Fellowships
Spring 2002
Brian Chiswell

Dean’s Fellowships
Second-Year Students
Andrea Goforth
Robert Osborne
David Perkins
F.W. Zimmerman

Third-Year Students
Daniele Andreatta
Ashley Greer

Teague and Murtiashaw Graduate Fellowships
2002 Teague Fellowships:
Elizabeth Deemer
William Gemmill
Bryant Nelson
Daniel Slade

2002 Murtiashaw Fellowships
Derek Elgin
Tara Hansen

Graduate Student Competitions

2002 Graduate Student Seminar Competition
Guy F. Lipscomb Award: Sherine Obare
Oakwood Products Award: Burjor Captain
IRIX Pharmaceuticals Award: Michael Doescher

2002 USC Graduate Student Day Competition
Winner, Scholar Works Group II Poster: Michael Doescher
2nd Place, Oral Physical Science: Sherine Obare
Scholarly Works Poster Group I Competition Winner: Rosemarie Chinini

Graduate Student Presentation Awards
Kristine Eland, winner, Annual Outstanding Paper by a Woman Graduate Student competition, science division, sponsored by Professional Women on Campus

J.R. Durig Graduate Student Travel Awards 2001–2002
Summer 2001
Kimberly Caswell
Yong Chong
Delia Curtin
Michael Doescher
Belma Erdogan
Li Kong
Hong Li
Narendra Meruva
Ruya Ozar
Neil Pschirer
Winfried Steffen
Katharine Stitzer
Spencer Walse

South Carolina Space Grant Graduate Scholar:
Emily Homer
National Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowship and Tomas A. Hirschfeld Award:
Michael Doescher
National Institutes of Health Fellowship Award:
Brittinae Bell
American Chemical Society Women’s Travel Award: Heather Voegtle
Honorable Mention, National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship: Ashley Greer

Other Fellowships
National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship: Paula Colavita

Shane Waybright
Jing Zhou
Spring 2002
Burjor Captain
Yizhao Chen
Alexander A. Nieuwland
Ryan Priore
Radu Seminiuc

Bouknight Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards
Fall 2001
Lori Amato
Leslie Lovelace
Stephanie McCutcheon
Christopher Mubarak
Alexander Nieuwland
Allison Oxsher
Jack Pender
Spring 2002
Lori Amato
Alexander Nieuwland
Ryan Priore
Jack Smith
Nancy Youssef

2001–2002 Academic Year Ph.D. and MS Graduates
Ph.D. Graduates August 2001
Jeanne M. Jennings
Christine A. Little
Marjorie A. Nicholson
Chasta L. Parker
Jason Phan

Ph.D. Graduates December 2001
Wendy Cannon Bell
Eric B. Brauns
Kristine L. Eland
Susan J. Glenn
Vanessa Rojas Kinton
Neil G. Pschirer
Shane M. Waybright

Ph.D. Graduates May 2002
Kellie Brosius
Yong Soo Chong
Chuck Degenhardt
Takita Felder
Yande Guo
Sherine Obare
Winfried Steffen
Robert Umpleby
Student Highlights

Ph.D. Graduates August 2002
Rosemarie Chinni
Delia Ciurtin
Steven DuBose
Thomas Duncan
Michael Doescher
Christopher Dyke
Jeffrey Fiscus
Wei Fu
O-Sung Kwan
Narendra Meruva
Eric Ortland
Bo Qu
Ruya Ozer

MS Graduates August 2001
Yuan Zhang

MS Graduates December 2001
John Berch
Hong Li

MS Graduates May 2002
Mary Rampey-Vaughn
Yuping Wang
Russell Zeigler

MS Graduates August 2002
Lori Amato
Heather Freyer

Chemistry Scholars
James Byrd
Jason Lockrow
Clyde Purcell

Dean’s Scholars
Charles Lansing
Sara McFadden
Brian Shiels
Jason Vanlundergha
April Wilson

Faculty/Staff Dependent Scholarships
Deena Bayoumi

Hiram and Lawanda Allen Scholarship
Stephen Bennett

Legacy Scholarships
Mary Jo Manuse
Martha Miller
Douglas Robinson
Life Scholarships
Tamra Baker
Kristen Ballard
Marcus Barber
Brantley Busbee
Anna Cartin
Jessica Craft
David Costello
Andre Davis
Shayla Dorsey
Kristen Dyke
Sheree El-Ibiary
Lisa Foster
Matthew Gainey
Neal Goodbar
Jonathan Hebda
Nicole Jackson
Oscar Judd Jr.
William Klauber
Bryan Knuckle
Agatha Lynn
Meredith McPartland
Phillip Mason
Shelley Moffitt
Nicole Munns
Eddie Nance
Jason Neal
Megan Nikolai
April Parker
Angela Powell
Kyle Proffitt

Sharlee Reed
Tiffany Ross
Kristen Rothrock
Carrie Sanders
Demetria Strauch
Jeannie Schumpert
Michelle Shaw
Sally Stephens
Daniel Stevenson
John Tyler
David Whittle
John Wilkinson
Timothy Williamson
Christina Young

Lucy Adams Scholarship
Michael Bachmeyer

McNair Scholarship
Ross Nesbit

Undergraduate Student Highlights 2001–2002

Undergraduate Scholarships

Alumni Scholarship
Stephen Bennett
James Byrd

AthletiCarolina Scholar
Michael Bachmeyer

Bouknight Scholarship
Adolphus Spigner
Regina Wragg

Carolina Scholars
Emma Broom
Ashley Jones
Betsy Rickenbaker

Chemistry Federal
Clyde Purcell

National Merit Scholarships
Edward Barnes
James Byrd
Andrew Hughes
Ashley Jones
Jessica Iseman
Jason Lockrow
Ross Nesbit
Jason Vanlundergha
Regina Wragg

Navy ROTC Scholarship
Nathan Harvey

Non-University Scholarships
Edward Barnes
Holly Barron
Emma Broom
Lawrence Coleman
George Cooper
Jennifer Crain
Brent Dial
Elizbeth Enlow
Monica Gaynor
Andrew Hughes
Sonia Karamchandani
Rachel Magnuson
Ross Nesbit
Sarah Slaughter
Joseph Steadman
Maxcy Stroman
Amber Saxon
Regina Wragg

NC State University Scholarships

Dean’s Scholars
Charles Lansing
Sara McFadden
Brian Shiels
Jason Vanlundergha
April Wilson

Faculty/Staff Dependent Scholarships
Deena Bayoumi

Hiram and Lawanda Allen Scholarship
Stephen Bennett

Legacy Scholarships
Mary Jo Manuse
Martha Miller
Douglas Robinson
Life Scholarships
Tamra Baker
Kristen Ballard
Marcus Barber
Brantley Busbee
Anna Cartin
Jessica Craft
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Meredith McPartland
Phillip Mason
Shelley Moffitt
Nicole Munns
Eddie Nance
Jason Neal
Megan Nikolai
April Parker
Angela Powell
Kyle Proffitt

Sharlee Reed
Tiffany Ross
Kristen Rothrock
Carrie Sanders
Demetria Strauch
Jeannie Schumpert
Michelle Shaw
Sally Stephens
Daniel Stevenson
John Tyler
David Whittle
John Wilkinson
Timothy Williamson
Christina Young

Lucy Adams Scholarship
Michael Bachmeyer

McNair Scholarship
Ross Nesbit

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Sonia Karamchandani
Rachel Magnuson
Ross Nesbit
Sarah Slaughter
Joseph Steadman
Maxcy Stroman
Amber Saxon
Regina Wragg
Student Highlights

Other Scholarships
Kimberly Bryson
Melanie Doyle
Timothy Jiannuzzi
Jason Morton

Pfizer Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship
Hathrad J. Eytina

ROTC Scholarships
Jonathan Coe
Monica Gaynor

SCAMP Grant
Shannon Young

Science and Math Scholarships
Brian Hann

Trustee’s Endowment Scholarships
Kelvin Billingsley
James Emery

USC Employee Assistance Scholarship
Brian Hann
Valerie Kennedy

University Scholars
Michael Bachmeyer
George Cooper
Christina Cox
Brian Gander
Rachel Hollowell
Erin Kastenschmidt
Charles Lansing
Marion Lawrence
Mary Jo Manuse
Martha Miller
Adolphus Spigner
Brian Shiels
Demetria Strauch
Lindsay Taylor
Jason Vanderberghe
April Wilson

U.S. Military Scholarship
Andrea Gooden

Valedictorian Scholars
Mark Hartney
Jessica Iseman
Saswat Kabisatpathy
Douglas Robinson

Phi Beta Kappa Nominees 2002
Kelvin Billingsley
Emma Broom
James Byrd
Melanie Doyle
Kristen Matthews Dyke
James Emery
Mark Hartney
Jason Lockrow
Jason Morton
Kyle Proffitt
Regina Wragg

Undergraduate Awards
Spring 2002

American Institute of Chemists Foundation, Inc. Award: Jason Lockrow
American Chemical Society, Division of Analytical Chemistry Award: Ashley Jones
Joseph W. Bouknight Chemistry Scholarship Award: Adolphus Spigner, Regina Wragg (renewed)
College of Science and Math Senior Year Scholarship: Emma Broom
CRC Press Freshman Chemistry Award: Sonia Karamchandani, Ross Nesbit
Harper Award: James Byrd
Hiram and Lawanda Award and the South Carolina Section of the American Chemical Society for Performance as the Senior Outstanding Undergraduate Chemistry Major Award: Christopher Skorke, Jason Morton
Merck Index Award: Elizabeth Enlow
Victor W. Laurie Junior Year Scholarship: Jessica Craft
Victor W. Laurie Senior Year Scholarship: Kelvin Billingsley
2002 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship: Jason Morton, Honorable Mention
2002 Pfizer Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship: Hathrad J. Eytina
The Outstanding Achievement and Student Triumph Award (TOAST): Deena Bayoumi, Brent Dial, Mark Hartney, Kyle Proffitt, Jeannie Schumpert, Brian Shiels, Regina Wragg

Chemistry BS Graduates
August 2001
Sabrina Crawford
Latashe Thompson
Thomas Wilson

December 2001
William Burns
Brandi Clelland
Kristen Dyke
Michael Gowan
Nathaniel Greene
T. K. Jiannuzzi
Brent Keener
Dawn Myint

May 2002
Mark Hartney
Thua Nuynh
Jessica Iseman
Travis Jones
Jason Lockrow
Angela Marzilli
Nicole Munns
Nanaie Mahtab
Megan Nikolai
Angela Powell
Kyle Proffitt
B.L. Rickenbaker
Jeannie Schumpert
Adolphus Spigner
Maxey Stroman
Regina Wragg

August 2002
Aubrey Breeden
Michael Johnson
Tiffani Miller
Carrie Sanders
Claude Sapp
Dirreck Williams

USC Chemist is written and edited by Alice Hartzog, with help on this issue from Psyche Ready, John Baynes, Lowrie Beacham, and Ann Cameron. To contribute alumni news or feedback:

Web: www.chem.sc.edu/news/alumni/ alumninfo or follow the links from the chemistry department homepage, www.chem.sc.edu.

Or write: USC Chemist, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208.

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