

CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT

Tennessee Tech University

Volume 15, Fall 2004

Preprofessional Reunion Planned for Homecoming 2004

Dear Alumni and Friends of the Chemistry Department:

Allow me to introduce myself. I am Susan (Coleman) Slate, an alum of Tech of the class of 1984. The Tennessee Tech Chemistry Department hopes this letter finds you well. Preparations are underway for Homecoming 2004 on Saturday, November 6. We are hosting a Preprofessional Reunion Banquet at the Holiday Inn at 6:00 p.m. This is to bring together former health preprofessional majors of TTU from all years, and of course any chemistry majors or others who share some of the same memories and interests. There will be sharing of memories, skits, and other activities you won't want to miss. If you are planning to attend this banquet, please make your reservation by calling preprofessional secretary Mary Saunders at 931-372-3093 or emailing her at msaunders@tntech.edu by Friday, October 29. You may also wish to call the Holiday Inn and reserve a room. A limited number of rooms have been set aside. Identify yourself as belonging to the

Preprofessional Reunion Party.

In conjunction with the Banquet, we are attempting something new this year that we would like for you to consider. In endeavoring to provide some scholarship

consider what you would be willing to donate and let me know by email at susanslate226@yahoo.com or phone at 865-690-1950.

As stated before, the intent of these scholarships is to help students in Tennessee

I am a former SGA senator and have agreed to help organize this part of the effort. We will also be celebrating a 20-year reunion for the Class of 1984, as well as getting classmates from other years together for

Join us for Homecoming 2004
Saturday, Nov. 6

assistance to preprofessional students from Putnam and surrounding counties, we will be conducting a silent auction during the banquet at the Holiday Inn in Cookeville. These kinds of events often contain unusual and exciting items or services that can be used as gifts or for yourself. We are now collecting auction items.

Some suggestions are small gift items; services ranging from airplane rides and hot air balloon rides to professional organizing; gift certificates; short term memberships at health clubs, martial arts studios, and the like; the possibilities are almost limitless. Please

who have an interest in pursuing a career in health care as a doctor, dentist, or other form of practice. Tech is recognized as having a Health Science Preprofessional Program that does a great job of preparing students for various professional schools.

fellowship and dining. We look forward to having a great turnout.



Susan (Coleman) Slate (B.S. '84)

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GREETINGS

from the faculty and staff of the
TTU Department of Chemistry

- 1 Martha Wells
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- 4 Mary Saunders
- 5 Hong Zhang
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- 7 Betty Fine
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- 10 Dave Crouse
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- 21 Wanda Maxwell
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- 23 Marvin Barker
- 24 Ed Lisic
- 25 Kathy Rust



CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT

Tennessee Tech University

Stay in touch! Write to TTU Department of Chemistry, Box 5055, Cookeville, TN 38505-0001.
Call 931-372-3421. Learn more about today's programs. Visit www.tntech.edu/chemistry



New Faculty Join Department

The Department is pleased to welcome two new outstanding faculty this Fall.

Dr. Mona Wells is an environmental/analytical chemist who comes to us from a research position at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology. Her research specialty is in bioavailability of contaminants. She earned her B.S. at University of Texas El Paso and her Ph.D.

at Texas A&M. She comes to us with considerable teaching experience, having served at the University of Alaska, Brazil, Harwick College, and SUNY-Oneonta. Her husband, Wayne Kimsey, also landed a position at TTU in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

Dr. Jisook Kim is a biochemist who comes to us from a postdoctoral position

at MIT. She received her B.S. and M.S. at Chung-Ang University and her Ph.D. at Case Western Reserve University. She is interested in interactions of environmental toxins and DNA, and design and synthesis of biologically active cell regulation molecules. Her husband is Professor Titus Albu, a physical chemist on our faculty.

Pictured above, Dr. Jisook Kim; below, Dr. Mona Wells

Chemistry Department Scholarships

Howard G. Ashburn Memorial Scholarship - Dr. Ashburn taught organic chemistry for more than 30 years. He was chairman for the last ten years of his life which ended while still working in 1970.

Ferris U. Foster Memorial Scholarship - Dr. Ferris U. Foster was the original chairman of chemistry and the chemistry building is named for him.

Robert L. Sublett Scholarship - Dr. Sublett taught analytical chemistry for many years and was chairman for 14 years and preprofessional advisor for most of the time he was chairman. He provided major momentum in our scholarship programs.

Lela McDowell-Blankenship Scholarship - Dr. Jack McDowell, a former chemistry student at TTU, started this scholarship in memory of his aunt, Lela McDowell Blankenship, who provided him and many others money to come to TTU.

J.P. and Willie Rush Jewell Scholarship - Professor Powell Jewell taught chemistry at TTU for many years and advised Allied Health Sciences majors.

Leroy Harkins Memorial Scholarship - Leroy Harkins was the first med tech at Cookeville General along with his wife, Eleen. She was the first woman chemistry major to graduate (1941).

Chemical Medical Sciences Scholarship - Several years ago, ChemMed Club members instituted a scholarship to highlight club activities and encourage participation. The

winner is voted on by the students and given to a person who has been particularly active in the club and who is a pre-professional major.

John Skinner Memorial Scholarship - Dr. Skinner taught at TTU in excess of 20 years in biochem and freshman chemistry.

Vernon Allen Memorial Scholarship - Dr. Vernon Allen taught in the Department for 30 years, retiring in 1994. His scholarship is given to attract outstanding students to TTU and the Department.

Swindell/Jackson Scholarship - Former chemistry chair Dr. Robert Swindell, at Univ. of Arkansas, Little Rock, established this award along with Prof. Barbara Jackson to encourage chem majors to work in faculty research labs.

William L. Harper Chemistry Scholarship - A graduate of 1951, Bill Harper is endowing a freshman scholarship for Morgan County students.

Chemistry Dept. Scholarships - Thanks to our lab manual sales, the Department also established several other scholarships for outstanding chemistry majors who have been involved in leadership roles in the Department and community.



ALUMNI Filtrates

Heather Rhoton (B.S. Chem. '03) is a development engineer with a company in Pinellas Park, Florida. She is evaluating the efficacy of current coating techniques and formulations. However, she is looking toward a return to her home state and a job with Eastman in Kingsport. She wrote to say hello to Drs. Crouse and Kline, her organic teachers.

Michelle Smith Bell (1993-98) is teaching high school chemistry and physical science at Gallatin High School (the Green Wave) and loving it.

listed among the top 10 scientists in the state.

Charlie Pangle (B.S. '70), grandson of Ferris U. Foster (Chemistry Chair 1926-63), is working on a plan to make available to the department some of his grandfather's personal items for display in Foster Hall.

Noah Phillip Emmert, a future TTU chemistry major (we speculate), entered this world on March 15, the baby boy of **Dr. Gary Emmert** (B.S. '88, M.S. '92). Gary is

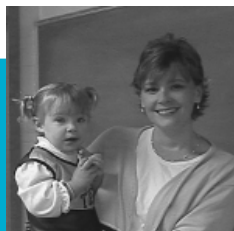
accepted to Ph.D. school at University of Washington in St. Louis, but may plan to do another year of synthetic work at LANL before attending Washington. He has received acceptances at numerous other Ph.D. schools, including Vanderbilt, Colorado State, and Emory.

Yuchun Wang (M.S. '95) sends his greetings from and photos of his new home in Naperville near Chicago, where he works for Cabot Microelectronics.

boy in late 2003 and works for a company in St. Louis. She is currently interviewing with Tripos, Inc., a molecular modeling company.

Dr. Jeffrey Norman (Envir. Sci. Ph.D. '03) is now gainfully employed at the Jack Daniel's Distillery, learning the skills to operate the entire whiskey making process, and getting much practical experience in chemistry and microbiology.

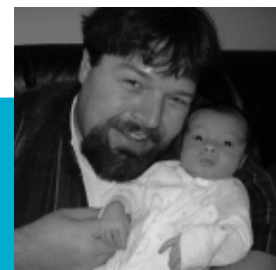
Dr. Jori (Monday) Shaffer (B.S. '94) shared



Prof. Casey (Narrie) Bassett with daughter Avery



Prof. Robin Bright (B.S. '92)



Prof. Gary Emmert with new son Noah

Dr. Ben Rogers (Envir. Sci. Ph.D. '03) had bypass surgery and is on the mend at his home in Chattanooga, expecting to be back to work in mid-August. He is doing well.

Dr. Richard Turner (B.S. '64, M.S. '66) is retiring from Eastman on December 31 after many successful years in the terphthalate plastic polymer business, and will join Virginia Tech as Director of the new Macromolecules and Interfaces Institute and as a Research Professor in 2005. He is looking forward to being on the academic side of things for a change. He was honored in the March 2004 issue of Business Tennessee by being

an outstanding professor of analytical chemistry at a sister TBR school, the University of Memphis.

Dr. C. Andrew (Andy) Boswell (B.S. '98) received his Ph.D. in bio-organic chemistry in the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology (cancer research) at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, and is now doing further clinical cancer research in the lab of Dr. Martin Brechbiel at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD.

Duane Hatch (B.S. '01, M.S. '03) is working at Los Alamos National Labs and having a great time making labeled toxin metabolites for a CDC project. He has been

Bill Harper (B.S. '51) visited campus in April 2004 to personally present the first scholarship award endowed by his William Harper Scholarship to Ms. Adrienne Norris, formerly of Morgan County High School and entering TTU as a chemistry major this Fall.

We received some information on **Bill Hopwood** (B.S. Chem. '67). He went to work in Oak Ridge, and since the end of the Cold War has been heavily involved in working on the transfer of enriched uranium from Russia and the Ukraine. He does much traveling to and from those countries.

Sundari Rallapalli (M.S. '01) was blessed with a baby

some thoughts about her education at TTU, saying, "I was very well prepared by TTU when I went to medical school. I was a girl from the small town of Byrdstown ... and I was intimidated at first by the whole college scene. But I did very well at Tech. Then when I went to medical school I was scared to death again, because I did not know how well prepared I was until I got there. But I became very pleased."

Marcia (Diemer) Mullins, wife of **Gene Mullins** (B.S. '79), commended us at Homecoming, saying that "the residents at her hospital who were TTU preprofessional students are very good. I can tell the

difference.” She is the daughter of Dr. Richard Diemer, emeritus professor of sociology at TTU. She completed pre-nursing at TTU in the mid-1970s. Marcia earned her B.S.N. with highest honors from the University of Alabama-Huntsville in 1980. She is a staff nurse in the adolescent unit at Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital.

Kevin Smith (’95) has a good and growing general dentistry practice in Sparta,

environmental company at the uranium enrichment plant in Paducah, KY, and enjoys his workplace.

Naresh Sunkara (M.S. ’03) is working on his Ph.D. at University of Baltimore with Dr. Katherine Seley working on nucleoside analogs in collaboration with the Scripps’ Institute.

Chala Cripps (B.S. ’01) has finished at Georgia Tech and moved to Washington, D.C., to work in a permanent position for the CIA. She

people and former students kept coming to tell her husband, David, how much Jacki had affected their lives. David shares that Jacki was a dedicated Christian and this reflected in her life and classroom as well.

Cynthia Foster Browning, granddaughter of Ferris U. Foster and Lavinia Tooker Foster, wrote with well-wishes and to find out more about the Foster Scholarship.

Angela Dyer (B.S. ’00) sent an announcement that

Eunice Hernandez. He has a postdoctoral position at University of Montana.

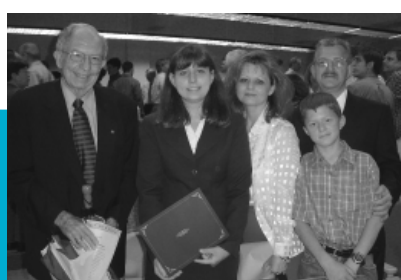
We had a visit from **Terry Swindle** (B.S. Chem. Eng. ’91) who stopped by to give greetings in particular to Drs. Ensor, Glinski, and Kutzler. He is working as a technology manager at Akzo-Nobel Co. in Columbus, Mississippi.

Jennifer Vaughn (B.S. ’02) wrote to convey her excitement at being admitted to medical school at Emory in 2003.

Jacob Alexander (B.S. ’97) received his Ph.D. in



Chala Cripps



Bill Harper with scholarship recipient Adrienne Norris and her family



Jacob Alexander

TN. He writes, “I do feel as if Tech and the Department of Chemistry have enabled me to achieve this goal.”

Matt Winningham (B.S. ’03) finished Officer Candidate School last Fall and will be going to Charleston, SC, to be a nuclear submarine officer. He said regarding Dr. Ensor’s radiochemistry class that at the school, “none of them knew 10% of what I was able to recall from class. The instructor ... ended up just letting me explain the text we had; he had no clue. Just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed both of your classes.”

Forrest Smith (B.S. ’99, M.S. ’03) got married last Fall and is working for CDM, an

loves D.C. and has met many wonderful people, though she says housing prices are ridiculous.

Glenn Fugate (B.S. ’96) received his Ph.D. in 2003 from Florida State and is now at the L.G. Rich Environmental Research Lab in Clemson University.

We were saddened to learn that **Jacki Dow** (M.S. ’96) passed away November 26, 2002, after a complication arose during kidney surgery. She had taught 6 years at Pickett Co. High School, and 7 years at Clinton County (Ky.) High School. The funeral was the biggest viewing and service seen in Pickett County. For four solid hours the towns-

she graduated with the Doctor of Pharmacy degree in May 2003 at Virginia Commonwealth University’s Medical College of Virginia Campus in Richmond. She writes, “I know that it will be hard for some of you to travel for my graduation ... just think about me on that day that my eight years of hard work are finally finished.”

Tim Cartwright (B.S. 1980s) wrote to Dr. Northrup to say, “Your quantum courses were great.” He is general manager of Florantine Products Group in Collierville, TN, working on gene expression in plants.

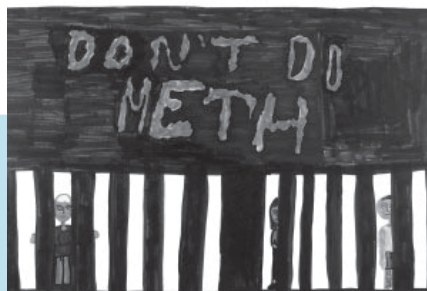
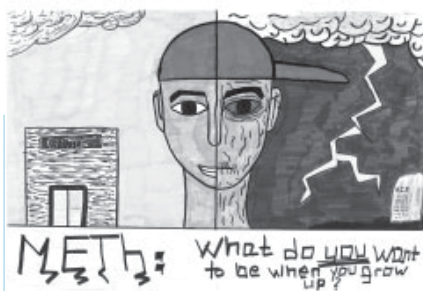
Jonathan McCarney (visiting professor 2002-03) was recently married to

Chemistry at Syracuse. He and his wife, Joanna (and cat Vlade), have recently moved to a nicely furnished apartment in Jerusalem, where she is pursuing schooling at HUC-JIR. He continues to correspond on a regular basis, and is glad to be out of the intense snows of New York.

Kiran Mukyhal (M.S. ’00) landed a position at a company called Protein Mechanics, which develops molecular dynamics simulation software.

Sam Evetts (B.S. ’85) shared some kind words by email recently. “I received the Department newsletter in the mail yesterday. Thanks

Continued on next page



These are just a few of the posters produced by local students participating in the "Methamphetamine — Stop the Madness" project initiated by Professor Jackson.



Professor Barbara Jackson Initiates Meth Awareness Project in Local Schools

The Upper Cumberland is one of the nation's top areas for meth production. The life expectancy of a meth user is 5 years irrespective of starting age or physical condition. For many people it takes only one encounter with the drug for addiction. The meth addiction recovery rate is only 5%. Just as cigarette use has declined over the years due to education, education about the dangers of this poison appears to be a good attack route.

Dr. Barbara Jackson, professor of chemistry at TTU, is not one to sit by idly in the face of this kind of threat to our community. Instead she has thrown her considerable skills as an organizer and screenwriter into initiating a county-wide methamphetamine awareness program for grades 1 through 12. Her highly successful project "METHAMPHETAMINE - STOP THE MADNESS!" consisted of a poster competition, an essay competition, and a dramatic/musical competition held at Upperman High in Baxter and aired twice by WCTE. The judges were the mayors of Cookeville, Baxter, and Monterey, District Attorney General Bill Gibson, Dr. Angelo Volpe, and Dr. Walter Derryberry. State Senator Charlotte Burks gave the awards. Jackson is now working with D.A. Bill Gibson to do a short film on methamphetamine awareness.

ALUMNI Filtrates

Continued from previous page

very much for continuing to send it. Maybe it sounds corny, but I am truly proud to be a Tech Chemistry grad when I read of the successes you all continue to enjoy and of the tremendous accomplishments of so many fellow chemistry alumni. I know that I was better prepared than my colleagues when I started grad school at Purdue, and I have rarely seen anything in my working career that my undergrad degree had not

prepared me for. I noticed that one of the alumni, now in grad school I believe, had remarked that he didn't realize how good he had it at Tech until he went elsewhere. Those are my thoughts exactly. I was so focused on making the next step up to grad school that I failed to

realize what a tremendous experience I was having while there; only later did it sink in. But, I suppose, better to have had it and only realized later than to not have had it at all!"

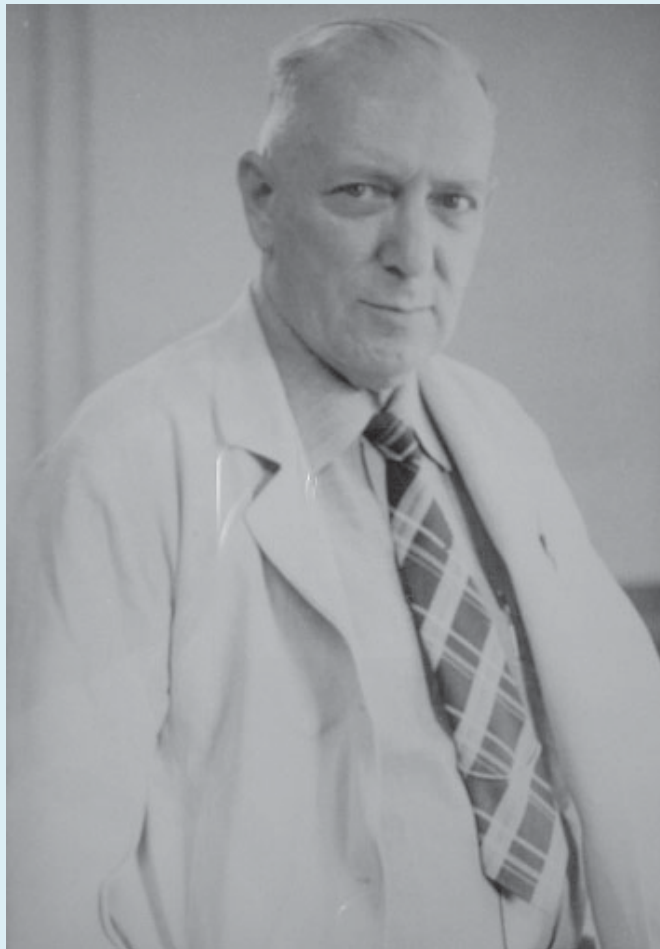
Harry McSwiney, Jr.
(B.S. '63), of Lima, Ohio, paid a visit to the Department

in July 2004, and left a generous gift for the Robert L. Sublett Scholarship in honor of Dr. Sublett, who retired as chairman in 1987. Bob is out and about and regularly stops by the Department to chat.

Give us your news!

Call us, e-mail us, or drop us a line on the form on the back cover.

Postscript



Chairman Ferris U. Foster (1926-1963)

Barbara Foster Colvin of Richardson, Texas (daughter of Ferris U. Foster), stopped by Foster Hall to visit this summer. She subsequently made a wonderful gift to the department of a framed portrait of Ferris Foster in his lab coat (see above). Professor Foster was Chemistry Chair from 1926 to 1963. Barbara writes back, "I wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed visiting with you when I was in Cookeville a couple of weeks ago. And, particularly, to see the recipients of the Foster Scholarship on the wall. The Foster siblings who are left are very proud of the fact that the school has honored Dad's name and also that the College of Arts and Sciences (but, most especially the Chemistry Department) is in great hands. Thank you for your kindness and thoughtfulness to our family."

Stay in touch

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- Chelate Fund (lab modernization)
- Faculty Enrichment Fund (travel)
- Chemistry Department Undesignated Fund

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