



# UMSL CHEMIST

Spring 2022

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## Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

### Chairman's Message - Keith J. Stine

Over the past year, many changes took place in the Department. Alexei Demchenko left in August 2021 to become Chair of the Department of Chemistry at Saint Louis University at a much higher salary and with a significant start-up investment. Three of his PhD students at that time remain to receive their degrees here. George Gokel and Janet Wilking officially retired this year. George will have two final PhDs graduate from his lab and will be focusing then on his start-up company, Upaya Pharmaceuticals. During the past year, almost all laboratory courses returned to normal in-person formats. In Spring 2022 which started with the surging Omicron wave, many courses remained in online or blended formats but in Fall 2022 most of these courses will be returning to an in-person format. Dr. Jinjia Xu, who completed her PhD at the National Institute for Materials Science and University of Tsukuba, Japan will be joining us in fall 2022 as an Assistant Professor of Organic Chemistry. This year we congratulate Eike Bauer on his promotion to Professor,

and Lynda McDowell to Associate Teaching Professor. In late 2021, postdoctoral associates joined us to run our X-ray Diffraction Lab and our MIST (Microscopy Instrumentation Science and Technology Lab). Dr. Rajamoni Jagan, who has extensive experience in X-ray crystallography using Bruker instrumentation has taken over our lab and Dr. Bishal Nepal, who completed his PhD with me in August 2021, is now assisting in the MIST lab and is responsible for all microscopy equipment and other instruments including helping with a new LC/MS system. We were delighted to receive a major contribution from Rajiv Banavali who completed his PhD under the direction of Curators' Professor Robert W. Murray in 1985, and his wife Marysusan, to support research and students in the area of green and sustainable chemistry. Our Industrial Advisory Board, organized by Mike Nichols, met a number of times including for the first time in person with Dean Kersten in attendance and discussed topics such as research instrumentation and

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Lawrence Barton

internships. Keila Gonzalez joined us in fall 2021 as Business Support Specialist II, replacing Leah Trimble and Alissa Maloney, sister of Jasmine Maloney, joined us in spring 2022 as the Office Support Specialist III replacing Jasmine. We continue to enjoy the support of the local industrial community, as evidenced by donation of an infrared microscope from Mallinckrodt. We will hold an in-person reception after commencement and an in-person alumni reception for the first time since 2019. This will honor the 50-year anniversaries of the graduating classes in 1970, 71 and 72 in addition to the class of 2022. We also look forward to an in-person retirement celebration for Jim Chickos, who retired in summer 2020, and this will take place in June. Although our faculty numbers have decreased, we remain productive in research and our graduates at all levels continue to be very successful at finding good professional positions. To you, our alumni, we wish you continuing success and hope you keep in touch and attend our events. And thank you for your wonderful support!!



*Professor Keith Stine in the organic laboratory participating in a University STEM event and helping expose St. Louis area scouts to science and to UMSL.*

## EVENTS

This section was previously called "Upcoming Events" but COVID-19 put a stop to all of the original plans. Celebrations of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first three UMSL graduating classes in May 1967—1969 were very successful. We had planned a similar campus wide event for the class of 1970 on May 15 and 16, in 2020. That too was cancelled but one for the two classes 1970 and 1971 was held, via zoom, on May 15 in 2021. An in-person event is scheduled for Commencement Day, May 14 when the three classes, 1970, '71 and '72 and 2022 will be honored.

The Chemistry Alumni Council will finally hold the event to honor Jim Chickos who retired after 51 years here. It will take place on Saturday, June 11, 3-5 pm in the JC Penney.

Mailings and announcements will go out for both events.

## ALUMNI INFORMATION

## 1960s

**Dr. Donald M. Kaesser** BS 1967 Licensed Psychologist, Certified Health Service Provider in Psychology is semi-retired in Des Moines IA. He and the editor continue to maintain contact. Don and his wife Pat visit Sanibel Island, Florida each year close to where the Bartons now live in Iona, FL. We had talked about visiting Charlie Armbruster whom many of you will recognize as the founder of the department but we seem to have lost touch with Dr. Armbruster since he was ill about a year ago.

**Gary S. Jacob** BS 1969, obtained a PhD biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin and spent a 20 plus year career with Monsanto, before retiring and starting a new career in New York city in pharma, first as a research director and eventually chief executive officer in a series of pharmaceutical companies. He is currently CEO of OKYO Pharma Ltd, an Anglo-American company based in London and New York and he is Chairman of the Board of Hepion Pharmaceuticals in Edison, NJ.

## 1970s

As noted in the left column, 2021 was the year to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the class of 1971. We were unable to do that for the class of 1970 and since the pandemic continued to disrupt our lives, we conducted a "reunion" via zoom in May 2021. Attending from 1970 were **John R.**

**Kolb** BS, who received a PhD from Northwestern and spent a career at the University of California, Lawrence Livermore National Lab., Energetic Materials Center and **John Koenig** BS who is retired as Technical Supervisor in the Toxicology Laboratory at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. Also, there for a short time was **Alan Sapia** BS who received a PhD degree from St. Louis University and spent his career with MSD and the St. Louis Water Company. From 1971 was **Dorothy Cooke** who obtained an MD degree from UM-Columbia and spent a career in medicine, with an insurance company and finally in alternative medicine prior to retirement. **John Doisy** BA who as a student became involved in food science at Ralston Purina. He moved to California with his wife Charlotte and enrolled at UC-Davis where he received a MS degree in Food Science in 1974 and spent his career in that field, retiring as Director, Technologies in 2012 with what was to become Universal Foods and Sensient Technologies. **Frank Marre'** BA was someone whom I did not know but learned much during the zoom and since then. He had a distinguished career in medicine retiring after serving as Chief Medical Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Integrated Service Network 20 in Vancouver, Washington. **Harry Orf** BS obtained a PhD degree at Harvard with E. J. Corey and his career was mostly in senior administrative positions in the Biochemistry Department at Harvard, Scripps FL and Massachusetts General Hospital as VP for Research.

The "collage" right is a screen shot of those on the Zoom. From left, **Lol Barton**, **Phil Donato** Alum Association, **Prof. Stine**, **Frank Marre'**, **John Koenig**, **Dennis Wester**, **Jean Vincent**, **Mike Finkes**, **Ray Novak**, **Harry Orf**, **John Doisy**, missing video **John Kolb**, **Prof. O'Brien**, **Meisel**, **Deb Godwin** Advancement, **Dorothy Cooke**, **Prof. Bauer**, **Joe Bono**, **Prof. McDowell**, **Prof. Demchenko**, **Cathe-**





*Frank Marre'* BA 1970



*John R. Doisy* BA 1970



*Richard A. (Rick) Hoyt* BA 1976

*Denis W. Wester* BS and one of my former undergraduate researchers, obtained a PhD at the University of Florida and after spending time at Argonne National Lab became interested in radioisotopes in medicine and spent much of his career at the PNNL in Richland WA and retired as Director of Applied Research at Nordion Inc., in Vancouver, CA. He lives in Richland, WA with his wife Vicki and is involved in translating Russian chemistry articles into English. Others present included: *Ray Novak* BS 1968, who has attended all four 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, obtained a PhD from Case Western Reserve University and retired as the VP for Research for all the Shriners Hospitals in the US. *Joseph Bono* BS 1969 who spent a distinguished career in forensic science both in the military and the government, retired from that and taught forensics at IUPUI for four years. *Michael Finkes* BS 1973, MS 1978, and one of the organizers of the event and leader of the CAC, who is a much-decorated alum and is retired after a long and successful career at Monsanto. *Jean Vincent* BS 1992, PhD 1997 with Joyce Corey, who has been in industry since her postdoc at Los Alamos National Lab, is now Senior Vice President R&D Specialty Additives at Evonik, Bethlehem, PA. *Joseph Meisel* PhD 2016 with George Gokel, after a postdoc at NYU, is now Assistant Professor of Chemistry at George Washington University, in DC. *Catherine Alex* MS 2018, who was completing her doctorate with Alexei Demchenko, graduated in 2021 and is now a senior Scientist with Pfizer in Pearl River, NY. It was fun to meet virtually with this small but very impressive group of alums and we hope to meet in person soon with some of the graduates from 1970-1972.

*Roberta Farrell* BS 1975 has been in touch with the editor recently and stayed at our house in Fort Myers in November. Along with Hal and Mary Harris, she has been very helpful to her undergraduate research advisor, Professor Joyce Corey who is not aging so comfortably. Birdi, as she is known, was in the US for an extended time in the fall, partly caused by Covid, to visit family and also to attend the wedding of her son. Birdi is a world-renowned academic personality and lives in New Zealand where she is Emerita Professor at the University of Waikato. We wrote extensively about

Birdi, as she is known, in the last issue of the UMSL CHEMIST.

*John Chaber* BS 1976 was in touch last summer. He is retired and he and his wife Katherine moved back to the St. Louis metro area in December after being gone for over 41 years. He obtained a PhD degree in pharmaceutical chemistry from Purdue University and spent a career in the pharmaceutical industry. His first position was with Burroughs Wellcome in Greenville, NC, and then on both coasts with several smaller companies including Ligand Pharmaceuticals in San Diego, Vertex Pharmaceuticals in Cambridge MA, Johnson Matthey Pharma Services, Indevus Pharmaceuticals, Tobira Therapeutics, Ariad Pharmaceuticals, Tesaro Inc., Verastrom Oncology and he retired from Boston Pharmaceuticals as Executive Director, Chemistry Manufacturing & Controls in December 2020. He formed Brookparc CMC Consulting LLC in 2021 He tells me it is going well but he is trying to limit it to 20 hours per week and that has not be so easy.

*William Z. McCarthy* BS 1975, PhD 1983 is one our earlier alums with whom I maintain good contact and we usually meet for a beverage at the Ferguson Brewhouse along with others. We last got together when *Rajiv Banavali* PhD 2004 was in town to receive a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University. Bill, who is retired from Mallinckrodt, is a man with many fascinating interests.

*Richard A. Hoyt* BS 1976 retired from Mallinckrodt Inc, in 2019 after a remarkable career spanning almost 44 years. He began as a research and analytical bench chemist and retired as a senior executive of the company. Along the way, he was Manager of Operations and Quality Control, directed business development, was General Manager of the St. Louis Plant and from there he became Vice President of R &D and New Product Development. This led to other positions with impressive titles including Vice President Business Development and Licensing and Chief strategy Officer. My summary does not give credit to such a successful career. Rick has been a most loyal alum over the years and was a founding member of the Chemistry Alumni Council and also served on the dean's Advisory Council for the College of Arts and Sciences. Rick is one of a group of alums from the 1970s and faculty who meet for libation two or three times per year.



*Dr. C. Michael Drain BA 1982 who had a distinguished career as Professor of Chemistry at Hunter College NY., died in January 2020*

**Mark H. Owens** BS 1976, MS 1982 continues to keep in touch with us since he retired from Mallinckrodt/Covidien/Curium in 2019 after almost 34 years with the company(s). He and his wife Theresa live in Branson, MO and he came back to St. Louis to meet a group of us for a beer last summer. The shocking news we heard was that he has lung cancer and was undergoing Chemo and other treatment. He was in touch in the spring and told me that the lung cancer started to grow again after the first round of chemo while he was on maintenance therapy. He had started on a new round of chemo with Abraxane (protein bound paclitaxel) weekly with additional carboplatin every third treatment and was due to get a new PET scan in a few weeks to evaluate this treatment and plan the next steps.

**Mollie Freebairn** BS 1977 keeps in touch with me these days, much better than I am able to reciprocate. However we did have a nice conversation last fall. Mollie is Executive Director of *Show Me Solar*. Founded in 2007, Show Me Solar is a grassroots, non-profit public benefit organization incorporated in the state of Missouri. and I hear from her about issues with which I too am very concerned. These include environmental pollution, the plight of manatees in southwest Florida and of course the politics of our era which I believe will be described unfavorably and prominently in history books in the future.

### 1980s

**Kevin R. Criscione**, BS 1980, we were saddened to hear passed away in June 2021. Kevin was 63 and died at home in Lawrence KS. He obtained a MS degree in Medicinal Chemistry at KU and served as is the Resident Technician in Enzyme and Medicinal Chemistry and Assistant to the Chair of the Department of Medicinal Chemistry there. He was a very loyal and generous alumnus. What I recall is that in 1979 we had the Christmas party at his parents' house at Flora and Tower Grove in the Shaw District. It was a large old spectacular house. His father was a thoracic surgeon.

**Michael Hauser** BS 1981, MS 1986 told us that his youngest daughter, Rachel, graduated in May 2021 with her doctorate in pharmacy (Pharm D.) from St. Louis College of Pharmacy (now known as University of Health Scienc-

es and Pharmacy in St. Louis.) She will also be getting married in September 2022.

In October 2021, there was a Celebration of Life at the City Cottage on Choteau in St. Louis for **C. Michael Drain** BA 1982, who died after fighting metastatic thyroid cancer in January 2020. I was honored to be one of only two invitees who were not family members. There I learned that in addition to being an outstanding researcher and teacher of chemistry, he had many talents and indeed was a renaissance man. He even served as department chair at Hunter, something I did not know. I am very grateful to Smita Patel, Mike's widow for including me. Smita is Professor Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the Robert W. Johnson Medical School at Rutgers University.

**Colleen B. Jonsson** BA 1983 is the Van Vleet Chair of Excellence in Virology and Director of the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center Regional Biocontainment Laboratory in Memphis. Last fall a UTHSC press release announced the award of a \$3.2 million grant for upgrades to the RBL, from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Colleen is the project director and principal investigator for the award that funded improvements to the hardware and building automation system software, and provided state-of-the-art equipment for basic research and preclinical studies for testing of new therapeutics and vaccines. She was formerly with the University of Louisville and also held appointments at the Southern Research Institute and New Mexico State University. Following graduation she spent two years at the Monsanto Life Science Research Center in Chesterfield, MO followed by a post-doctoral appointment at the Robert W. Johnson Medical School, NJ and began her independent professional career in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at New Mexico State University where she spent 10 years before joining the Southern Research Institute.

**David A. Miller** BA 1983 and also in Biology was honored with the 2021 Missouri Family Physician of the Year Award by the Missouri Academy of Family Physicians during their 73rd Annual Meeting held November 12-13, 2021, at Big Cedar Lodge near Branson, Missouri. The award honored his more than 30 years of practicing family medicine in the greater St. Louis area -- including solo practice,



*Dr Colleen Jonsson BA 1983*

group practice, urgent care medicine, volunteering at a free clinic, service to multiple organizations and boards, and teaching medical students and residents. Miller received the 2020 Greater St. Louis Community Health Award from the St. Louis Academy of Family Physicians for his continuing work coordinating an ongoing COVID-19 testing program for underserved urban communities in St. Louis City that has tested over 32,000 people so far.

**Floris Homan** BS 1984, PhD 1989 has been Senior Director for Quality Control at Ocular Therapeutix in Bedford, MA, since December 2020. He was previously in a similar position with Alnylam Pharmaceuticals in Cambridge, MA. He moved from St. Louis where he had been Senior Director, R & D, at KV Pharmaceuticals for almost 11 years, with his wife **Peggy (Ponzar) Homan** BA 1985, to Albany, NY., to become Senior Director Global Analytical Development at Albany Molecular Research Inc. in 2010. They have lived in Massachusetts for about four years. In New York they lived in Clifton Park and we wonder whether they came across **Brian** PhD 1999 and **Yana Grimmond** BS 1997, MS 1999, who have been in Clifton Park since 2001, now both working for Regeneron Pharmaceuticals.

**Rajiv M. Banavali** PhD 1985 was honored with a Distinguished Alumni Award at the Founders' Day celebration on campus on October, 7.

He has been Senior Vice President for Science and innovation at WestRock Company in Atlanta since June 2020. Recently he and his wife Marysusan Banavali BS Ed. 1979 funded an initiative in *Green and Sustainable Chemistry* in the department. Much of Rajiv's distinguished career from a graduate student in Bob Murray's lab to his current role as a corporate leader has involved relevant chemistry, to use an expression popularized in the 1970s. Thus, he worked on, or directed work on, electric cars, water treatment, production of environmentally friendly refrigerants and other work on sustainability when he was with Honeywell, to his recent role in recycling with Westrock. Corpora-

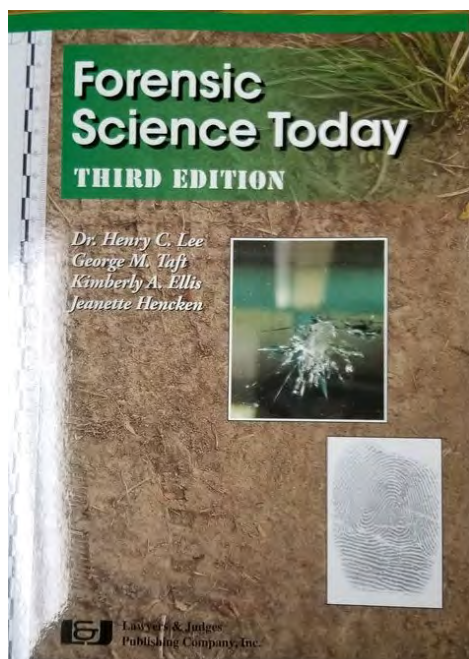
tion. The *Initiative* includes funds for research stipends for undergraduate and graduate students, scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students and expenditures for supplies such as chemicals, etc. used to further supplement research funding from other sources. This will all be monitored by a committee to assure the connections to quality and green chemistry.

**Jerry Beasley** BA 1985 was in touch last summer. He had bumped into Bruce Hamper at an all-British car and cycle show. I first met Jerry in 1968 in Chem 11 (now Chem 1111). After some bumps in the road, Jerry returned to campus in the 1980s and completed his degree. He spent 31 years at Mallinckrodt and retired about 14 years ago after a successful career and when the company was changing from Tyco International and Covidien. He has fond memories of UMSL and Mallinckrodt friends. He enjoys good health and retirement with hobbies which include cycling, driving his 1972 MG-B, playing his bassoon and English horn, ham radio and antenna design. We hope to get together this summer in St. Louis.

**Greg Bradburn** MS 1984, was in touch recently. He is retired after a 20-year career with Cisco Systems in San Jose', CA. He was a Senior Scientist at McDonnell-Douglas when he was graduate student here but moved on to Washington University in 1990 and completed a PhD degree in physical chemistry. He also spent time as a software engineer with Alcedo and as a test Engineer with Tyco electronics prior to going with Cisco. He now lives in Livingston Texas. He and his wife Teri hope to see the country in their 25' Airstream trailer but were to start in April 2022.

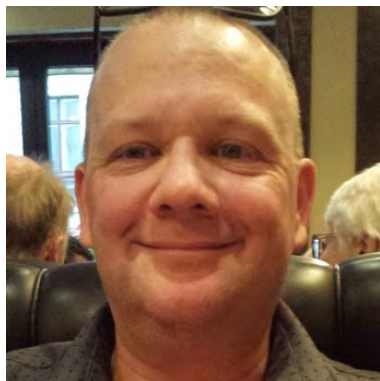
**Jeanette L. Hencken** BA 1985 continues to serve on the Chemistry Alumni Council and will also be involved in the scheduled, but postponed, celebration of the life of Professor Jane Miller who passed away last year. Also Jeanette is proud to report the publication of the third edition of the book she co-authored: *Forensic Science Today*, the cover of which is pictured left. She also tells she just completed the Instructor's companion for the text.

**Mary (Dudley) Nahm** BA 1988 is with Thermo Fisher Scientific in St. Louis, where she has been since 2016. She was previously with Sigma Aldrich/MilliporeSigma, also in St. Louis.



## 1990s

**Todd R. Boehlow** BS 1991 PhD 1996, has been a Senior Research Scientist at Curia (formerly Albany Molecular Research Institute) in Albany, NY, since March 2021. After graduation he spent two years as a postdoc at Loughborough University, UK, where his thesis advisor Chris Spilling obtained his PhD. After a second postdoc at Montana State University he spent 10 years with Pfizer/Pharmacia/Monsanto before moving to Equinox Chemicals in Albany, GA., where he spent almost three years as Laboratory Manager. Before moving to Albany, NY, he spent nine years as a senior Laboratory Chemist at Ascend Pharmaceutical in Cantonment, FL



**Dr Sean D. Dingman** BS 1994 who will present the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Distinguished Alumni Lecture in May.

**Michael Crowley** BS 1991 is an adjunct professor of Molecular Pharmaceutics and Drug Delivery at the University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy. He received an M.A. in Organic Chemistry from Washington University and a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutics from The University of Texas at Austin. He is President of Theridian Technologies, LLC, a boutique Austin, Texas-based pharmaceutical consulting group and co-founder of Oticara, Inc., a specialty pharmaceutical company. Prior to founding Theridian and Oticara, he served as Vice President, Business Development at PharmaForm also in Austin. Mike and his wife have three children.

**(Roberta) Ann Vu** BA 1992 was Manager of Quality Control with Steris in St. Louis from 1989 through 2000. Since then she had a series of management positions including Director of Global Quality for Bausch & Lomb in Rochester, NY from 2000—2011, then successively Site Director with Ortho Clinical diagnostics, Senior Director for Quality Network optimization and later for world wide biosurgery quality, with Ethicon in Somerville, NJ and since 2016 she has been with Zimmer Biomet, in Palm Beach Gardens, FL, as Vice President for Quality and Regulatory Affairs. She attended Smith College Executive Leadership consortium in 2012 and obtained a law degree from Concord Law School, Kaplan University, a global online program which is part of Purdue University, in 2015.



**Radu Duta** BS 1996 who describes his job as an "Entropy Controller"

**Karen A. (Jansen) Regina** BS 1993 has been with Nestlé Purina North America in St. Louis for seven years

and is now Chemistry Manager. She obtained a MS degree in analytical chemistry from Tufts University and worked in the Boston area for more than two years before returning to St. Louis. She spent almost 14 years with Pfizer/Pharmacia/Monsanto Searle, two and a half years as a Lab Manager at Washington University School of Medicine, another year with Monsanto before joining Nestlé in 2015.

**Kristin Frost** BS 1993 is Senior Corporate Patent Counsel at Millipore Sigma in St. Louis where she has been since August 2021. Following graduation she received a MS degree from Ohio State University in analytical chemistry and then a law degree from Ohio State. She spent six years with the law firm Calfee, Halter and Griswold in Cleveland, OH. Returning to St. Louis she spent time as a Global Patent Counsel with KV Pharmaceutical and as a Contract Attorney with Armstrong Teasdale before joining Millipore Sigma.

**Cecilia Marzabadi** PhD 1994 is Professor of Chemistry at Seton Hall University. She chaired the department for almost three years from 2016 to 2019 and also chaired the North Jersey Section of the ACS for two years from 2019-2020. She has served on the ACS Women's Chemists Committee since 2016 and most recently she chaired a Symposium "WCC Advancing Advance" sponsored by the ACS Women's Chemists committee at the meeting in San Diego in March 2022.

**Sean D. Dingman** BS 1994 will present the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Distinguished Alumni Lecture on Monday May 3 via zoom at 4:00 pm. More information is found about Sean on page 17.

**Radu Duta** BS 1996 was in touch recently. He is married and has two children, 9 and 11 years old, which he says is his biggest accomplishment, and of course the learning experience that comes from that. Professionally he works in the Greater New York area doing things he has always enjoyed in the IT area since his days at UMSL with Bill Welsh. He has been a Systems and Software Engineer at several companies including one in Auckland, New Zealand and is currently Chief Technology Officer with Shark Byte Systems Inc. in New York City.

**Eric Bruton** BS 1997, PhD 2003 is a research scientist with Boeing in St. Louis, where he has been since 2015, involved in materials, physics and engineering. As mentioned later, Eric presented the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Distinguished Alumni Lecture in May 2021.

**Jeffrey Scholten** BS 1997, MS 2001 started a new position as Aclaris Therapeutics, Inc., in St. Louis in March 2022. Previously Jeff was Manager of Drug Substance Development at Galera Therapeutics in St. Louis. He spent time with the Searle/Pfizer/Monsanto companies until they changed their focus and since then he was with Sensient and Jost Chemical Co., prior to the move to Galera in 2019.

**Jason Sondgeroth** BS 1998 is Director Quality Engineering with Exact Sciences in Madison, WI., where he has been for about 10 years. He was with Mallinckrodt in St. Louis as a student and until 2000. Then he was with BioNumerik Pharmaceuticals in San Antonio TX for five years before eventually settling in Wisconsin. He worked for three different pharmaceutical companies before Exact Sciences which is involved in cancer detection to treatment guidance and monitoring.

### 2000s

**Brian Abney**, MS 2000 started a new position as Director, Quality and Compliance at SynerG-BioPharma Group which is headquartered in Southborough, MA, in March 2022. Previously he was with Polypeptide Group in Torrance, CA, as Senior Director of Quality.

**Katherine M. Block** BS 2001 is director of Biomarker Sciences at Sangamo Therapeutics in south San Francisco. After graduation and a stint at Pfizer in St. Louis, she received a PhD degree in biochemistry from the University of Arizona in Tucson. When she presented our Distinguished Alumni Lecture in 2014, she was with the Novartis Company, in San Diego. She followed that position with manager/Director position with Agilent Technologies and AbbVie prior to taking her current position in June 2020.

**Amie (Bierman) Drury** BS 2002, MS 2004 has been Customer Operations Manager at Bausch and Lomb since Sept. 2021. She had been with Jost Chemical in St. Louis for 14 years as a Manager in Sales and Sales Support.

**Viktorya Gruden** BS 2002, MS 2004 is Quality Control Manager at Nomax, Inc., where she manages a staff of five chemists in a QC Lab. She has had a number of positions in the pharmaceutical industry but for the last four or so years had taken a position as Busi-

ness Operations Supervisor and later Head of Office Operations and human resources for Lickenbrock Technologies, Inc., in St. Louis where she worked part-time and was able to learn finance, budgeting, office management and also spend more time with her two children.

**Mesfin Janka** PhD 2003 was recently promoted to Senior Development Associate at Eastman Chemical Company in Kingsport, TN., where he has been since 2005. He completed his degree in Gordon Anderson's laboratory and followed that with postdoctoral research with Richard Eisenberg at the University of Rochester, prior to joining Eastman. We saw on LinkedIn that his son Yonathan is now a student in the Honors College at the University of Alabama.

**Amy Thanavaro Trankler** PhD 2003 joined Steris Inc., on my recommendation in 2004 as a Post Doctoral fellow and moved through the ranks as Scientist II, Senior Scientist, Group Leader to her current position Manager Scientific.

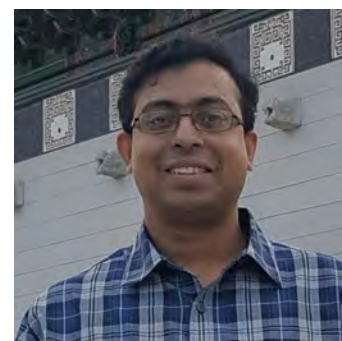
**Pallavi Badkar** PhD 2006, who completed her doctoral research with Chris Spilling, has been in the Greater Boston area since 2017 and is with Pfizer as a Senior Principal Scientist. Following graduation she spent 9 years with Sigma-Aldrich which became Millipore Sigma. She began as Senior Chemist and when she left she was Quality Control Supervisor.

**Eunice Chung** BS 2006 was a Senior Analytical Chemist at Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals where she had been since graduation, but in July 2001 she moved to Pfizer Inc., where her position is Scientist. She obtained a MS degree in chemistry from Saint Louis University in 2013.

**Saibal Bandyopadhyay** PhD 2008 was in town and came to see the editor in October. Saibal who completed his thesis research with Dr Spilling and was a GTA with the editor, is Chief Scientific Officer at FREEFLOW MEDICAL DEVICES, LLC in Lancaster, PA. Following graduation from UMSL, he did a post-doctoral fellowship at Ohio State University with Professor Dennis Bong and where his future wife Chandrani was a graduate student with Malcolm Chisholm. He spent four years at Ohio State University, was married in 2008 and his wife graduated in 2012. They then left Columbus for Lancaster PA where he worked



**Jeff Scholten** BS 1997, MS 2001



**Saibal Bandyopadhyay** PhD 2008

for a company NeverWet which had developed a superhydrophobic coating material that completely repels water and heavy oils. He became R & D Director there and when the company became available, he became part-owner of the new company FREEFLOW MEDICAL DEVICES. Since 2018 he has been the Chief Scientific Officer and they have developed a "super-slippery material" for internal medical devices. Saibal travels the world promoting his company and their product. He and his wife have two children, a six-year-old son, and a two-month-old daughter. Those were their ages in October 2021 when we met.



*Colin White PhD 2006 and  
Aileen Bongat White PhD 2008*

**Aileen Bongat** PhD 2008, who is married to **Colin White** PhD 2006 and lives in Reading UK with Colin and their daughter Ava, was with Dextra Labs in Reading but moved to Biosynth Carboxynth, also in Reading, as a Senior Synthetic Chemist, in Aug. 2021.

**Nongnuch Sutivisedsak**, PhD 2008, from the Spilling lab, following graduation spent almost four years with the US Department of Agriculture A in Peoria, IL, as a Research Chemist, and then another 5 years as R & D Manager at Winfield United in Middleton, WI, and has been R. & D. and Innovation Manager with Exacto Inc., in Sharon, WI, since June 2018. She has been working with agricultural products since joining the USDA.

**Deepa Ajit** PhD 2009 spent five years as a postdoctoral fellow in the Christopher Bond Life Sciences Center at the University of Missouri-Columbia and then five more years at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine before taking a position as study Director at Metabolon, Inc. in Morrisville, NC.

**Nathan Birhanu** BS 2009 is an investment banking associate at ClearSight Advisors and is based in Washington, DC. Prior to ClearSight, Nathan worked as a mergers and acquisition valuation associate at PricewaterhouseCoopers in New York City. After graduation Nathan spent approximately five years in the Peace Corps in Southern and Eastern Africa and then completed a dual masters in economics and political economy at Fordham University.

**Nikkilina R. Crouse**, PhD 2009, Director of Medical Affairs at Supernus Pharmaceuticals, Inc. in St. Louis. Following graduation from the Nichols Lab she was a postdoc at Washington University Medical School for three years.

She spent 6 years with Teva Neuroscience as a Senior Medical Liaison, and then was with Adamas Pharmaceuticals before joining Supernus in November 2021.

**Chase Gobble** PhD 2016 is a Quality Assurance Assistant at Nestle' Purina in Lincoln, NE. Following graduation from Jim Chickos' lab, he spent three years with Eurofins Columbia, formerly ABC Laboratories before joining Nestle' Purina in St. Louis and moved to Lincoln with the company in 2021.

### 2010s

**Philip J. Ferko**, BS 2010, MS 2015, PhD 2019 has been with EAG laboratories in St. Louis since 2000, first as a Scientist and since February 2022 as a Senior Scientist. He is a part-time Epee Coach with Fencers Academy in St. Louis, and was briefly with Augusta Fencers Club in GA, 2018-2020. He also did some part-time teaching at Maryville U and Jefferson College, and worked in analytical chemistry supervisory positions in Hollister and Watsonville California during 2017 and 2018.

**Laura Perry** BS 2013 has been with Nestlé Purina North America essentially since graduation as a Chemist. She was briefly a Lab technician with Mallinckrodt following her degree.

**Swati Sudhir Nigudkar**, PhD 2014 is now with Bayer Crop Science in St. Louis as a Research Chemist II. Following graduation from the Demchenko lab, she spent a few months with Fimbrion Therapeutics, a Washington University spin off where another former Demchenko student, **Laurel Mydock-Magrane** PhD 2010 is Director of Chemistry. Swati then spent two years as a Senior Process chemist at Monsanto and another year as a postdoc at Wayne State University.

**Supratik Dutta**, PhD 2016 has been with the Janssen Pharmaceutical companies of J & J since October 2021, as a Principal Research Scientist in Spring House, PA. Previously he spent five years with Eli Lilly as a Research Scientist in protein optimization in Indianapolis, IN. Following graduation from the Dupureur lab, he spent five years at Washington U School of Medicine as a postdoctoral fellow and another year as a research scientist in the center for Mass Spectrometry.

**Elizabeth Ridgeway** BS 2016 went on to the Saint Louis College of Pharmacy, where she



obtained a PharmD degree, in 2020. She spent two years with Walgreens, beginning as a Pharmacy Intern and finishing as a Pharmacist. Since May 2021 she has been at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio as a Post graduate Year one Pharmacy Resident.

**Hung Thanh Nguyen**, BA 2016 received an MD degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2021 and is now a resident physician there. At UMSL he also received a BA degree in English, a writing certificate and an Honors' college certificate. He was also Managing and News Editor of the Current, the UMSL newspaper.

**Dr. Mithila D. Bandara** PhD 2019, just started at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Department of Food Technology as Senior Lecturer.

**Alan Scheibel** BS 2019, MS 2021 an Analyst with EAG Laboratories in St. Louis. He joined the company in 2019 as Lab. Technician.

**Haley Steber**, BS 2019, MS 2021, has been an Associate Production Scientist at Millipore Sigma, in St. Peters, MO since July 2021.

## 2020s

**Dr. Scott A. Geringer**, PhD 2020, was with Cayman Chemical as a Scientist I following graduation and moved to Millipore-Sigma as a Senior Scientist in 2021.

**Hunter J. Campbell** BA 2021 joined UMKC Medical School in Spring 2022. As an undergraduate he did research with Professor Bruce Hamper and his work led to co-authorship of research papers on Hop-derived Humulone and Isohumulone, constituents in beer. He revived the Chemistry Club and served as President, rewriting the bylaws and recruiting fellow officers and members.

**Bishal Nepal** PhD 2021 who studied nanobiochemistry with Professor Stine, has remained in a postdoctoral fellow role in the department, running the Microscopic Imaging and Spectroscopy Technology Lab. He is pictured here with his advisor.

**Harper F. Wieldt** BS 2021 had many options after graduation, having received at least six acceptances to graduate school. She selected the Master of Health Administration program at Saint Louis University. Here she was in the Pierre Laclède Honors' College, served on the Student Government Association in various roles. She came to UMSL on a full scholarship

following her participation in the STARS program on campus. She did research with Dr. Bashkin and received numerous awards and scholarships including the Rath Family, the Eugene and Joyce Corey, The Lawrence Barton and the Steven S. Lawrence Scholarships.

**Nicholas Forysth** BS 2021 is a PhD student in former colleague Alexei Demchenko's lab at Saint Louis University.

**Brittany Richardson** BS 2021 is now in our MS program

## THE CHEMISTRY ALUMNI COUNCIL

The CAC was active virtually during the past year and was ably led by **Michael Finkes** BS 1973, MS 1978. Since 2017 we have held Golden Anniversaries for the classes of 1967, 1968 and 1969. These were in conjunction with campus wide celebrations and were very successful. We held a virtual alumni reunion for the Golden Anniversaries of the classes 1970, 1971, on May 15 last year and have planned two in person events for 2022. We will host an in-person celebration of these 50th Anniversaries and one for the 1972 class and will honor the class of 2022 on Saturday May 14. On Saturday June 11 in the JC Penney Foyer from 3:00-5:00pm, we will honor Professor Jim Chickos who retired after 51 years on the faculty. Announcement about these event can be found on our LinkedIn and Facebook pages and will be mailed to all alumni.

**We need help! Anyone interested in reconnecting with the department, joining the CAC, and working with a great group of committed alums should contact [lbarton@umsl.edu](mailto:lbarton@umsl.edu)**

## GRADUATES, DEC. 2020—DEC 2021

### DECEMBER 2020

Giri Raj Gnawali PhD  
Dharmendra Neupane PhD  
Doxey M. Phillips BA  
Kellsie B. Jurkowski MS  
Tram Thi Thuy Tran BS

Nyasha Makoni PhD  
Rishi R. Paudel PhD  
Allyson R. Henke MS  
Rachel N. Patty BS

### BS in Biochemistry/Biotechnology

Chase Barnes  
Bianca Anamaria Buie  
Cinnamon Cole  
Dominic Ricardo Mestre  
Bailey M. Pinette  
Emily Layne Staden

George August Bohn  
Lawren D. Champagne  
Benjamin D. Holland  
Joshua David Neeter  
Jamison L. Rucker  
Hanna Mae Ward

### MS in Biochemistry/Biotechnology

Michael Lay,



**Dr. Hung T. Nguyen** BA 2106



**Bishal Nepal**, PhD 2021 with his advisor **Dr. Keith Stine**



**Harper F. Wieldt** BS 2021

## MAY 2021

Michael S. Barnes-MS  
Hunter J. Campbell BA  
Nicholas Paul Forsythe BS  
Bishal Nepal PhD  
Hayley B. Steber MS  
Elizabeth Schuster BA  
Nick Viriyasiri MS

Ariona N. Booker BA  
Mark Allen Clark BS  
Eric Markham BS  
Brittany Richardson BS  
Ali Abbas Sabi PhD  
Harper F. Wieldt BS

*BS in Biochemistry and Biotechnology*

Dalia H. Al Shawi  
Zahrak Z. Farese  
Chandler A. Guzman  
Leigh-Ann Hopkins  
Holly Erika Huelskamp  
Randi Nichole Levis  
Tyler Obermark  
Antanisha L. Parks  
Massooma Rikan

Michael O. Eboeime  
Sharla Friend  
Mara N. Hamilton  
Melita Horne  
Anna Kate Jones  
Dasom Moon  
Nina M. P. Cargo  
Thomas A. Perrot  
Symone R. Stocking

## AUGUST 2021

Catherine Alex PhD  
Bishal Nepal PhD  
Palak Sondhi MS  
Carolyn A. Welch BS

Mark A. Clark BS  
Huy Q. Nguyen MS  
Steven T. Ward BA

*Biochemistry/Biotechnology*

Eric Dale MS  
Nathan Letcher MS  
Thomas A. Perrot BS

Leigh-A. Hopkins BS  
Jessica Linder MS

## DECEMBER 2021

Mariam Abed Ali BA  
Jessica Raj Doshi BA  
Dhanbir Lingden MS  
William F. Shofner MS  
Alexander G. Sanderson BS

Dustin Barton BS  
Dilan J. C. Dupre BS  
Alan T. Scheibel MS  
Samira Escopy PhD

*Biochemistry and Biotechnology*

Akosua A. Acheampong MS  
Jacob M. Bagwell BS  
Daniel Z. Dyszlewski MS  
Diana M. Lund BS  
William L. McConnell II  
Maisoon Qassem MS  
Samuel P. Wilhelm BS

Benjamin J. Alvey MS  
Srilakshmi Dangeti MS  
Nathaniel Letcher MS  
Roberto T. Maiocco MS  
Vyacheslav Pernik BS  
Nathan Schmidt MS

## THE FACULTY

**James K. Bashkin** likes to tell us about his students' successes. **Ali Sabi** completed his Ph.D. at UMSL in the spring of 2021 and started a new teaching position at the University of Kufa in Iraq that fall. **Ruth Kvistad** of the Bashkin group started in law and medical school at Southern Illinois University. **Aman Chishti** of the Bashkin group was accepted to six medical schools. Jim made two virtual presentations, one at the European Society of Medicine Annual Congress, Vienna, Austria, Nov 11-13, 2021 and a keynote address at the

Third International Pharmaceutical Sciences Conference the University of Kufa, Najaf, Iraq, on December 2, 2021. Annie Knapp, a biochemistry/biotechnology graduate student, joined the Bashkin group and Afnan Hussaini and Nicole Miller will graduate from the Bashkin group in the spring of 2022.

**Eike B. Bauer** is also keen to provide the latest news about his students. PhD student Deva Talasila was in India recently to get married. She presented their research together with undergraduate research student Jessica Doshi at the Midwest Regional ACS meeting in October 2021. New PhD student Neira Ušto just started in the Bauer group. Former MS research student **Mike Barnes-Flaspoler** MS 2021 is employed at Linde in Arizona. Former research student **Kellsie Jurkowski** MS 2020 is now with Dynalabs in St. Louis Undergraduate research student **Jessica Doshi** BA 2021 obtained an award from the American Chemical Society for being one of two outstanding UMSL senior undergraduate organic chemistry students in 2020/2021. She also represented UMSL and the Bauer group at the Undergraduate Research Day at the Missouri State Capitol. The event took place virtually during the week of April 12, 2021 and presented her research at the Undergraduate Research Symposium at UMSL on April 30, 2021. We heard in mid-April that Eike had been promoted to Full Professor.

**Alicia M. Beatty** had been helping out in the X-ray Facility since Nigam Rath retired but has not been on campus and has been teaching remotely since the beginning of the pandemic.

**Valerian T. D'Souza** has been teaching both organic lecture courses, using flipped classroom and both synchronous and asynchronous formats and we understand the students really like it. In 2021 he completed the year-long ACUE, Association of College and University Educators "Effective Online Teaching Program". He was also appointed as a Faculty Guild Fellow in 2020, a 14 week national program for reflective teaching and for which he is one of two faculty appointed from UMSL. The accomplishment of completing the program was recognized at an on campus event in August 2021.

**Cynthia M. Dupureur** joined the Provost's office on campus on Nov 1, 2020 as a Faculty Fellow for Faculty Success. We note that in April 2022, she was a candidate for the posi-



*Dr. Eike B. Bauer was promoted to Full Professor in Spring 2022*



*Joyce Corey, taken in Maine in summer 2021*

tion, *Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs*. The Wilking and Dupureur research groups filed a disclosure last summer on the design of new fluorescent probes from their research collaboration.

**George Gokel** retired at the end of February. He joined the faculty in 2006 as Distinguished Professor of Science and held appointments in Chemistry and Biology and served as Director of the Center for Nanoscience. He attended Tulane and USC for BS and PhD degrees, respectively, and UCLA, where he was a postdoc with Nobel Laureate Donald J. Cram. He worked briefly at DuPont's Central Research Department and then began an academic career at Penn. State University. Subsequently he was a faculty member at Maryland, Miami, and Washington University School of Medicine 1993-2006, where he served as the Director of the Program in Chemical Biology. He joined UMSL having already developed a substantial scholarly record. He is author or coauthor of over 400 articles, 15 issued patents, and 10 books. He is on the editorial boards of numerous journals and has served as an editor of three of them. He is a fellow of the AAAS, has won the ACS St. Louis Section Award, the ACS Midwest Award, and the St. Louis Academy of Science's James B. Eads Award. He still has two graduate students to finish so he will be around the Department for a while. He and his research colleagues are also still working to develop antimicrobial adjuvants under the aegis of their startup company Upaya Pharmaceuticals LLC.

**Bruce Hamper** chaired a special topics session for "Analytical Chemistry of Beer and Brewing" at Pittcon 2021. He presented a talk at the session on "Rapid LC-MS Analysis of Hop-Derived Humulones in Beer" with contributions from undergraduates Lorna Espinosa, Hunter Campbell, Aaron Boland and Nick Viriyasiri (MS). This study of the flavor components in beer was carried out in collaboration with Kurt Driesner, Quality Control Manager of Urban Chestnut Brewing Company, St. Louis. The Hamper group also published a paper based on this research in LC-GC magazine on "The Bitter Truth of Hops Utilization during Brewing" Working with undergraduates Mariam Ali, Patrick Gleason, Olivia Herman and Hunter Campbell, the Hamper group investigated new synthetic methods for carrying out reductive amination using continuous flow apparatus.

**Jack Harms**, now in his third year as Assistant Teaching Professor, continues developing labs for advanced courses. He and his wife had a baby in October 2021. He has helped the department with HPLC and ICP-AES measurements for some outside companies.

**Steven M. Holmes** took over the Graduate Admissions Committee when Janet Wilking retired earlier this year. Undergraduate **Mark Eissler** BS 2020 joined his lab as a graduate student, joining **Austin Stelling**, BS 2019. His postdoc Fuxing Shen, "graduated" and is now in China. Steve will sponsor two STARS students in summer 2022. He upgraded the magnetometer with a vibrating sample magnetism attachment, which enables more sensitive ac and dc susceptibility, and photomagnetism measurements. He was a discussion leader and symposium organizer for Pacificchem (Frontiers in Molecular Magnetism) in Dec. 2021 and will be an invited speaker for MAGNA (Molecular Magnetism in North America) in May 2022 and Gordon Conference (Electron Donor-Acceptor Interactions) in July 2022. He served on the search committee which hired the X-ray postdoc specialist.

**Rensheng Luo** is now the remaining Research Professor. His principal role is the NMR facility but was assigned the MS lab after Joe Kramer retired a few years ago. He says both facilities are running well and this has giving him more time for collaboration and service work



**Mark Eissler** BS 2020 who is now in the PhD program working in the Holmes lab.



**Mariam Ali**, BA 2021, **Patrick Gleason**, Dr. Hamper, **Olivia Herman** and **Hunter Campbell** BS 2021

**Lynda M. McDowell** over the summer of 2021 completed *Association of College and University Educators* certification which is required for online teaching certification in Missouri. She also completed Diversity 101 and was appointed to serve on the department's new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee along with Dr. Bauer and Dr. Dupureur (committee chair). This is important because the new ACS certification requirements include efforts in DEI. She also put together her portfolio for promotion and we are all pleased that in Spring 2022 she was promoted to Associate Teaching Professor. She continues to teach and innovate in Quantitative Analysis, Introductory Chemistry, Biochemistry Lab and a new course Chemistry 101 designed to improve student engagement.

**Michael R. Nichols** says it was great to get everyone back into his research lab in 2021, compared with the challenges of 2020. He continues to serve as Associate Chair of the Department and directs the MS degree program. Research in the basic biochemistry of Alzheimer's disease (AD) is ongoing as well as the UM-System Tier 2-funded project on glycoproteins with the Demchenko, Stine, Spilling, Bauer and Wong labs. In 2021, the Nichols lab accepted a new doctoral student, **Brandon Vestal**, BSBB 2019 and mentored research for biochem/biotech MS students **Nathan Zeller**, **Gabe Riggio**, and **Ryan Domalewski**. Other current doctoral lab members are Kapur Dhami, Shikha Grover and **Cristina Sinobas Pereira** BSBB 2019. The lab also hosted undergraduate student **Heba Abid** from Pakistan. Heba had a Fulbright Scholarship and participated in the Global UGRAD Semester Exchange Program. The experience was great all around! The group is planning (and hoping) to attend several scientific conferences in person in the next year.

**James J. O'Brien** continues his NSF-funded research program in intracavity laser spectroscopy with his collaborators, graduate student **Kristen Bales** BS 2018, several undergraduates and his co-investigator Professor Leah C. O'Brien, Professor of Chemistry at SIU-Edwardsville. The undergraduates this past year have included Carol Welch, Mark Clark, Gabriel Hotz, and Dominik Kosican. Carol Welch presented at the 2021 Undergraduate Research Day at the Missouri Capitol. Jim has represented the department on the Faculty Senate since 2017 and is often involved in

outreach activities with colleagues. For example he along with Keith Stine, Eike Bauer and Leah O'Brien participated in a STEM University event and helped expose our regional scouts to science and to UMSL.

**Christopher D. Spilling** now Vice Chancellor for Research, Economic and Community Development has been leading an initiative to support consolidation of the university's academic core to the North Campus, including renovation of classroom, laboratory and community space. Establishing a North Campus academic core opens 35-acres on the UMSL South Campus for economic and community focused development, and the realization of UMSL's vision for the North County Business and Workforce District.

**Keith Stine** is in his third year as Department Chair. He is now working with two PhD students: Dhanbir Lingden and Palak Sondhi. Undergraduate Dilan Dupre has also been working in his lab. Former student **Bishal Nepal** Ph.D. 2021 is now employed by the department as the Postdoctoral Associate overseeing the MIST lab in a position funded by the UMSL Office of Research. Bishal is helping both internal and external users with a range of instrumentation. Keith continues to collaborate with the Glycoworld lab of Professor Demchenko (who moved to Saint Louis University in August 2021 to become Department Chair) on some projects involving nanoporous gold and carbohydrate synthesis. His lab is also participating in the UM System supported Glycoscience Consortium effort to study analogs of lipopolysaccharides that are important in the disease of sepsis and has also begun collaboration with Dr. Bauer's lab on



*Professor Lynda McDowell who was promoted to Associate Teaching Professor*



*Group at lunch in October 2021 with **Rajiv Banavali** PhD 1985 and Marysusan Banavali. From left Eike Bauer, Keith Stine, Hal Harris, David Garin, Rajiv and Marysusan, **Bill McCarthy** BS 1975, PhD 2004, Jim Chickos and Lol Barton.*

related properties of some curcumin derivatives. Since the last UMSL Chemist, together with his students he published review articles in *MDPI Coatings* and in *MDPI Applied Sciences*. He has a number of research papers under review or in preparation. He also serves as the UMSL Site Coordinator for the participation of UMSL in the Missouri Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority participation (MOLSAMP). This year he received the *Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research and Creativity*. He was also accepted into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

**Janet Braddock-Wilking** BA 1985 who was the longest serving member of the inorganic chemistry group, retired effective 3/1/22. She and her husband Bruce Wilking, a department of Physics Professor Emeritus, were on a trip to Chile recently. As a student here she did undergraduate research with Dr. Corey and also worked in the stockroom for **James R. Wheatley** BS 1988. She completed her PhD degree at Washington University in St. Louis with Peter Gaspar and did postdoctoral research at Harvard with Andrew Barron. She followed that with a postdoctoral fellowship at Mallinckrodt Medical Inc., in St. Louis. During that latter period, she re-established a collaborative research effort with Joyce Corey. In 1993 we were looking for an NMR spectroscopist to run our rapidly expanding NMR facility. Janet applied and was appointed research assistant professor. At the time we had two 300 MHz and one 500 MHz systems. She wanted to continue research and was encouraged to take on undergraduate and MS students. Notably **Yana Levchinsky** who obtained a MS with thesis with Janet during a very productive period for her. When Lee Brammer resigned his faculty position in 2002 we were understaffed in the inorganic area and when Gordon Anderson announced he would be leaving, we were able to "promote" her to a regular faculty position.

**Chung Wong** was happy to provide some news from current or former members of his research group: Samith Rathnayake from Sri Lanka joined Chung's group as a postdoctoral fellow this year. On Thanksgiving, he treated the group with the delights of Ceylon tea. Postdoc Justin Spiriti presented his work at the ACS Midwest Meeting in Springfield, MO. Former postdoc Baojing Zhou, now a professor at Nanjing University of Science and Technology in

China, published two papers with the group this year. Tanay Chandak, a former high-school student and later a summer intern, published a second paper with the group this year. Former high-school student Janvi Huria started college at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology this fall. And in the spring we heard of the renewal of his NIH funding for the proposal "Computer-Aided Drug Design Targeting Protein Phosphorylation" for \$460K from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2025

**Jinjia Xu** joins us in Fall 2022 as an organic chemist with interests in materials chemistry. She graduated from Huazhong University in China with a BS in chemical engineering and went to Tsukuba University in Japan where she obtained a MS degree in organic chemistry and a PhD degree in materials engineering. After doing a postdoc there she came to the US to do additional postdoctoral research at Purdue University and she is currently a postdoctoral scientist with Jefferson Chan at the University of Illinois – Urbana Champaign.

#### EMERITUS, RETIRED, AND FORMER FACULTY

**Charlie Armbruster** still lives in Orlando but I had a very hard time locating him. His Bridge Club told me he was very ill and in rehab, but on calling there, I learned he had been taken to the hospital. I just spoke to him—he can hardly speak and learned that he had abdominal surgery in early April. He has not been in his home for more than a year. If I learn more before I go to press, I will update this paragraph.

**Lawrence Barton** and his wife **Patricia J. Barton** BA 1978 continue to spend most of their time in Fort Myers, FL. He goes back to St. Louis occasionally. The two trips in the fall involved UMSL and were to attend the *Founders'* event when **Rajiv Banavali** PhD 2004 was presented with a UMSL Distinguished Alumni award and to the celebration of life for **Mike Drain** BA 1982. Dr. Barton keeps busy writing the UMSL CHEMIST, and other work, involving the website and the Chemistry Alumni Council. He continues to serve on the Alumni Association Board of Directors and on the UMSL Retirees Association Board. His ACS activities are now limited to serving on the Senior Chemists Committee. He will be back in May and June for the two CAC events, the 50th anniversary of the class of 1972 and the event honoring Jim Chickos on his retirement.



**Jinjia Xu** who joins the faculty in fall 2022. Here interests are in organic and materials chemistry (see right for further details)



Pat and Lol Barton were with Peggy Hermes and Dave Garin, in mid-Covid 2020 at her home. Photo credits go to Peggy

*James S. Chickos'* career will be celebrated on June 11 when the Chemistry Alumni Council will hold a reception in honor of his retirement from UMSL after 51 years on the faculty. This is the second longest for any UMSL faculty member. Jim and I became acquainted slightly when Jim was a graduate student at Cornell University in 1964 and I was a post-doc there. Jim did his undergraduate degree at the University of Buffalo and obtained his PhD degree from Cornell. Jim re-appeared to me in 1969 when we interviewed him for a position here. He had been a postdoc at Princeton following his PhD and was a post-doc at the University of Wisconsin with Robert West when he interviewed. The rest is history. At UMSL Jim taught organic chemistry, both lecture and lab, chemistry for nursing students, organic chemical spectroscopy for seniors and graduate students and some special topics including flavor and fragrance chemistry. He published about 200 articles in chemistry journals and collaborated with many scientists within and without the department. These included 12 PhD students, at least 10 MS students, more than 20 undergraduates and many senior investigators from the US and abroad. He also co-authored, with then-UMSL colleagues David Garin and Robert Rouse, "Chemistry Its Role in Society", a chemistry textbook for non science majors, published in 1973 by D. C. Heath.

*Joyce Y. Corey* has not been doing very well recently but several colleagues, alumni and friends have stepped up to help her, especially Hal and Mary Harris. I did receive a very nice message from *Roberta L (Birdi) Farrell* BS 1975 describing various visits with Joyce. Joyce was able to visit and spend time with *Vincent Chang* MS 1979, and his wife Sarah in Chicago last fall. She also visited with Birdi, the Harris' and Jim Chickos, Rudi and Margaret Winter in the latter's' new retirement home in Old Webster Groves in the fall.

*Alexei V. Demchenko* we were shocked to hear, retired in 2021 and moved to St. Louis University as Professor and Chair of the Department of Chemistry. It was perhaps the most shocking event in the department during my 55 years plus association with it. His leaving was due to a disagreement with the administration about hiring graduate students during the pandemic. He continues his excellent research program and numbers several UMSL graduates in his group including *Samira Escopy*,

PhD 2021, who is a visiting fellow and starts on Mar 1 at Harvard as a post-doc. Also there with him are *Daniel Hoard* BS, 2020, *Ashley Dent* BS, 2017, Nicholas Forsythe BS, 2021 and *Mariya Novakova* BSBB 2019.

*David L. Garin* is tutoring chemistry to his grandson who is doing high school chemistry lab at home using a lab kit and "chemicals" purchased in grocery stores. It has led to some amusing interactions. It has also led to some good in-depth conversations. David continues to work with the UMSL Retirees' Association Board and also serves on the Board of the Missouri Coalition for the Environment.

*Harold H. Harris* and his wife Mary have been helping Joyce Corey as she goes through a difficult time. They also continue to travel and were able to visit the Bartons in Fort Myers, when they were staying in Naples during the winter. Hal goes into the department and has projects that keep him busy and also runs tennis league. He plays several times per week.

*Nigam P. Rath* was on campus in July 2021 for training some student users from UMSL, SLU and WashU in the X-ray lab. Since then he was involved in screening and interviewing the candidates for the X-ray Postdoc. Outside of UMSL, he has had some minor consulting.



*Alexei Demchenko with his PhD graduates Scott Geringer, Catherine Alex and Samira Escopy at the 2021 Commencement.*



*Prof. Jane Miller, who passed away last year, at lunch with, clockwise, Joan Twillman, BA 1982, Sandy Mueller BA 1976, Liz Petersen BA Biology 1980, Prof. Corey and Jeanette Hencken BA 1985, in 2020.*



Former Adjunct Faculty colleague,  
the late Dr. Dennis C. Owsley

**Dennis Owsley** who taught for us from 1978 to 1985 died at 78 in Arizona in November 2021. He joined us an adjunct and taught organic chemistry in the evenings. He left to host **Be-bop and Beyond** and later in 1988 he hosted "**Jazz Unlimited**," (9 p.m.-midnight, Sundays), on KWMU, our public radio station. He was a very talented fellow and presented a wide range of public lectures on chemistry and environmental matters. He also wrote two books, "City of Gabriels - The Jazz History of St. Louis 1895-1973." and "St. Louis Jazz - A History," released in 2019. He spent his career as a research chemist at Monsanto.

**James P. Riehl**, who taught and did research at UMSL from 1977 through 1993 is retired and lives with his wife Cecilia near Ashville, NC. He and Ceci spent a long weekend in April with the Bartons in Fort Myers.

**Rudolph E. K. Winter** and his wife Margaret moved from their house in Parkview, University City to a retirement community in Old Webster Groves. The Editor was pleased to be able to visit them when he was in town in early March.

### CURRENT AND FORMER STAFF

During the past year the office staff members have all changed. **Leah Trimble** Business Support Specialist for the sciences left for Saint Louis University and was replaced by **Keila Gonzalez**. Keila most recently held a position as an Operations Specialist for a private capital management firm. Prior to that, from 2017-2020, she worked as an intern, and then was promoted to a Project Coordinator in UMSL Facilities Services. Keila has an undergraduate business degree from UMSL and is currently pursuing her MBA with an emphasis in management at UMSL as well.

**Alissa Maloney** replaced her sister **Jasmine** as Office Support Assistant II. Jasmine is now Office coordinator for the College of Arts and Sciences Office.

**Daniel Cranford** is Coordinator, Lab Operations and we have another new part-time glassblower, **Brent Dummit**.

Two professional additions to the staff are **Bishal Nepal** PhD 2021 with Dr. Stine as Microscopic Imaging and Spectroscopy Technology Lab Fellow and **Dr. Rajamoni Jagan** as X-

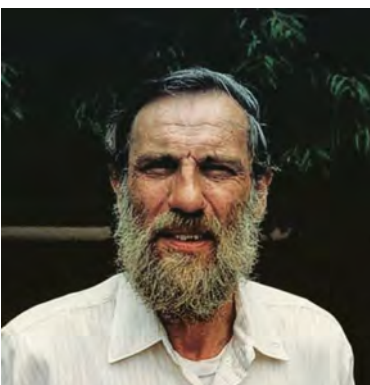
Ray Diffraction Lab Director. Dr. Jagan has a Ph.D. in X-ray Crystallography and over 40 publications in X-ray studies of supramolecular structures.

**Betty Eshbaugh**, who was our first secretary and ran the department office for 34 years, and I, had a wonderful phone conversation in February. She retired in 1997 after spending 35 years with the University, Betty worked with Charles Armbruster who served as Chair of the Division of Science and then Department Chair through 1975, then with Robert Murray who served as chair through 1980 and then with me for more than 17 years. Betty was old-school and didn't welcome the replacement of typewriters by computers, but maintained excellent financial records and was a stabilizing influence for so long. Many students will recall her enjoying swimming in the campus pool until it was demolished in 1976 and then as mother hen on many float trips. After retirement in December 1997, Betty and her husband Ken returned to their native Ohio in the Dayton suburbs. They purchase a seasonal home in Pharr TX, about 6 miles north of the Rio Grande. Betty lost Ken in Jan 2014 and Betty broke her hip 5 weeks later. I was happy to learn that she is still going strong at 90 years old and continues to snowbird from Miamisburg OH to Pharr TX, annually. During our conversation, we were happy to reminisce about old times, old friends and colleagues. However she is most proud of her grandson, Eric, who has degrees from Villanova University and works for the State Department, currently in Saudi Arabia. He is her retired attorney daughter Lelo's son.

### SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Because of the generosity of alumni, friends and faculty members, the department is able to provide support in the form of scholarships and fellowships to deserving and needy students. The year 2021, was not a good one for fundraising for this purpose but a large gift of \$50,000, raised the total to about \$75,000.

**The Charles W. Armbruster Undergraduate Chemistry Scholarship** honors Dr. Charles W. Armbruster, who served as Chair of the Division of Science and as the first department chair. The Scholarship is given to incoming Missouri resident undergraduate transfer students, For 2021-22 it was split between two



Emeritus Professor Rudi Winter



**Dr. Rajamoni Jagan** our new Manager of the X-ray Facility.



Melanie Shadrick with the award she won at the Graduate Research Fair in April 2022

students *Samantha Aarons* and *Clara Beutel*

**The Lawrence Barton Scholarship** is designed primarily for junior chemistry majors who are first generation college students and who have financial need. For 2021-2022 a scholarship was awarded to *Kaitlyn Murphy*.

**The Barbara W. Brown Fellowship for Women in Chemistry** is designated for students who are women over the age of 24. It was established by *Dr. Barbara (Willis) Brown* BA 1984 who has worked on behalf of and supported the department for many years. The 2021-2022 fellowships went to *Jennifer Grindler* and *Nastasia Zyryanova*

**The Eric G. Brunngraber Undergraduate Research Fellowship** honors the late Dr. Eric G. Brunngraber. He was the first regular biochemistry faculty member. For 2021-2022 the fellowship went to *Baylor Smith*.

**The William and Erma Cooke Memorial Scholarship** is designed primarily for sophomores. It was endowed by *Dr. Dorothy C. Cooke* BS 1971, in honor of her parents William and Erma Cooke, in 1989. *Brittany Richardson*, and *Hunter Campbell* shared the scholarships for 2021-2022. This was the first major alumni supported endowed scholarship at UMSL.

**The Eugene and Joyce Corey Scholarship** goes to an outstanding undergraduate who has excelled in service to the department. It honors the late Eugene Corey who served on the faculty from 1969 to 1988, and Professor Emerita Joyce Corey. The 2021-2022 award went to *Brittany Richardson* and *Hunter Campbell*.

**Friends and Alumni Scholarships** are need-based and were established after an appeal made to alumni and friends and matched by the University in 2005. For 2021-2022 one was awarded to *Jekiya Hill*

**The Hal and Mary Harris Scholarship** is awarded to juniors seeking a degree in chemistry with a minimum GPA of 3.0 and enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours. The 2021-2022 award went to *Michael McDonald*.

**The John J. Taylor Scholarship** was established by his family. *John J. Taylor* BA 1979 had directed funds from his estate to a need-based chemistry scholarship. For 2021-2022 *Diana Lund* received a scholarship.

**The M. Thomas Jones Memorial Fund** honors Dr. Jones who was in the department for 21 years. It funds an annual award for the top graduate student seminar in each semester. For fall 2020 an award was made to *Helena Spikes* and for spring 2021 to *Catherine Alex*.

**The Stephen S. Lawrence Scholarship** was established by *Steve Lawrence* BA 1982, PhD 1989 and is awarded to junior or senior chemistry majors who are good departmental citizens. 2021-2022 awards were made to *Hunter Campbell* and *Harper Wioldt*.

**The Rath Family Scholarship**, established by Nigam and his family, is for full-time undergraduates studying STEM and preference may be given to Chemistry/Biochemistry students. The 2021-2022 award went to *Harper Wioldt*.

**The Linda and Michael Finkes Chemistry Scholarship** is funded through the generous contributions of *Linda* BA political science 1970 and *Michael J. Finkes* BS 1973, MS 1978. The recipient for 2019-20 and 2020-21 was *Zaharak Farese*

**The Monsanto Biochemistry and Biotechnology Scholarship** was established in 2005 with the help of *Michael Finkes*, BS 1973, MS 1978 who encouraged his employers to provide funds, which would be matched by the University. It is awarded to non-freshmen in the BS program in Biochemistry and Biotechnology and for 2019-20 it went to *Sinhareeb Basim Al Olewi*.

**The Rudolph E. K. Winter Graduate Scholarship**, initiated by *Robert Zehr* BS 1976, MS 1979 and supported by alumni and friends, provides stipend supplements for worthy incoming PhD students preferably majoring in some aspect of organic chemistry. The first ever was awarded to *Daniel Hoard* this past year.

## STUDENT PERFORMANCE AWARDS

### Undergraduate

The award for the *Outstanding Student in Introductory Chemistry* went to *Nora Ovchiyan*, *Kyle Donaldson* and *Shylyn Collier* who received a certificate and the *Handbook of Chemistry and Physics* from the Chemical Rubber Company. The Award to the *Outstanding Student in Sophomore Chemistry* went to *Saba Sheikh* The *ACS Award for Organic Chemistry*



Deva Talasila current PhD student and *Jessica Doshi* BA 2021 a former undergraduate in Dr. Bauer's group



went to **Nicholas Forsyth**, and **Jessica Doshi** and the ACS Award for Analytical Chemistry went to **Mark Clark**. The ACS Awards in Inorganic and Physical Chemistry went to **Mark Clark** and **Carol Welch** respectively. Aid to Education Awards went to **Patrick Gleason**, **Michael McDonald**, **Mariam Ali**, **Dominik Kosican**, **Kaitlyn Murphy**, and **Aba Sheikh**. The ACS-St. Louis Section's Outstanding Junior Award went to **Michael McDonald** and **Hunter Campbell** received the Alan F. Berndt Outstanding Senior Award.

### Graduate

The Graduate Student Research Accomplishment Award went to **Samira Escopy** and the Ceil deGutis Award for Research Excellence went to **Bishal Nepal**. The Jack L. Coombs Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award went to **Austin Stelling**, the Outstanding Masters Student Award went to **Daniel Dougherty** and the M. Thomas Jones Memorial Fellowship for the outstanding seminar presented by a Doctoral Student went to **Helena Spikes** (F-2020) and **Catherine Alex** (Sp-2021)

### THE ROBERT W. MURRAY LECTURE

Our signature lecture, endowed by gifts from alumni, faculty, the Murray family and friends, was established in 1998 to honor **Robert W. Murray** who joined the faculty at UM-St. Louis in 1968 after a very successful ten-year career at Bell Labs. He was born in Brockton, Massachusetts, and received degrees from Brown University, Wesleyan University and Yale, where he completed his Ph.D. with Professor Martin Saunders. He served as chair of the Chemistry Department from 1975 to 1980. In 1981 he was the first chemist in the University of Missouri system to be appointed Curators' Professor and was an internationally renowned scholar. He received the American Chemical Society St. Louis Award in 1974, the Midwest Award in 1989, the University of Missouri Presidential Award for Research and Creativity in 1990 and the I. H. Weldon Medal of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association in 1994. In May 2001, Dr. Murray was presented with the St. Louis Academy of Sciences Peter H. Raven Lifetime Achievement Award. He retired and was appointed Curator's Professor Emeritus in 1999 and died of natural causes in 2012.

The Lecture series, now in its 24<sup>th</sup> year has been most successful and has involved, to

date, three winners of the Nobel Prize, all of whom were so honored after they had been Murray Lecturers. The most recent was in 2021 when **David W. C. Macmillan**, the 2013 lecturer, shared the prize. However we were shocked to hear that **Robert H. Grubbs** the 2001 Lecturer and a 2005 Nobel Laureate died in 2021. **James Fraser Stoddart**, won the prize in 2016. The list of honors other Murray Lecturers have won is too long to list here. Unfortunately due to the Covid-19, the lecture has been postponed since 2020. **The 23rd Annual Robert W. Murray Lecture** was to be presented by **Dr. Omar M. Yaghi**, **James and Neeltje Tretter Professor of Chemistry** and Co-Director of the Kavli Energy Nanoscience's Institute at the University of California-Berkeley. The title of his seminar was to be "Harvesting Water from Desert Air". However, due to the Covid-19, the lecture has been postponed until further notice since we want to hold it in person.

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI LECTURE

The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Distinguished Alumni Lecture was presented by **Dr Eric A. Bruton**, BS 1997, PhD 2003. This lecture titled "Flexibility and Always Learning: A Chemist's Tale" was presented via zoom. Dr. Bruton studied hydrogen bonding interactions using single crystal crystallography with Lee Brammer for his PhD degree. In fact Lee Brammer, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Sheffield in the UK was on the zoom presentation. Eric is a Senior Scientist with Boeing in St. Louis and an adjunct Professor at Lindenwood University. He has been an active member of the leadership of the St. Louis Section of the ACS, serving as Chair when the Section was honored with the Award for Outstanding Performance by a Medium-Large Section in 2012. Some of his earlier activities were with the Younger Chemists Committee, Career Counseling and in promoting ACS Leadership Development Courses. In 2017 Eric was elected Councilor for the St. Louis Section to the national organization to replace the editor who resigned to make place for him. Eric is currently Chair of the Council Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs.

The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Distinguished Alumni Lecture will be given by **Dr. Sean D. Dingman** BS 1994, on Monday May 2, at 4:00 pm via zoom. His title is "La Vita Alchemica" Sean holds a PhD degree from Washington Univer

### Robert W. Murray Lecturers

- **1998 Robert W. Murray**,\* Curators' Prof. of Chemistry, UMSL.
- **1999 Christopher S. Foote**,\* Prof. of Chemistry, UCLA.
- **2000 Harry H. Wasserman**,\* Eugene Higgins Prof. Emeritus, Yale University. 2014
- **2001 Robert H. Grubbs**,\*§ Victor and Elizabeth Atkins Prof. of Chemistry, Cal-Tech. 2021
- **2002 James Fraser Stoddart**,§ Winstein Chair, Chemistry and Biochemistry, UCLA
- **2003 T. Don Tilley**, Prof. of Chemistry, UC-Berkeley.
- **2004 Jacqueline K. Barton**, A. & M Hanisch Memorial Prof. of Chemistry, Cal-Tech.
- **2005 Peter F. Bernath**, Industrial Research Chair in Spectroscopy, University of Waterloo, Ontario.
- **2006 Fredric M. Menger**, Charles Howard Candler Prof. Organic Chemistry, Emory University.
- **2007 Chad A. Mirkin**, George B. Rathmann Prof. of Chemistry, Northwestern University.
- **2008 William R. Roush**, Executive Director, Medicinal Chemistry, Prof. of Chemistry, Scripps, FL.
- **2009 Philip P. Power**, Professor of Inorganic Chemistry, U C-Davis.
- **2010 Daniel G. Nocera**, Patterson Rockwood Prof. of Energy at Harvard University.
- **2011 Steven V. Ley**, 1702 Chair of Chemistry at Cambridge University.
- **2012 Valentino Stella**, Distinguished Prof. of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, at the University of Kansas.
- **2013 David W. C. Macmillan**,§ Distinguished Prof. Chemistry, Princeton University.
- **2014 Joanna Aizenberg**, Amy Smith Berylson Professor of Science at Harvard University.
- **2015 R. Graham Cooks**, Henry Bohn Hass Distinguished Prof. of Chemistry at Purdue University.
- **2016 Michael J. Krische**, Robert A. Welch Chair in Science at the University of Texas-Austin.
- **2017 Karen L. Wooley**, W. T. Doherty-Welch Chair in Chemistry at Texas A&M University.
- **2018 Lucy M. Ziurys**, Regents Prof. of Chemistry and Astronomy, University of Arizona.
- **2019 James C. Paulson**, Cecil H. & Ida Green Prof. of Molecular Medicine, The Scripps Research Institute.
- **20XX Dr. Omar M. Yaghi**, James and Neeltje Tretter Professor of Chemistry at UC-Berkeley.

§. Nobel Prize recipient  
\* Deceased

ity in St. Louis. As an undergraduate student at UMSL he did research with Keith Stine on enantiomeric and racemic monolayers using fluorescence microscopy and after graduation completed a PhD in materials chemistry with William Buhro at Washington University in St. Louis where he studied the chemical synthesis of semiconductor nanostructures. He is currently the Senior Technical Service Specialist with OxyChem's isocyanurate business in St. Louis, and has spent time with the Sigma Aldrich Hitech Division, with BASF and the Mississippi Lime Company. He has also taught in the chemistry departments at UMSL and WU-STL. Sean was a member of the initial group that developed the Chemistry Alumni Council, serving as the Owner of the UMSL Chemistry Department Alumni Group on LinkedIn. He continues as a member of the CAC and owner of the LinkedIn group.

### EDITOR'S COLUMN

This year continued to be a difficult one for all of us. Last year, I said we can see the light at the end of the tunnel, but that tunnel has taken a few unfortunate turns.

Just as I was about to go to press last year, I heard that Professor Alexei Demchenko had retired from UMSL, and his Curators' Distinguished Professor position, and was becoming chair of the chemistry department at Saint Louis University. This was a result of a dispute with the administration about hiring new graduate students, using his research grant funds. SLU also made him an offer he could not refuse. I did not want to report such shocking news at the time, so I delayed until this year.

The loss of Alexei followed the retirement of long-serving colleague Jim Chickos, another organic chemist, who had been here for over 50 years. Last fall, George Gokel decided to retire after a long and distinguished career—more is written about George, who was also an organic chemist, earlier. Janet Wilking, who had been associated with the department longer than any of those currently on the faculty also decided to retire. Janet was, of course, a student in the early 1980s and received a BA degree in the department. Again, more is found earlier about Janet. The department now has only ten regular tenure-track faculty members, including the new hire Dr Jinjia Xu who joins us in the fall. Compare

this to the numbers decades ago given later. Although these numbers are not necessarily so informative since we may have been hiring in a particular year, however, to pick intervals of ten years exactly gives credibility to the data. In 2012 we had eighteen regular faculty members. In 2002 we had fifteen, and in 1992 we had nineteen. Such has been the erosion of perhaps the best department on campus, as measured by the usual criteria. There is one consistency and that is that we continue to attract outstanding students and they do well following graduation, as indicated by the vignettes I include annually in the UMSL CHEMIST.

As time passes, I am becoming more detached from the department, especially the undergraduates, so one of these days someone will have to take over my role. It is really disappointing, for someone so invested in the department and UMSL for so long, to see how the department has fared in its treatment by the administration. They love to talk about our excellent relations with you all, how well we do in attracting the 50-year graduates back to campus, and until very recently the success we have had in raising external research funds. Now we do not have the critical mass of full-time regular faculty members to run a doctoral program. Why is that? I really don't know why those with the purse strings can be so shortsighted.

Anyway, in my role there is not much I can do except present evidence of how well our current and former students have done. I do that through this publication and in my involvement with the Chemistry Alumni Council which has been a real success story. During the past two years the Chemistry Alumni Council spent quite some time planning events just in case we would be able to hold in-person meetings. That did not happen, but we organized, via zoom, a virtual reunion for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the classes of 1970 and 1971. We held three consecutive events honoring the first three chemistry classes, 1967-69, at UMSL. At these three, our attendance from the golden graduates was better than that for any other unit. The one this past year was more difficult, but we had an excellent group of graduates on that zoom. Attending from 1970 were *John R. Kolb* BS, *John Koenig*

### Distinguished Alumni Lecturers

- 1988 Sandy Asher BA 1971
  - 1989 David Henton BS 1967
  - 1990 Harold Messler BS 1970
  - 1991 Gary S. Jacob BS 1969
  - 1992 Susan A. Varnum BS 1982\*\*
  - 1993 William L. Neuman PhD 1987
  - 1994 C. Michael Drain BA 1982
  - 1995 Janet Wilking BA 1985
  - 1996 Robert L. Lamberg BS 1972
  - 1997 Dawn L. Shiang BA 1983\*\*
  - 1998 Karl Seper BS 1982
  - 1999 Michael D. Ennis BS 1978
  - 2000 Deborah F. Bergstrom BS 1980
  - 2001 Ken Owens BS 1980
  - 2002 Douglas G. Nuelle BS 1969
  - 2003 Jerry Ronecker BS 1982
  - 2004 Jean Huhmann BA 1992\*\*
  - 2005 Rajiv Banavali PhD 1985
  - 2006 Alicia M. Beatty BS 1989
  - 2007 Joseph P. Bono BS 1969
  - 2008 Timothy T. Wentzel BS 1978
  - 2009 Donald G. Hesse BS 1984\*\*
  - 2010 Barbara W. Brown BA 1984
  - 2011 Elizabeth A. Ambrose BA 1997\*\*
  - 2012 Stephen J. Kolodziej BA 1987\*\*
  - 2013 Kim S. Gorman BA 1992
  - 2014 Katherine M. Block BS 2001
  - 2015 Michael D. Groaning BA 1995\*
  - 2016 Michael J. Finkes BS 1973\*
  - 2017 Dennis Parazak BS 1982\*\*
  - 2018 Yana Levchinsky-Grimmond BS 1997\*
  - 2019 Martin E. Hayes BA 1999
  - 2020 Elizabeth Keath BA 1978
  - 2021 Eric A Bruton BS 1997\*\*
  - 2022 Sean Dingman BS 1994
- Only the first UMSL degree I listed  
 \* Received UMSL MS degree  
 \*\* Received UMSL PhD degree

BS, and *Alan Sapia* BS. From 1971 was *Dorothy Cooke* BS, *John Doisy* BA, *Frank Marre'* BA, *Harry W. Orf* BS, and *Denis W. Wester* BS. Others present included: *Ray Novak* BS 1968, who has attended all four 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, *Joseph Bono* BS 1969 *Michael Finkes* BS 1973, and one of the organizers of the event, *Jean Vincent* BS 1992, *Joseph Meisel* PhD 2016, and *Catherine Alex* PhD 2021. Also, on the call were yours truly, and faculty colleagues Keith Stine, Eike Bauer, briefly Joyce Corey, Alexei Demchenko, Lynda McDowell, Chung Wong and Deb Godwin, a good friend of the department from UMSL Advancement.

We have planned some major events for the near future. We resume our in-person Golden Anniversaries at Commencement on May 14 when we honor graduates from 1970-72 and the class of 2022. Some details are available elsewhere in this volume and on the website and the LinkedIn site. We are also going to honor Jim Chickos a faculty colleague for up to 50 years for some of us and someone who influenced, taught, and mentored hundreds of students. We hope to see you at these events.

After conversation with Drs Stine and O'Brien, we will reintroduce my lustrums (look it up) of department, and related UMSL history that I began in 2007 and completed covering 1965—2010 but delayed in 2015. This time I hope to get some help and will again try to put it all together into a single article on the history of the department.

It is getting harder to keep up and in touch with you all so please contact me and let me know about your professional and personal lives if you would like to share your news. I really look forward to more good news in the coming years. Please stay connected and let me know how you are doing. All the e-mail addresses of faculty are on the website: <http://www.umsl.edu/chemistry/>

### Thanks to Generous Contributors 2021-2022

Below we list the individuals, chemistry alumni and friends, and matching employers, who made contributions to the department processed since Spring 2021. We are most grateful for your support. This list may not be complete and for this we apologize. The University is updating the record-keeping system, and

that, along with staff changes, has made obtaining the most up-to-date data more difficult. Recent gifts will appear next year.

Philip Asaro  
Rajiv and Marysusan Banavali  
Lol and Pat Barton  
Edward Brunngraber  
Eric and Ann Brunngraber  
Kirsten Blase  
Vincent and Sarah Chang  
James Chickos  
Edith Csiki-Fejer  
Carol and Tony Daus  
Donna and Michael Deitrick  
Sean and Rene Dingman  
Gary and Kathy Jacob  
Toni De La Cruz  
Alexei Demchenko and Cristina De Meo  
Linda and Michael Finkes  
David Garin and Margaret Hermes  
Lee and Judy Gori  
Kim and Joe Gorman  
Hal and Mary Harris  
Martin Hayes and Antoinette Morris  
Chris Hayes  
Lisa Hoguet  
Nassif Hoque  
Richard and Joan Hoyt  
Ginnie and Ray Houserman  
J Huddleston  
Patricia L. Jones  
Lucy Kastner  
John and Judy Kolb  
Shelly Kumar  
Yana Levchinsky & Brian Grimmond  
Larry Maston  
Bill McCarthy and Tara Spevack  
Sabina Merra  
Michael Merriman  
Steven Mestemacher  
Mary and Craig Mierkowski  
James Murphy  
Victor And Rita Nelson  
Diem Ngo  
Dan and Joan O'Neal  
Kathleen Patris  
Janet and Michael Place  
Michael Provance  
Greg Przygoda  
Vincent Rapini  
Wil Ridley  
Bruce and Vicki Ritts  
John Schuster  
Dawn and Bill Shiang  
Tom Solsten  
Emilie Smith and Dan Heberer  
Scott Smith  
Chris Spilling  
Keith Stine  
Ellen Y Suni  
Mohamed Uppal

Angelo Vangel  
Dolores Vermont  
Jean and John Vincent  
Bo Liu and Shugang Wu  
Axia Sun and Gary Weese  
Hui Zhao  
Abb Vie  
Abbot Labs  
Great Rivers Foundation  
Boeing  
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Photographs were hard to obtain this past year but I wish to thank Eike Bauer, August Jennewein, and Jim O'Brien for help. Unfortunately we were unable to include photographs of students receiving awards and scholarships since we had no in-person award ceremonies. I also acknowledge, *Patricia Barton* BA 1978, and Dr. David Garin for proofreading. Any errors, especially in content are mine.

### Editorial Acknowledgement

All the non-factual comments in this volume are opinions expressed by the Editor and not opinions expressed by anyone in the department or the administration.

Please follow the department on Facebook. The following was established by and is managed by Eike Bauer

<https://www.facebook.com/UMSLChem/>

## UMSL Chemistry Alumni Fund

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Yes I work for a matching gift corporation.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ I would like information about bequests to the University.

**Designation for funds:**

- Chemistry Department Endowment \_\_\_\_\_
- Robert W. Murray Lectureship \_\_\_\_\_
- Eugene and Joyce Corey Scholarship Fund \_\_\_\_\_
- E. G. Brunngraber Fellowship (undergraduate research) \_\_\_\_\_
- Charles W. Armbruster Scholarship \_\_\_\_\_
- Lawrence Barton Scholarship \_\_\_\_\_
- M. Thomas Jones Memorial Fund (graduate student support) \_\_\_\_\_
- Rudolph Ernst K. Winter Graduate Fellowship Fund \_\_\_\_\_
- Barbara Willis Brown Women in Chemistry Scholarship \_\_\_\_\_
- Outstanding GTA Award Dedicated to the Memory of Jack L. Coombs \_\_\_\_\_
- Unrestricted \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Contact me; I have ideas for a new scholarship/fellowship or other fund \_\_\_\_\_

**You may also contribute to any of the Scholarships and Fellowships listed on page 16 which were established by the person for whom the award is named, by indicating in "other".**

I have included the University in my estate plan \_\_\_\_\_ Please make check payable to UMSL. "Chemistry Alumni Fund" and return to:

Keith J. Stine, Professor and Chair,  
 Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry  
 University of Missouri-St. Louis  
 St. Louis, MO 63121

Or contribute online at the UMSL website by clicking GIVE on the upper right of the site. Select the option "other" and type in the designation (e.g. Chemistry Department Endowment).

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### INFORMATION UPDATE SPRING 2022

Please respond to this questionnaire. We have mentioned previously how important it is for us to keep track of what you are doing, both professionally and personally.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ UMSL Degree \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Current mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Recent Activities and Other News: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

News of other alumni: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
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**UMSL CHEMIST**  
  
**SPRING 2022**

**Please join the UMSL Chemistry Alumni Group on LinkedIn for announcements of alumni activities and other department news and events**