Department of Chemistry Newsletter

University of Pittsburgh

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
CHEVRON SCIENCE CENTER

Issue 2
Fall 2005

In This Issue

Greetings from the Chair

The Department has experienced important changes during the past year, and I want to update you. Those with a memory for detail will see that the Chevron tower (front cover) looks different, and of course I am writing this letter rather than Ken Jordan. I would like to thank Ken for his service as the Department Chair during the past three years.

A number of staffing and faculty changes have occurred in the past year. Paul Floreancig has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure and Peter Wipf was promoted to University Professor. Gilbert Walker took a position at the University of Toronto; however, he maintains active collaborations in the Department. Dr. Amy Beisler (PhD 2003) left her position as lecturer and is working at Bettis Laboratory. Three new faculty arrived in the Department this fall - Drs. Megan Spence, Alex Star and Yury Skorik (see page 9). We are very excited about the new ideas and talents they bring. We welcomed Kris Takach, our computer specialist, in March, 2005. Dr. Fu Tyan Lin, our NMR director, retired after 25 years, and his replacement, Dr. Damodaran Krishnan Achary, arrived October 1. Dr. Kasi Somayajula resigned to take a position at Coca-Cola, and Dr. John Williams (PhD 2002) became the Director of the Mass Spectrometry facility on October 1. Brian Strohmeier (PhD 1984) resigned from the assistant chair position, and our new Assistant Chair is Mr. William T. Valenta. We wish our former colleagues good fortune in their new endeavours, and give a hearty welcome to our new colleagues.

Major upgrades to Chevron's climate and ventilation systems have been performed during the past year at a cost of $6M. We now have a two story building on the roof of the tower (see pages 6,7), which houses the fans for intake and exhaust air. In addition, two additional ventilation shafts appear on the front of the building. This represents the first phase of an effort to bring Chevron (a 30 year old building) up to modern standards.

Research in the Department continues to grow in strength. This past year we had 136 publications by the faculty and over $10M in research support. The collaborative nature of chemistry research becomes more important each year. Faculty are involved in eight different collaborative grants.

The research growth in the Department is strongly linked with the quality of the graduate students, and the graduate class this year has a size of 29. During this past year, the department had 57 seminars. Notable events were Prof. Y. T. Lee (Nobel Prize 1996) as the Kaufman Lecturer, and a special Phillips symposium comprised of Prof J. M. Ramsey (UNC), Prof. D. Nocera (MIT), Prof. D. Boger (Scripps Research Institute), and Prof. M. Karplus (Harvard). The department awarded 15 PhDs and 6 Masters degrees during the past year. The graduate students won a number of competitive awards and fellowships, including 3 Mellon Fellowships and 2 Warga Fellowships.

The undergraduate program in Chemistry remains strong. During this past year we graduated 48 Chemistry majors with bachelor's degrees. These students won a number of external awards, including The American Institute of Chemists Award, The SACP College Award, and The Merck Award. The ACS-Student Affiliates received national recognition for the fifteenth consecutive year; its "outstanding chapter," recognition was awarded to only twenty-six out of 900 student affiliates chapters.

A profound measure of the Department's strength and educational quality is the success of its alumni. This past year we honored four of our distinguished alumni - D. Kleid, M. Simon, L. D. McKeever, and G. S. Pinkus. The department continues to grow in quality and prestige by the accomplishments and support of its alumni (see page 3). We encourage you to send us information about activities that you would like to share with friends, teachers, and contemporaries in the Chemistry department.

I hope you enjoy the Newsletter and will visit the Web site to learn more about events in the Department.

David H. Waldeck

Alumni Honored in 2004

Dennis Kleid received his Ph. D. degree in Chemistry in 1972 under the guidance of Toby Chapman. After postdoctoral appointments with H. G. Khorana at MIT and Mark Ptashne at Harvard, he took a position in the Life Sciences Division at the Stanford Research Institute. Dr. Kleid is a pioneer whose contributions have proved to be vital for the field of genetic engineering and in furthering the successful treatment of disease. He is an excellent example of how the Chemistry Department prepares students to transform the present and discover the future.

Geraldine Sowinski Pinkus received her B.S. in Chemistry (summa cum laude) in 1961 from the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Pinkus continued her education at Pitt completing a medical degree. Her residency began in pathology at the University of Pittsburgh and she completed this training at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital (now the Brigham & Women's Hospital) in Boston where she became chief resident. After accepting a staff position at that hospital, she eventually became the Director of the Hematopathology Division and Director of the Hematopathology Service at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. Dr. Pinkus is also Professor of Pathology at the Harvard Medical School. She has had an exemplary career as a scientist and educator and her laboratory became a pioneer in immunohistochemistry.

L. Dennis McKeever received his B. S. in Chemistry, University of Pittsburgh, in 1962. He received his Ph. D. in Physical Chemistry at the University of California, Irvine. Dr. McKeever has a forty-year record of significant achievements in senior technical and business management. Today he is Chairman of the Board of SYM Financial Corporation, which manages $600,000,000 in assets, and he is President of McKeever Ventures, providing broad-based strategic advisory services to a diverse client base including Exxon Chemical, Shell Chemical, and the American Plastics Council.

J. Matthew Simon received his Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh in 1969 under the direction of Professor Johannes Coetzee. Dr. Simon joined the faculty at Point Park College in 1969. While a faculty member, he served as the Chairman of the Department of Natural Science and Engineering Technology and the Director of Studies at the European Campus of Point Park College in Switzerland. He served as the President of Point Park College from 1986 to 1995. He is now a Distinguished Service Professor at Point Park College and Adjunct Professor in the School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Department is soliciting nominations for *Chemistry Department Alumni Awards*. Nominees should have a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree from the Department. The basis for the nomination can be excellence in research, teaching, management, or volunteer efforts. Nominations should include:

1. Your nominating letter

2. At least one but no more than three seconding letters

3. A CV for the nominee

4. Contact information for the nominee

Please see http://www.chem.pitt.edu/alumni/home.asp for more information
Nominations should be posted by December 1, 2005 to:
Assistant Chair
Dept. of Chemistry
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh PA 15260
valenta@pitt.edu

ACS-Student Affiliate Corner

2005 Undergraduate Senior Awards

The Merck Award
Anthony P. Petruso
Ryan N. Schroeder

The American Institute of Chemists Award
Joan M. Fletcher

The SACP College Award
Sarah C. Bell

The Mary Louise Theodore Prize
Ryan J. Graziani
Jeremy M. Higgins
Andrea S. Matla
Kevin M. Noone
April M. Weir

The Phillips Medal
James M. Apgar

The American Chemical Society-Student Affiliates Chapter has received national recognition for the fifteenth consecutive year. In 2004-2005 the group was recognized as an "outstanding chapter." This designation is the highest recognition and was awarded to only twenty-six out of 900 student affiliates chapters. Community service is an integral part of our award-winning chapter. By promoting and maintaining many outreach programs, we expose students in the Pittsburgh area to interactive chemistry demonstrations and experiments so that they can learn more about this diverse and intriguing field of science.

Curiosity is one of the most important characteristics that a scientist can possess and through our outreach efforts in local elementary and high schools, the ACS-SA members attempt to keep the spark of curiosity alive in the future scientists living in the Pittsburgh area. Armed with demonstrations involving gas evolution, color changes and explosions that often literally move students out of their seats, our members explain chemical phenomena and answer the questions of curious students .

Our Saturday Science and Honors Organic Programs, co-sponsored by Investing Now and the American Chemical Society Education Group, allow members to have one-on-one contact with local high school students who are interested in science. These interactions afford our members the opportunity to serve as mentors and encourage students' pursuit of knowledge in the areas of synthetic and analytical chemistry. Through a variety of hands-on demonstrations and interactive laboratory experiments, the students are exposed to areas of chemistry, such as polymer design, that are not typically covered in high school curricula while witnessing firsthand the life of a scientist working in a chemistry laboratory.

Our members also travel to different sites in the greater Pittsburgh area to enhance elementary and middle school aged students' interest in science. We have participated in after-school programs in order to facilitate science activities with students and recently, our members traveled to the Carnegie Science Center to perform demonstrations addressing this year's National Chemistry Week theme "Health and Wellness." Members used demonstrations involving pH to illustrate the importance of maintaining homeostasis in the human body. Students learned the chemical basis of the ways in which carbon dioxide passes through their bloodstream and why they take an antacid to settle an upset stomach.

We are currently in the process of organizing a science fair that will bring various undergraduate organizations together to share their enthusiasm for chemistry, biology, physics, and other science-related areas, as well as the practical applications of scientific knowledge in everyday activities with local middle school students. By sharing our enthusiasm for science with younger students, we hope to give back to the Pittsburgh community that has fostered a love for science in each of us.

To learn more about our organization and its outreach efforts, please visit our website at http://www.chem.pitt.edu/acs-sa/.

2005 Chemistry Graduates

Phi Lambda Upsilon (PLU)

Phi Lambda Upsilon (PLU) is a National Honorary Chemistry Society founded with the purpose of promoting high scholarship and original investigation in all branches of pure and applied chemistry. The University of Pittsburgh represents the Xi chapter of PLU with its foundation in 1917. Our current roster consists of 84 graduate students and 19 faculty members, 21 of whom were initiated in 2005.

During the 2004-2005 year, PLU organized a number of social and academic events for the Chemistry Department including: the annual new graduate student picnic in August, the annual Holiday party in December, and student poster sessions among others. However, the most significant event of the 2004-2005 year was the 50th Annual Francis Clifford Phillips Lecture Symposium held in May 2005. The Phillips Lecture is the longest running chemistry lecture series organized by graduate students in the country! Our invited speakers were drawn from the four traditional areas of chemistry – Dr. J. Michael Ramsay of the University of North Carolina representing Analytical Chemistry, Dr. Daniel Nocera of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology representing Inorganic Chemistry, Dr. Dale Boger of Scripps Research Institute representing Organic Chemistry, and Dr. Martin Karplus of Harvard University representing Physical Chemistry. The Symposium stretched over three days and also included a dinner and poster session. We are happy to report that the Symposium was a huge success, and we look forward to planning the 51st Phillips Lecture.

Keeping with the tradition of previous years, in the 2005-2006 year we are again planning events welcoming the incoming graduate students and other various academic and social events for the department. Our new officers for 2005-2006 are:

President – Amanda Garner
(Third Year, research with Prof. K. Koide)

Vice-President – Brian Albert
(Fourth Year, research with Prof. K. Koide)

Treasurer – Bhavya Sharma
(Third Year, research with Prof. S. Asher)

Secretary-Jeananne Singletary
(Second Year, research with Prof. K. Brummond)

2004-2005 Graduate Student Fellows

Lauren Ashe Fellows

Laura Belasco
Justin Bohn
Matthew Davis
Suzanne Gardner
Heather Gibney
Darrick Gross
Todd Haas
Alex Harmatuck
Adam Hoye
Benjamin Kabagambe
Wendy Lampart
Tiffany Lowery
Megan Macala
Christopher Morgan
Benjamin Norris
David Oxley
William Parker
Wesley Rice
Jeananne Singletary
Jennifer Smotryski
Jessica Thomas

Provost's Award

Jason Lewis
Patrick Rodgers

Sunoco Fellowship

Kristi O'Neal

Bayer Fellow

Hyung Hoon Jung

Frederick Kaufmann Fellow

Philip Morgan

Graduate Excellence Fellows

Jamie McCabe
Soraya Pornsuwan
Hongjun Yue
Jian Zhang

2005-06 Mellon Fellowship Awardees

Min Liu

Branko Mitasev

Jian Zhang

2004-05 Warga Fellowship Awardees

Yifat Guy

Jennifer Loyer-Drew

Chevron Science Center and Eberly Hall Changing for the Better – Inside and Out!

If you have not seen Chevron Science Center recently, be sure to take a closer look the next time you are in Oakland. A major construction project that began last August at the Chemistry Department has just been completed. The $6.2 million endeavor, funded by the Pennsylvania Department of General Services (DGS), lasted 13 months and involved a total renovation and upgrade of the building's 30-year-old heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. The planning for this major project began more than 2 years ago with a budget of about $5 million, but work changes during the design stage and rising steel prices pushed the final budget up to the $6.2 million figure.

The new HVAC system provides increased exhaust capacity for existing chemical fume hoods and a reserve capacity for an additional 40 hoods in the future. This overdue upgrade will go a long way toward improving the operation of the existing 280 fume hoods as well as the environmental control in the building. Our neighbors in the Oakland area will appreciate that the exhaust noise level associated with the building has been significantly reduced.

The HVAC renovation project involved constructing a new 2-story air handler unit on top of the existing roof and two new 12-story air supply shafts on opposite ends of the front of the building. The existing interior building ductwork was then connected to the new rooftop unit and supply shafts. The space occupied by the former fan rooms on the fourth and eleventh floors in Chevron will eventually become new laboratory space.

These changes, for the most part, will be rather subtle to the casual observer on the street. Not so subtle though was the 20-story crane that was constructed directly in front of the building on University Drive. The crane was erected to lift large structural steel and other components onto the roof and it attracted a lot of interest from everyone in the Oakland area. The crane impacted the many students who enter Chevron each day since pedestrian traffic into and out of the building had to be redirected as a safety precaution numerous times over the course of this project.

While the outside of Chevron has been changing, the inside has not been neglected! The Electronics Shop was recently relocated from its old home on the 10th floor to a new, larger, renovated space on the 3rd floor of Eberly Hall (the former Alumni Hall). This move provided much needed space in Chevron for the construction of new organic synthesis laboratories. As part of this $1.3 million project, vacant laboratory space on the 9th floor of Chevron, which was freed up when Professor Jordan's research group relocated to Eberly Hall a few years ago, was also converted into new organic synthesis laboratories. Two additional fume hoods were also added to existing laboratory space for Professor Schafmeister's research group. All-in-all, this important renovation project added 16 new fume hoods to the Department and should provide ample room for new faculty as well as expansion of current organic research groups. The final part of this project involved the construction of a new conference room in Eberly Hall that provides an excellent facility for faculty meetings and thesis defenses.

Stop by the Department when you get a chance to see all of these exciting changes firsthand!

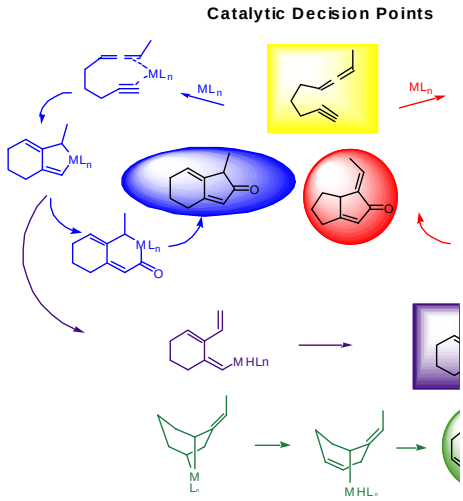
Faculty Highlights: Kay Brummond, Associate Professor

Catalytic Decision Points and Reaction Discovery

The ability to put together complex molecules, like piecing together a puzzle, is a challenging endeavor since the skills required to accomplish this are as much artistic as scientific.

My group enjoys thinking about and discovering new ways to assemble the atoms that complex molecules are made from. Once a new method has been identified in the laboratory, experiments are designed and performed to test and validate them for their robustness and utility.

We have demonstrated that transition metal catalyzed processes can be intercepted at various stages of the catalytic cycle "catalytic decision points" to provide structurally unique compounds, depending upon the point of interception. This divergent strategy is not typically exploited in the chemistry laboratory but is one that is adopted by nature in the assembly of secondary metabolites, more commonly referred to as natural products.



The new reactions are then used in our group to synthesize collections or libraries of previously unknown compounds. Once synthesized, the compounds are tested for their biological activity by researchers at the University of Pittsburgh and across the country. These compounds are designed on the premise that they may function as an important biological tool and may someday lead to the development of a new drug for diseases such as cancer or tuberculosis. The latter part of this project is done in collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh Chemical Methods and Library Development Center (UPCMLD). For more information see: http://ccc.chem.pitt.edu/.

In addition to preparing entirely new compounds, we also use the new methods discovered in our group to synthesize compounds in which their biological significance has already been established. The goal of these efforts is to provide faster, more efficient and innovative means of accessing these structures. For example, these new methods have been successfully applied to the synthesis of HMAF, a potent anticancer compound currently in Phase III clinical trials and 15-deoxy-$\Delta^{12,14}$ PGJ_2, a cyclopentenone prostaglandin that is a natural ligand for PPAR, a receptor linked to type II diabetes and obesity and FR901483, a compound possessing immunosuppressive activity. Ongoing projects include the synthesis of guanacastepene, isolated recently and shown to exhibit excellent activity against vancomycin resistant bacteria and suberosenone, possesses differential cytotoxicity in human tumor cell-lines.

The students involved with these projects are uniquely suited to go on and work in the pharmaceutical industry where they will strive to discover and develop new drugs.

Faculty Updates

New Hires

Yury Skorik
Lecturer
Analytical Chemistry

Megan Spence
Assistant Professor
Physical Chemistry

Alex Star
Assistant Professor
Nanoscience

John Williams
Director
Mass Spectrometry

Damodaran Krishnan Achary
Director
NMR

Faculty Nuggets

Sanford Asher (Professor)
Sandy received the 2005 Sigi Ziering Award for Outstanding Contribution for a Publication in the Journal *Clinical Chemistry*.

Rob Coalson (Professor)
Rob's Ion Channel theory research was featured on the cover of *Biophysical Journal* (**2005**, *89*(3)).

Dennis Curran (Professor)
The Curran research group has synthesized dictyostatin, a marine natural product that shows promising anti-cancer activity. *C&En News* **2004**, *82*(28)

Ericka Huston (Lecturer)
Ericka received the University's 2004 Bellet Teaching Excellence Award

Kenneth Jordan (Professor)
Ken's research on water clusters was cited in Science Magazine's list of Top Ten Scientific Breakthroughs of the Year.

Stéphane Petoud (Assistant Professor)
Stéphane's collaborative development with Prof. Eric Borguet, Temple U of a new method for detecting analytes on surfaces was highlighted in *C&En News* **2004**, *82*(9).

David Pratt (Professor)
David will soon receive the 2005 Pittsburgh Award, given by the Pittsburgh Section of the ACS.

Sunil Saxena (Assistant Professor)
Sunil's developments in electron spin resonance that enable the measurement of global folding patterns in membrane proteins and amyloids was highlighted in *C&En News* **2005**, *83*(13).

Christian Schafmeister (Assistant Professor)
Chris' innovative approach to synthesizing molecular building blocks, that can be snapped together to form macromolecules was highlighted in *Chemistry World* **2004**, *1*(10).

Rex Shepherd (Professor, deceased)
A special issue of *Inorganica Chimica Acta* **2005**, *358*(10) is dedicated to the memory of Rex Shepherd.

David H. Waldeck (Professor and Chair)
David named as a Fellow of the American Physical Chemistry Society

Peter Wipf (Professor)
Peter named as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC).

Robert L. Wolke (emeritus)
Dr. Wolke received the James T. Grady - James H. Stack Award for Interpreting Chemistry for the Public. *C&En News* **2005**, *83*(4)

William T. Valenta, Jr. New Assistant Chair

Bill joins the Department of Chemistry after a successful 22 year career with the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police. Bill holds a BS in Mortuary Science from Point Park University and an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh, Katz Graduate School of Business.

Bill is not a stranger to the Department. His wife, Jane, holds a Masters Degree (1986) and Ph.D. (1994) from the Department under the guidance of S. G. Weber. He has two children (Taylor (9) and Connor (7)) and is a resident of the Point Breeze section of Pittsburgh.

He is looking forward to working with all members of the faculty, staff and students to continue the tradition of excellence in the department.

Bill can be reached at valenta@pitt.edu or by telephone: 412-624-8500.

Alumni News

David C. Muddiman
(Ph.D. Chemistry, 1995)
In August 2004 David received the Arthur F. Findeis Award for Achievements by a Young Analytical Scientist, given by the ACS Division of Analytical Chemistry.

Luann Pugh
(B.S. Chemistry, 1980; Ph.D. Chemistry, 1984)
As a member of the DuPont Crop Protection - Formulation Group, Luann received the 2003 Scientific Leadership Award and the 2004 Engineering Excellence Award.

Larissa S. (Romanchak) Sorochka
(B.S. Chemistry, August 1999)
Larissa was hired as a Forensic Scientist for the Pennsylvania State Police Crime Lab (Bethlehem Lab) in February 2000. She was married to Nathaniel Sorochka on June 02, 2002. Their son, Dimitri was born on April 12, 2004.

Peter T. Thompson
(Ph.D. Chemistry, 1956)
In June 2004, Dr. Thompson became a 50 year member of the ACS. He celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary by taking 17 members of his family to the Amazon.

Irving Wender
(Ph.D. Chemistry, 1950)
Dr. Wender was honored with a Career Recognition Symposium and 90th Birthday Celebration on June 15, 2005 in the Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, University of Pittsburgh.

Ernst A. Wothmacher
(B.S. Chemistry, 1999)
In 2004, Ernst received the Siemens-Westinghouse Stationary Fuel Cell Division Performance Award and celebrated the birth of his first child, Gavin Alexander Wothmacher.

Thank you

We would like to thank the generous donors who gave to the Department through the Office of Institutional Advancement, and in particular those who contributed through the last newsletter's donor card.

C. William Angus (B.S. Chemistry, 1970)

Walter J. Dressick (B.S. Chemistry, 1977)

Frederic W. Pement (Ph.D. Physical Chemistry, 1965)

Gregory P. Petro (B.S. Chemistry, 1992)

Luann (Marshall) Pugh (B.S. Chemistry, 1980; Ph.D., Chemistry, 1984)

Heather Sapko (B.S. Chemistry, 2000)

Carl Stachew (B.S.Chemistry, 1990)

Forrest A. Trumbore (Ph.D. chemistry, 1950)

Gilbert Witschard (Ph.D. Chemistry, 1963)

Ernst A. Wohlmacher (B.S. Chemistry, 1999)

This money benefits and rewards outstanding chemistry students for their academic achievements.

Outstanding Alumni:

L. Dennis McKeever

We are very pleased to announce that L. Dennis McKeever, an alumnus of the Department of Chemistry (BS 1962), pledged $100,000 to endow a fund to support undergraduate research in the Department. He received his Ph. D. in Physical Chemistry at the University of California, Irvine, in 1966 and then joined the Physical Research Laboratory of the Dow Chemical Company. From 1966 to 1973, he progressed rapidly through technical and management positions (Research Chemist to Group Leader to Assistant Director) and in 1973 he became Director of the Plastics Laboratory in the Central Research Department. In that position, he pioneered research in new plastics materials and developed a new Dow ABS family.

From 1977-1980 he served as commercial director for the Dow Latin America Chemicals business and then returned to R&D and became the Director of Technical Service and Development. He then moved again to business management and served as Vice President of the Polyolefin and Elastomers business unit from 1987-1990. When Dr. McKeever left Dow in 1995, he was Senior Vice President for the world-wide Plastics and Core Technologies R&D organizations and managed a budget exceeding $500 million/year, serving 5000 employees. His responsibilities included research and development and also overall strategy and management of human resources policy and practice.

Today, Dr. McKeever continues his forty-year record of significant achievements in senior technical and business management as Chairman of the Board of SYM Financial Corporation.

George Luther

George Luther (PhD 1972), Maxwell P. and Mildred H. Harrington Professor of Marine Studies at the University of Delaware, received the Geochemical Society's Claire C. Patterson Award (2004). George has developed a very important program in chemical oceanography at Delaware. His PhD dissertation research was published in a number of influential papers in 1974 on the use of nuclear magnetic resonance for the determination of the structure of certain alkaloids. Soon thereafter, George began publishing on electrochemical studies in natural aqueous environments. These early analytical investigations led to a powerful suite of methods that he now uses to understand the complex chemistry of sulfur in its many oxidation states in the aquatic environment. He traveled to the Mediterranean Sea, the Black Sea, the Mid- Atlantic Bight, the Indian Ocean, the Atlantic Ocean and Raritan Bay, East Pacific Rise, the Guaymas Basin, Gulf of California, and the Lau Basin, Pacific Ocean to perform his research. He has recorded concentration/depth data in key waterways such as the Bosporus, as well as in remarkable environments near thermal vents.

Recently, George visited the Department to deliver a lecture on his research. Old friends Al Moyé, Len Kogut, Larry Senor, and Dick Howe were on hand to make George's visit a pleasant social occasion as well as a stimulating scientific event. Dick Howe notes that we shouldn't be surprised by George's success, or by his level of physical activity in his research. Says Dick, "George had a propensity to be in the middle of departmental athletic competitions. I have this distinct vision of our award winning scholar running around Alumni Hall in his football jersey (perhaps one from La Salle?) as he rallied the team for their next encounter on the gridiron or softball field."

University of Pittsburgh
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www.chem.pitt.edu

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In Memoriam

William E. (Ed) Wallace / Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus and pre-eminent scientist

Wallace, one of Pittsburgh's leading scientists for a half-century, died Thursday, October 28, 2004 of complications from Parkinson's disease. He was 87.

William E. (Ed) Wallace maintained a highly productive association with the University for 47 years. At age 19 he received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Mississippi College in 1936 and in 1941 he received a Ph.D degree. in physical chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh. He joined the Department's faculty in 1941 and then went on leave to work on the Manhattan Project. Wallace returned to his faculty position at Pitt in 1945 and remained until his retirement from the University in 1983. During his four decades of service on the faculty he was a renowned expert in intermetallic chemistry, a beloved classroom instructor, an expert departmental administrator, a visionary who shaped the future of the Department, and a mentor for research colleagues and young faculty. According to W. Richard Howe, associate dean of arts and sciences and former assistant chair in the chemistry department, "Ed Wallace served as the fourth head of the chemistry department, with a term in office from 1963-77. This period represented the greatest growth spurt for the department that has become one of the University's premier academic units."

Professor Wallace is survived by his wife, Helen, of Ross, and children, Marcia, of Chandler, Ariz.; Richard of Middletown, Pa.; and Donald of Harrisburg.