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July 7, 2004

Dear Chemistry Alum:

This is an update on departmental affairs and also an announcement of a reception at the upcoming ACS meeting in Philadelphia.

I will start with departmental news. Gordon Anderson has accepted the position of Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at East Tennessee State University. We are very sorry to see him go but certainly wish him all the best in this new challenge. Gordon joined the faculty in 1981, and was the first person I was responsible for hiring when I became chair. He is an organometallic chemist, a very productive researcher and a most helpful colleague. He completed his degrees at the University of Glasgow and did postdoctoral research at the University of Guelph prior to coming here.

The new department chair will be Chris Spilling. Chris, also from the U.K., joined the faculty in 1989. He completed his Ph.D. degree at the University of Loughborough and did postdoctoral research at Northwestern University. Chris is an organic chemist, specializing in organophosphorus chemistry, organometallic chemistry and marine natural products. Chris will assume the position in August.

Although we have lost Gordon and, in recent years, Don Becker, Lee Brammer and Bill Welsh, this year we are adding faculty members. We are pleased to announce that Janet Wilking will become a tenure-track assistant professor in the fall. Janet has managed the NMR Facility since 1993 and has also run a research program and directed the research of MS students. Her work is in the chemistry of systems containing silicon-transition metal bonds and it is currently funded by the NSF. She received her undergraduate degree in the department in 1985 and then did a Ph.D. degree at Washington University and postdoctoral research at Harvard. She joined us in 1993 after working for Mallinckrodt Inc. in St. Louis. We will also be replacing the NMR Facility Manager position this fall. The Don Becker position was replaced this year and we are delighted to welcome Michael R. Nichols. Mike received a B.A. degree from Lindenwood College and a Ph.D. degree from Purdue. He is a biochemist specializing in protein assembly or aggregation. He comes to us from the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville Florida. Chung Wong fills the Bill Welsh position and his interests are in computational chemistry and physical chemistry. Most recently he has applied his methods to

biochemical problems. He received a B.Sc. degree from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and his Ph.D. degree from the University of Chicago. After postdoctoral work at the University of Houston, he held academic and industrial positions at the University of Houston, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, SUGEN, Inc., University of California-San Diego, and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

And now on to the ACS meeting in Philadelphia, where we are one of the sponsors of the ACS Alumni Hour. Details have not been announced yet, except that the function will be held in the Convention Center from 6:00 to 7:30 pm on Monday, August 23. Among those present will be our new chair, Chris Spilling, along with Hal Harris and me. The announcement of the reception is to be found on page 76 of the June 28 issue of C&EN. Further information will be given in C&EN and also at our web site <http://www.umsl.edu/chemistry/> under Alumni News and Events.

You will note that all the above information is about faculty members. Please send me information about yourself so I can include it in the next UMSL CHEMIST, scheduled to appear in late fall. You will read all about your classmates and other alumni in the next issue. In the meantime, we hope to see you in Philadelphia!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence Barton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lawrence" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Barton".

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