



ALUMNIN^UNEWS

DEPARTMENTS OF CHEMICAL & BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING AND CHEMISTRY

WINTER 2005/06

Martínez Receives MacArthur Fellow Award

Todd Martínez, professor of chemistry, has received a \$500,000, no-strings-attached stipend from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. He is one of 25 winners of this year's prize, which is also known as the "genius grant."

"One of the wonderful things about this award is that it shows many people think very highly of us and the work we are doing," says Martínez, who joined the Illinois faculty in 1996. "That is what is most important to me; that our colleagues have some confidence in what we are doing and that we'd be able to use the money wisely."

Martínez models the workings of molecules, factoring in the actions of the atoms and electrons involved at the same time. Previously, scientists have treated the two as separate problems to be tackled independently. "You needed to consider them as a single complicated problem," Martínez said. The computational power required to make these calculations is enormous, but his group has developed techniques to model molecules with thousands of atoms.

The ultimate goal will be to design molecules with particular qualities, such as selective reactivity toward light. Being able to control molecules in this way opens up the ability to understand chemistry at a very fundamental level, since chemistry is all about molecular interactions.

The MacArthur Foundation awards fellowships in almost any field based on

the originality and creativity of their ideas and their work. The idea is to give individuals some independence to pursue their work or take it in a new direction.

"This recognition is a great thing, not just for me and my lab, but for the Chemistry Department, the School of Chemical Sciences, and the University," says Martínez.

"We'll have to think hard about how to use it to maximize benefit."

Martínez is also the principal investigator on a widely publicized NSF "Cyber-Infrastructure Grant" where students develop new paradigms for chemical research and education involving an expanded suite of chemical databases, molecular visualization tools, and grid-computing capabilities to tackle research problems previously thought to be intractable.

Martínez, who grew up in the Dominican Republic, is the son of a Cuban missionary, and a New Yorker of Italian descent. He got his undergraduate degree at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI. He then went to UCLA as a graduate student to study with Emily Carter, a theoretical chemist.

Geerdes & Martínez: A Dynamic Duo

When the Department of Chemistry recruited Todd Martínez from UCLA in 1996, the larger community of Champaign-Urbana benefited. That's because along with Martínez came his wife, Cyndi Geerdes.

Geerdes and Martínez met when Geerdes was teaching in the Dominican

Republic after graduating from college and before going to law school. Martínez's parents were in the Dominican Republic as missionaries. Geerdes taught several of Martínez's siblings (he is the oldest of seven), and became close friends with his

mother. Of Martínez, Geerdes says with a grin, "we were arch enemies."

It was only when Martínez, who is seven years younger than Geerdes, came to the U.S. to attend college that their paths crossed again and they decided they really liked each other. They have been married for 18 years and have two teenage children, Austin and Andrea.

Geerdes has made it her mission to help the working poor, or "debt stressed," as she prefers to call them, by finding options beyond alternative, or fringe, financial services. She emphasizes how poor people are preyed upon by payday loan shops, third-party check cashers, and predatory mortgage lenders.



Martínez and Geerdes



From the Director's Desk

Chemistry is about interactions and changes on a molecular level. But we hope to never lose sight of the fact that our School of Chemical Sciences is, first and foremost, about people. This newsletter focuses significantly on this humanistic side of chemical sciences by spotlighting several people in the School.

Once again, the phenomenal quality of our faculty has been recognized by external measures. Todd Martínez has received a MacArthur Fellowship, an award of enormous prestige. Todd's recognition is not only a product of his scholarly brilliance but also results from the invaluable contributions of his students and his remarkable wife, as our cover profile of this dynamic duo illustrates.

Within the past two years we welcomed six new faculty. In order to support our outstanding faculty, both new and continuing, we've undertaken significant renovation of both Noyes Lab and Roger Adams Lab. These outstanding people and places will allow us to continue to conduct the very best in instruction and research.

On a sad note, we also pay tribute to one of our renowned and accomplished professors, Ken Rinehart, who passed away this last summer after a long illness. The standards of excellence he demanded of himself and his students will live on. The dedication and drive Ken embodied are qualities that so many of our people also embrace.

I hope that, in the midst of your busy lives and at this particularly busy time of year, you will enjoy catching up on life here in Urbana.

Thomas Rauchfuss

To reach the editor...

You can reach our office by email at scsnews@scs.uiuc.edu or by fax at (217) 333-3120. Please continue to send your news and also include comments on the newsletter, alumni and development programs and any questions you may have on any of the above. Have an idea for a story? We enjoy hearing from you.

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Written by Deb Aronson

Noyes Lab Undergoes \$14 Million Renovation



Last fall, a much-needed, major renovation of 27,700 square feet of Noyes Lab began. The renovation will make the organic teaching labs world-class. For example, the labs, one of which was built in 1916 and one which was built in 1963, will both be getting state-of-the-art hoods over every lab bench and work station. In addition, the labs for non-majors, which host a much larger number of students, will be sub-divided into 20-person lab clusters, separated by partial walls. The new layout will enhance the effectiveness of instruction. The lab trains more than 900 students each year, of which only 20 percent are majors in chemistry or chemical and biomolecular engineering.

In addition to the organic labs, two classrooms will be renovated. The library, which has stood on the second floor for 90 years, will move to the first floor, making it far more accessible to students.

"This current library works well for books, but the new library will be much better for people," says Tina Chrzastowski, chemistry librarian and professor of library administration. The library will have better seating and lighting, more computers, and include a classroom for instruction on electronic resources. The library will have both wire-

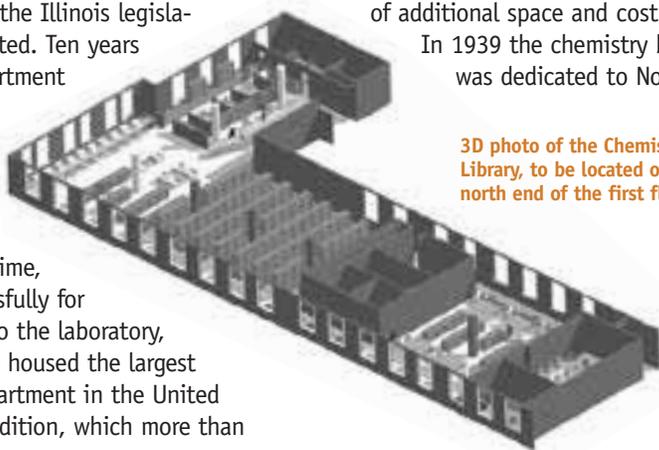
less and ethernet. As most journals are now published electronically online, including versions all the way back to their first volumes, less space is needed for books and more space can be dedicated to students, notes Chrzastowski.

Moving the library to the first floor will have an added benefit of enabling all organic labs to be collected together on the second floor. Currently, the lab for non-majors is on the fourth floor, while the lab for majors is on the second floor.

The \$14 million project is scheduled to take two years. This renovation is funded by a combination of a loan to the School and the department, alumni and corporate funds, and the state of Illinois. One of the six organic instructional modules will be called the 3M Lab, in recognition of a major gift from a corporation that in turn has benefited greatly by hiring many Illinois students. "We are making our largest single investment in infrastructure, and the magnitude of our investment demonstrates our commitment to first-class undergraduate instruction," says School of Chemical Sciences director Tom Rauchfuss.

In 1878, the chemistry department became the first on campus to move into a building of its own, which it quickly outgrew. The next chemistry building,

which was originally called the New Chemical Laboratory, was built in 1902 and contained 77,884 square feet of usable space and cost slightly less than the \$100,000 the Illinois legislature appropriated. Ten years later the department had outgrown that space. William A. Noyes, department head at that time, argued successfully for the addition to the laboratory, which by then housed the largest chemistry department in the United States. The addition, which more than



3D photo of the Chemistry Library, to be located on the north end of the first floor.

doubled the size of the building, was completed in 1916 and gave the entire building the shape of a hollow square. This east wing added 86,396 square feet of additional space and cost \$250,000. In 1939 the chemistry building was dedicated to Noyes.

Martínez continued from page 1

As an associate clinical professor at the School of Law, Geerdes also provides hands-on legal practice for students with real-world legal cases. For example, students in Geerdes' clinic demonstrated that credit unions could offer payday loans at a profit while providing a community service. By last summer, two local credit unions had begun offering payday loans at 21 percent APR, as compared to 546 percent APR offered by many payday lenders in Champaign-Urbana. "People just don't realize how much it costs in our society to be poor," says Geerdes.

Prior to her and Martínez's arrival in Urbana, Geerdes was senior corporate lawyer for Hughes Electronics in California. In recent years, she has helped establish an Urban League program called Ways to Work, a guaranteed loan program for people to buy a used car and receive free car maintenance education. Geerdes notes that some big employers, like Plastipak in Champaign, are not accessible to workers by public transport.

Another program that Geerdes helped establish is the Partnership Accounts for Individual Development matching savings program, a matching program to help the poor buy their first home and along the way, become more financially literate.

Despite Martínez's international reputation, it is Geerdes who gets the kudos from their children.

"Our kids tease Todd because, as a theoretical chemist, he has no 'product,' while their mom is helping so many people in the community," says Geerdes with a laugh.

And Geerdes goes along with the ribbing. For example, when people ask Geerdes what it's like being married to a genius (in light of Martínez's recent MacArthur grant) she just grins and says, "you'll have to ask Todd."

All kidding aside, since the University hired this dynamic duo, the community has become a better place.

Roger Adams Lab Renovations Continue

Roger Adams Lab, the home of the Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Department, is undergoing a major renewal of its space. North RAL, built in 1947, was originally called the East Chemistry building.

"We needed better research space for our students and faculty," says Asghar Mirarefi, assistant head. That space will, in turn, allow new research thrusts in the areas of drug delivery, fuel cells, bioinformatics, and nanotechnology.

The Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Department determined that the best approach was to undertake the renovations in phases. With high ceilings, beautiful windows, and generous offices, the solid building is well suited for renovation. Nonetheless, the renovation is complicated. For example, a constant challenge has been to shift laboratories and offices around in a way that does not disrupt instruction or research.

"That is, of course, difficult to do, to move people around and keep their experiments running," says Mirarefi with a smile.

The most recent phase focuses on the west side of the building. Five faculty and their laboratories are being impacted

by this phase, which will be completed by spring 2006. By that time, all laboratories will have been updated, with areas for graduate student offices separated from their bench areas.

The first phase, which began in 1996, upgraded some faculty offices, undergraduate instructional laboratories, and common areas. That renovation created the department's first computer lab. The second phase upgraded the instructional laboratories, which included an emphasis on ventilation to ensure a healthy environment for the students. Updating the air handling system was by far the most expensive and most essential element to the entire renovation, says Mirarefi. One aspect of the renovation replaces window air conditioners with a campuswide chilled water system, which minimizes maintenance and improves the attractiveness and natural lighting in the building.

"We are very excited to see this latest phase finished," says Mirarefi. "There will still be another phase before the entire building will have been completely renovated. It's been a long, expensive process, but very worth it."

New faculty in SCS



Roman Boulatov has joined the Chemistry faculty, having obtained his PhD at Stanford with Professor Jim Collman (a U. of I. alumnus under

Fuson). Boulatov's graduate work resulted in 19 publications, most notably on mimics of cytochrome oxidase. Boulatov conducted a two-year postdoc with George Whitesides at Harvard on unconventional types of fuel cells. His research focuses broadly on problems of energy transduction, including molecular devices that carry out mechanical work.



Martin Burke joins the Chemistry faculty having just received his PhD from Harvard with Stuart Schreiber. In addition to his PhD, Burke received his MD from the

Harvard-MIT program in Medical Science and Technology. This unique training provides him with an unusual perspective on how chemists can open up completely new approaches for medical therapy. His research centers on the molecular basis of disease and involves the development of "molecular prostheses," small molecules designed to replace the function of proteins.



Thom Dunning, former director of the Joint Institute for Computational Sciences of the University of Tennessee and Oak Ridge National Labs,

has joined the faculty as professor of chemistry and director of the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA). Dunning holds an endowed position as Distinguished Chair for Research Excellence in Chemistry. He received his bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1965 from the University of Missouri-Rolla and his PhD in chemistry/chemical physics from Caltech in 1970. He is a fellow of many societies and has received numerous awards, including the E. O. Lawrence Award from DOE's Office of Science. Of his nearly 150 publications, five are "Citation Classics" with more than 1,000 citations each.



Benjamin McCall received his BS in Chemistry from Caltech and his PhD from Chicago in a joint program in chemistry and astronomy. After a

postdoc at UC-Berkeley, he joined the faculty in the fall of 2004. McCall's research interests are in the overlapping areas of high-resolution molecular spectroscopy and interstellar chemistry. He points out that the realm of most traditional areas of chemistry is the Earth, which consists of "only" $\sim 10^{50}$ molecules, whereas the Milky Way contains $\sim 10^{66}$. One specific focus of the McCall group is the search for carbocations in the interstellar medium.



Christopher Rao joined the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering in August of 2004. After thesis research in

process control at Wisconsin, Rao joined the laboratory of Adam Arkin at UC Berkeley and Lawrence-Berkeley National Labs. During his postdoc, he not only modeled pathways of microbial pathogenesis, but also acquired experimental skills relevant to testing predictions. His research interests are in both theoretical and experimental systems biology, with particular emphasis on problems related to bacterial pathogenesis.



M. Christina White comes from Harvard, where she was assistant professor for three years. White received her PhD at Johns Hopkins with Gary Posner and carried out postdoctoral studies with

Professor Eric Jacobsen. At Harvard, White conceived the idea of "serial ligand catalysis" as a novel and powerful method to develop new catalytic organometallic reactions. Her vision is to revolutionize synthetic chemistry by developing methods for C-H activation with the same reliability as traditional functional group-directed chemistry.

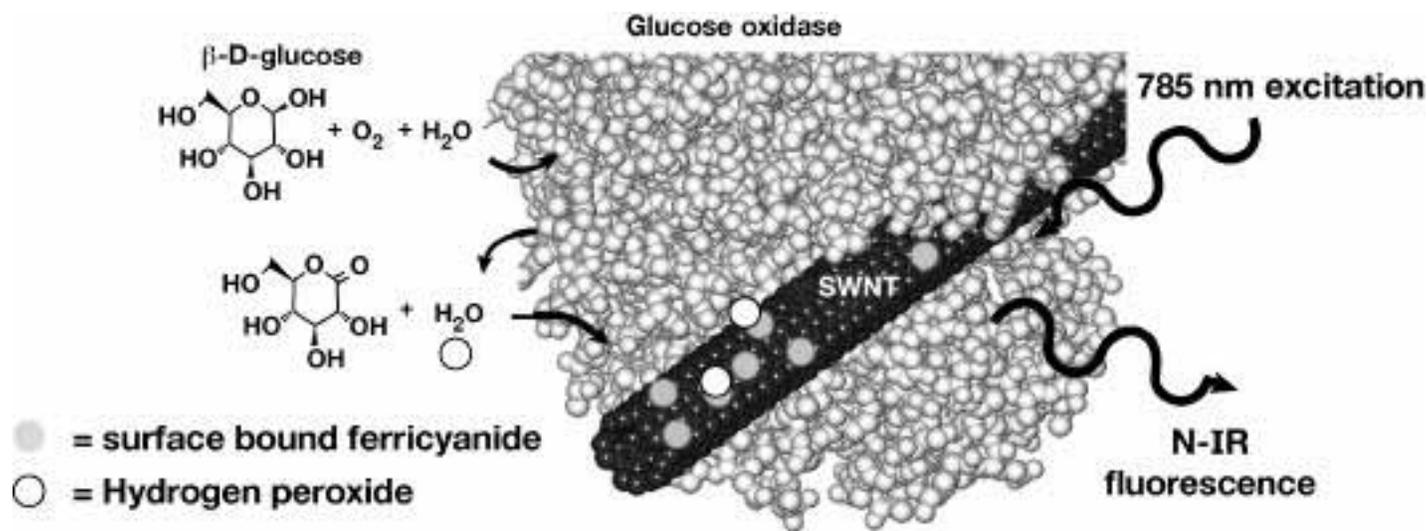
Linn Belford Retires After 50 Years

Professor R. Linn Belford retired in August 2005 after 50 years on the Chemistry faculty. He joined the University as an instructor in 1955; he became associate professor in 1963 and full professor in 1981. He served on the active faculty longer than any other professor in the department's history. Although he is giving up his regular teaching duties, he plans to continue his research activities. Born in St. Louis on December 13, 1931, Professor Belford obtained his BS in chemistry *summa cum laude* from

the University of Illinois in 1953. He was the U. of I. valedictorian and named to the Bronze Tablet. Obtaining an NSF fellowship, he carried out graduate work at the University of California at Berkeley and received his PhD in two years under Nobel Laureate Melvin Calvin. He has published nearly 200 papers and has directed the thesis research of more than 60 PhD students. Professor Belford's research has focused on the development of electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) as a research tool, and on the application of this

technique to a variety of important chemical problems. He pioneered the use of multiple resonance and multifrequency EPR to characterize both structure and dynamics with applications to catalysis, carbonaceous materials, antibiotics, proteins, MRI contrast agents, *in vivo* oxygen sensing, and surfaces. A notable feature of his work has been the use of site-directed spin labeling studies of proteins and DNA to study the structure and structure-function relationships of these important biomolecules.

Nanoscale Glucose Sensor Using Single-Walled Nanotubes



ChBE Professor Michael Strano's laboratory has developed a glucose sensor based on changes in carbon nanotube near-infrared fluorescence. Strano and his graduate students, Paul Barone and Daniel Heller, were able to coat the surface of the nanotube with the enzyme glucose oxidase and potassium ferricyanide, which quenches the near infrared nanotube fluorescence. Glucose reacts with the enzyme to generate hydrogen peroxide, which reacts with the ferricyanide, causing the nanotube to fluoresce again. Because skin and tissue are transparent to near-infrared light, a nanotube-based sensor could be inserted subcutaneously to enable continuous monitoring of blood glucose. The paper describing this project was published in the journal *Nature Materials*.

Thomas Kruzic, BS '33, Chem, died on December 25, 2004, of prostate cancer. He was 94 years old. He served in the army for five years during WWII and was retired with the rank of Captain. During the ensuing years, he was employed in North Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland (his final assignment and resting place). Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Leoma; two sons, Tom and Tim; two daughters, Teri Sealey and Toni Ager; and six grandchildren.

John M. Stewart, PhD '44, Chem (H. Snyder), died August 4, 2005, of prostate cancer. Dr. Stewart worked on chemical research for the U.S. War Production Board and as a research chemist with Standard Oil before taking a position with the University of Montana Department of Chemistry, where he taught and chaired the department from 1958 to 1967. He also served as the dean of the graduate school (1968-1977) and the assistant academic vice president (1978-1982). In

the course of his career, Dr. Stewart published numerous research articles in major chemical journals. He is survived by his wife, Genevra Hauge; four children; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Robert Charles Christianson, BS '51, ChemE, died August 6, 2005. He was 76 years old and worked for GE in the nuclear division as a start-up engineer for years. He is survived by his wife, Audrey, and four children.

Professor Kenneth L. Rinehart, professor emeritus of chemistry, died June 13, 2005, at his Urbana home after a long illness. He was 76. He is survived by his wife, Marlyn (Corky); three sons; and two grandchildren.

Professor Rinehart, an internationally renowned natural products chemist, was born March 17, 1929, in Chillicothe, Missouri. He earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1950 from Yale University and a doctorate in chemistry in 1954 from the University of California at Berkeley. In between, he spent a year at the University of Göttingen in Germany on a Rotary Foundation fellowship.



Photo: John Katzenellenbogen

Professor Rinehart came to the University of Illinois in 1954 as an instructor in organic chemistry.

"Chemistry at Illinois was such a strong, dominant department that the opportunity was not something he would turn down, even though it was just a temporary appointment," remembers his wife. The two met because Mrs. Rinehart, who was an English graduate student and teaching assistant at that time, taught rhetoric in Noyes Lab. Dr. Rinehart introduced himself one day while passing by her classroom. They were married in 1961 and had three sons, Ken III, born in 1964; Ben, born in 1967; and Nick, born in 1971.

Says Mrs. Rinehart, "He was motivated by the quest for knowledge and the serendipity of new discoveries. He always thought it was such an adventure to find new things."

Even before Dr. Rinehart joined the faculty, Nelson Leonard, R.C. Fuson Professor Emeritus of Chemistry and Biochemistry, remembers hearing about a bright young man at UC Berkeley.

"Everyone liked him," says Leonard. "Ken had lots of energy that showed in everything, even the way he bounded up the stairs. His techniques and methodology were outstanding. I still remember the chromatography column he and his students created that went down the entire stairwell, from the top of Noyes to the first floor. And he did spectacular work with ferrocenes."

Much of Dr. Rinehart's early work focused on antibiotic research. He developed a procedure involving mutasynthesis to prepare new antibiotics.

Dr. Rinehart loved to travel and go to meetings. His first sabbatical he spent as a visiting professor in Zürich, Switzerland, and in Stockholm, Sweden. In Sweden he learned more about the technique of mass spectrometry. He brought this technique and instrumentation back to the University of Illinois, which played an important role in his research and in the chemistry department as a whole. Dr. Rinehart spearheaded fundraising efforts to buy and operate the mass spectrometry laboratory.

"We are grateful to him for having introduced these methods and instrumentation to the department and guiding how it developed. It was a tremendous service for the department," says Leonard.

Dr. Rinehart, who is described as adventuresome and energetic, was a mountain climber and a downhill skier. He also took up scuba diving in 1970, in order to gather sea specimens to advance his research in the largely untapped realm of marine chemistry. His early expeditions took him and several students to Baja California, Mexico, where they traveled in an orange GM van outfitted specifically for these collecting trips. Later he and Lowell Hager, a colleague in Biochemistry, together with several students and other colleagues mounted an expedition on the *Alpha Helix*, a vessel operated by the National Science Foundation. Although at first Dr. Rinehart collected indiscriminately, he soon focused on tunicates, or sea squirts, from which he isolated several compounds that are active as anti-cancer agents. One of the com-



pounds, ecteinascidin, is derived from ecteinascidin turbinate. This compound is in Phase III clinical trials and has been shown effective against soft-tissue sarcomas and against lung, breast, and ovarian cancers.

Dr. Rinehart was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a Sloan Fellow, and a Guggenheim Fellow. He received the Ernest Guenther Award in the Chemistry of Natural Products from the American Chemical Society and served on the editorial boards of several journals.

Memorials may be made to the Kenneth L. Rinehart Award for Excellence in Chemistry Fund at the University of Illinois Foundation, 1305 W. Green St., Urbana, IL 61801.

ALUMNI NOTES

The Sidney Loeb Award for Innovation in the Water Desalination Industry has been created by the European Desalination Society (EDS) to honor **Sidney Loeb**, BS '41, ChemE. Dr. Loeb also received an award in May 2005 during the EDS conference in Liguria, Italy. As a graduate student, Dr. Loeb and another student, Srinivasa Sourirajan, produced a functional synthetic RO membrane from cellulose acetate polymer, which was capable of rejecting salt and passing fresh water at reasonable flow rates and realistic pressures. The impact of this discovery has been felt worldwide, ranging from applications in home demineralizers to "rivers of fresh water" in the Middle East and North Africa, where desalination facilities produce trillions of gallons of pure water every day. Loeb's work also facilitated the world's first commercial RO plant in Coalinga, CA, which began operation in 1965.

R. Byron Bird, BS '47, ChemE, is a professor emeritus of chemical engineering at the University of Wisconsin. In connection with their centennial, Dr. Bird co-authored *100 Years of Chemical Engineering at the University of Wisconsin*, a 1,000-page book published by the University of Wisconsin communications office.

Virginia Commonwealth University dedicated its newest residence hall to **Warren W. Brandt**, PhD '49, Chem (G.F. Smith), this past summer. The \$28 million, 17-story building will be known as Brandt Hall. Brandt, who is now retired, served as VCU's first president from 1969-1974. Four generations of the Brandt family attended the dedication ceremony.

Michael Kondzella, MS '53, Chem, is a partner and founding member of Kondzella & Cyr, an Intellectual Property law firm located in Minnetonka, Minn. Kondzella primarily helps clients prepare and prosecute U.S. and foreign patent and trademark applications and license intellectual property. He also counsels clients on matters relating to patent procurement, validity, and infringement issues. More information can be found at www.kciplaw.com.

Gerald "Jerry" Miller, MS '60, PhD '62, Chem (Gutowsky), professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Maryland, has been awarded the President's Medal, the highest honor the university community can bestow on one of its own. This award acknowledges Professor Miller's exemplary record of sustained contribution to the quality of life on the campus. Dr. Miller has dedicated himself

over his 40-year academic career to making the University of Maryland a better environment for research and education. He is currently engaged actively in applied research associated with detecting explosives in airline luggage and in detecting land mines.

Jerry L. Atwood, PhD '68, Chem (Stucky), Curators' Professor and chair of the University of Missouri, Columbia, department of chemistry, has received the 2005 ACS Midwest Regional Award for "fundamental contributions to understanding intermolecular, intramolecular, and supramolecular interactions."

Douglas (Brian) Nippa, BS '71, ChemE, is currently working as a senior staff process engineer for Shell Oil Products in the Martinez, CA, refinery. His work encompasses defining the scope of upgrades to the refinery process units, with an emphasis in applying computer simulation to the processes. He also administers the activities of contract process engineers working on projects for the refinery. For fun, he plays French horn in a brass quintet and sings bass in a chamber chorus.

Twana Hancock Karney, BS '76, ChemE, is now the executive director of Leadership Mountain View, a non-profit organization that develops adult community leadership skills. She lives in Mountain View, CA, located in "Silicon Valley," with her husband, Bruce Karney.

David R. Corbin, PhD '80, Chem (Stucky), is a research fellow at DuPont Central Research and Development in Wilmington, DE. Over the years, his work has focused on application of inorganic materials to a variety of industrial processes. He has 45 issued U.S. patents for applications as diverse as catalysts for alternative refrigerants to storage and delivery of hazardous chemicals. Presently, he is leading a team developing a next-generation process for production of TiO₂.

Annette Ambrosini Johnston, BS '82, ChemE, is currently managing the Fermentation Pilot Plant at Abbott Labs in North Chicago, IL. In addition, she has started her own business based on a non-invasive method for detecting antioxidant levels. It is an objective way, based on Raman Spectroscopy, to determine if an individual's diet and supplementation plan is actually working.

Shawn David Thornton, BS '82, ChemE, has been working with evaporation and crystal-

lization systems at HPD for 16 years. His current position in R&D involves the use of bench scale and pilot scale equipment to study the properties of crystalline slurries. This work allows him to apply several chemical engineering skills, including experimental design, measuring the solubility of various salts, working with technicians and operators, and the development of process flow schemes.

Thomas J. Wimbiscus, BS '82, Chem, is an equity partner at the patent law firm of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd. in Chicago. He represents clients before the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office and in litigation matters throughout the U.S. Wimbiscus was primary counsel in a successful \$9 million patent infringement settlement in a recent case involving oil refinery technology used throughout the world. He was named as one of select "recommended" intellectual property counsel by an independent global survey conducted by Price Waterhouse Coopers (PLC Global Counsel 3000, *Choose Your Counsel Wisely*).

Michael Effron, BS '85, ChemE, is the Global Director of S&OP for American Standard, responsible for the business and operations planning for the Bath and Kitchen division. Michael and Janet (Laane) live in New Jersey with their five children.

Jason Maxwell, BS '89, ChemE, is a Project Manager of R&D at Clorox Services Company in Willowbrook, IL. Jason manages an R&D group working on the Glad food bags, wrap, and container business.

Xiaohong "Joseph" Zhou, PhD '92, Chem (Lauterbur), is associate professor at the Center for MRI at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago. He is also director of lab methods for NOW, a company making nutritional supplements, including glucosamine.

Brandon J. Cruickshank, PhD '93, Chem (Gewirth), chair of the department of chemistry and biochemistry, and director of the general chemistry program at Northern Arizona University, recently became a member of Project Kaleidoscope. Project Kaleidoscope is a national alliance working to build strong learning environments for undergraduate students in math, engineering, and science.

Jason L. Wong, BS '02, ChemE, senior process engineer at Shell Oil recently joined the Business Planning Department as a performance analyst in Martinez, CA. He plans to pursue an MBA degree at the Haas School of Business in Berkeley, CA.

Drop us a line

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Margaret Kosal, PhD '01, Chem, makes her 1,000 skydiving jump above the fields of Vandalia, Illinois. Kosal is in the 7 o'clock position.

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