

The SUNY Binghamton

CHEMISTRY TIMES

Volume 13, Issue 1

September 2000

Chair's Letter

I hope you like the updated style of our newsletter. Jim Dix is our editor and has adopted a new format, while retaining many of the excellent features of previous editions. I greatly thank him for taking up the editor position and putting so much effort into it.

The past few years have seen tremendous development in the department with our large contingent of junior faculty providing a high level of energy and talent. I am proud that these excellent young faculty members chose to come to Binghamton as this speaks very highly about the direction and potential of the department. What is especially significant is that all are genuinely interested in both teaching and research, fitting perfectly into the model of education and scholarship in the department and at Binghamton.

This issue of the newsletter does convey great sadness, though, with the passing of Max Hull, Cliff Myers, Keith Innes, and Steve Utterback. Max, Cliff, and Keith were instrumental in Harpur College's development as an exceptionally good liberal arts college, and the transition to University status. They are much missed. We have set up Foundation accounts to recognize these former faculty members. If you would like to donate to these or other departmental accounts, please contact me, or see the Contributions Needed column later in this newsletter.

Indeed, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge several extremely generous donations recently. The Innes and Myers families have made substantial donations to establish graduate student summer scholarships, Feyyaz and Jamie Baskent have

generously created an undergraduate summer scholarship and Eugene Stevens has made a substantial equipment donation to the department. These outstanding donations facilitate the department to provide more opportunities for our students.

Alistair Lees

Editor's Letter

Changes, Changes

This is my first newsletter as editor. I'm taking over for Cliff Myers, who passed away in January of this year (see obituary later in this issue). It was Cliff's idea to revive this newsletter in 1993, after lying dormant for many years. Before Cliff, Lois Mackey had been editor. I hope to follow in the illustrious footsteps of my predecessors.

From my twenty-year perspective, SUNY Binghamton and the department are now in the midst of fundamental changes. These changes rival those in the late 1960's, when Binghamton changed from Harpur College to SUNY Binghamton. The university has committed to a measured 25% increase in student enrollment and a large increase in research productivity. In preparation, Binghamton is spending \$150 million in new construction and renovation. The construction projects include a field house, a bigger student union, and new classroom buildings.

The department has seen some of the results of this growth. The interior of Science 2 building is being painted; there has been a profusion of university-funded explosion-proof refrigerators, solvent cabinets, and laboratory audits. The department now connects at 100 Mbs to the campus T3 Internet line.

With the retirement of Bruce Norcross, the department now consists solely of faculty who were hired after Binghamton became a university. Of the 15 current faculty, 7 have been hired in the past 7 years, we are currently advertising for another position, and plan to hire at least two more faculty in the next two years.

Change can be exciting, and the changes in the chemistry department are indeed exciting.

IN THIS ISSUE

Chair's Letter	1	Recent Gifts	4
Editor's Letter	1	Contributions Needed	4
Undergraduate news	2	Alumni News	6
Graduate news	3	In Memoriam	10
Faculty news	3	Interview with Cliff Myers	12

This issue of the newsletter features a long Alumni News section, compiled by Stan Madan. (I hope the alumni news is not too out of date; it's been about a year and a half since the last newsletter.) Also featured in this issue are excerpts from an interview with Cliff Myers, done late last year. The entire interview can be obtained on the department's web page (<http://www.chem.binghamton.edu/>).

Our plan is to have this newsletter appear at least twice a year. The next issue should come out in February. Let us hear from you by then!

And by the way, just what is the name of this place: SUNY Binghamton, or Binghamton University? Actually, it turns out that we have both monikers. The official name, used at SUNY Central in Albany, is SUNY at Binghamton. The local name, used in the local press and on campus, is Binghamton University.

Let us hear from you! Let us hear from you! Let us hear from you! Let us hear from you!
Send news to Stan Madan, Alumni News Coordinator, Chemistry Newsletter, Chemistry, Box 6016, SUNY, Binghamton, NY 13902-6016

Undergraduate News

A Banner Year

As judged by objective criteria, we continue to graduate successful chemists from our undergraduate program. This year, 10 BA and 18 BS degrees in Chemistry were earned. Thirteen manuscripts were published with undergraduates as co-authors, and undergraduates presented at least 10 papers at national meetings. Four students completed Honor's theses and graduated with the honor of Distinguished Independent Work. Two students were accepted into UC Berkeley's graduate program in Chemistry, and others were accepted into the graduate programs of Stanford, Georgia Tech, University of Pennsylvania, and University of Michigan, among other programs. Four students were accepted into medical school. Four of our students graduated Summa Cum Laude, one magna cum laude, and 5 cum laude. In addition, 29 students earned the BS degree in Biochemistry, a

program run jointly by the Chemistry and Biological Sciences Departments. The department currently has 75 undergraduate chemistry majors.

Two undergraduates received honors from outside the university for work done as undergraduates in our chemistry program: **Melissa McCartney** and **Matthew Maye** each received an Undergraduate Materials Research Initiative (UMRI) Award from the Materials Research Society. The UMRI Award is given competitively for undergraduate research proposals in materials science and engineering. Melissa proposed to develop and characterize new manganese oxides materials for use in advanced dry cells and lithium batteries, work that was done in Professor **Stan Whittingham's** laboratory. Matthew proposed a new approach towards size and shape manipulation of thiolate-encapsulated metallic nanoparticles, work that was done in Professor **CJ Zhong's** laboratory.

Altogether, a banner year for our undergraduate program!

Given the transition of SUNY from a state-supported institution to a state-assisted institution, the chemistry faculty has sought and received external funding for upgrading and innovating in the undergraduate laboratory. Professors **CJ Zhong** and **Wayne Jones** received an NSF-Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement (CCLI) award for \$117,297 for "Atomic Scale Imaging Instrumentation Visualization for Undergraduate Education." The money will be used to purchase an Atomic Force Microscope and Scanning Tunneling Microscope for use in the several undergraduate laboratory courses. Professor **Wumni Sadik** received a \$106,408 award, also from CCLI, for "Integration of Environmental Chemistry and Good Laboratory Practices into Undergraduate Curriculum." The money will go to purchase a state-of-the-art Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer and an Accelerated Solvent Extraction (ASE 200) system. Professor **Jan Musfeldt** obtained funds to purchase an

THE SUNY BINGHAMTON CHEMISTRY TIMES

The Chemistry Times is published periodically by the Chemistry Department, SUNY Binghamton (Binghamton University).

DEPARTMENT CHAIR	ALISTAIR LEES
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	JIM DIX
ALUMNI NEWS	STAN MADAN

CONTACTS

POSTAL	CHEMISTRY NEWSLETTER CHEMISTRY, BOX 6016, SUNY BINGHAMTON, NY 13902-6016
EMAIL	PGORMAN@BINGHAMTON.EDU (PAT GORMAN) DIX@BINGHAMTON.EDU (JIM DIX)
WEB	HTTP://WWW.CHEM.BINGHAMTON.EDU
VOICE	607-777-2517 (PAT GORMAN) 607-777-2480 (JIM DIX)
FAX	607-777-4478

FTIR instrument for the Physical Chemistry Laboratory. Chemistry faculty have also been exploring the use of educational technology in teaching and learning chemistry. Professors **Jim Dix** and **Wayne Jones** have published the second edition of HMChem, their multimedia CDROM/Web project. Professor **Jan Musfeldt** offered a solid state chemistry course last year, and Professor **Wayne Jones** will be offering a solid state course this semester, as online courses through the SUNY Learning Network (<http://SLN.suny.edu>).

Graduate News

During the past year, seven chemistry graduate students earned the Ph.D. degree, one the M.S. degree, and two the M.A.T. degree:

Jeff Dahl, working with Professor **Susan Bane**, finished his Ph.D. degree requirements this May. He works as an independent contractor (JRD Consulting) for Global Safety Surveillance (GSS) in Paramus, NJ. He is currently at the Health Care Research Center, of Procter & Gamble Pharmaceuticals, in Mason, OH, where he specializes in drug safety compliance.

Nicholas Dunwoody is currently senior analytical chemist at Pro-Neuron, INC in Gaithersburg, Maryland. He completed his Ph.D. with **Alistair Lees** last December. Nick received a Excellence in Teaching award from the University.

Ann Janauer finished her Ph.D. requirements in August of last year working with Professor **Michael Starzak**. She now is an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Siena College in Loudonville, NY. She is married to **Gerald Janauer** (B.A., Ph.D. 199 (Whittingham)). Gerald is an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Ulster Community College in Stone Ridge, NY.

Yankun Li completed her Ph.D. requirements with Professor **Susan Bane**, and now is a postdoctoral research associate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Alejandro Parra finished his Ph.D. degree in June of 1999, and is now teaching chemistry at the Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí in Mexico. He did his dissertation work with Professor **Gene Stevens**.

Donna Whynot finished her Ph.D. dissertation with **Susan Bane**, and is currently a Senior Process Scientist at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals in Rensselaer, NY.

Fan Zhang, working with **Stan Whittingham**, was awarded the Ph.D. degree. Fan is currently a postdoctoral research associate in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science at the University of Minnesota.

Richard Edsall received the M.S. degree for work done with Professor **Susan Bane**. He is currently a medicinal chemist (synthetic organic chemistry and drug discovery) for Wyeth-Ayerst Pharmaceuticals in their Women's Health Research Institute in Radnor, PA.

Two graduate students, **Shawn McClements** and **Richmond Watson**, received the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree from the School of Education and Human Development with content areas in chemistry.

This fall semester, the department admitted 13 new students. Over 50% of the students we offered admission to accepted our offer. Six of the entering graduate students are US residents, 4 are Chinese residents, and 3 are Kenya residents.

Faculty News

Susan Bane continues her collaborative research on anticancer drugs, now with the help of a \$900,000 grant from NIH.

Wayne Jones has returned from a productive sabbatical leave at the University of Pennsylvania, where he worked with Professors Alan MacDiarmid (winner of the 2000 Nobel Prize in Chemistry) and Michael Therien. Wayne worked on new approaches to nanomolecular wires made of conjugated and conducting polymers. He also worked with a team of engineers and chemists applying metal organic polymers to fiber optic sensors. Wayne submitted five new grant applications (totaling over \$6.5 million) to continue this work at Binghamton.

Jan Musfeldt was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor, effective this Fall semester. Jan recently received an NRC award to establish a collaboration with researchers at the Academy of Sciences in Zagreb, Croatia to study phonons in low-dimensional bronzes. Unfortunately for the department, she has accepted a faculty position at the University of Tennessee starting Spring semester, 2001. She will be joining her husband, **David Bernholdt**, who has accepted a staff position in computational chemistry at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. We will miss Jan and her sprightly approach to research, teaching, and administration. Good luck in Tennessee, Jan!

Bruce Norcross became Professor Emeritus in the Spring semester of this year, after spending a semester as a Bartle Professor. (Bartle professorships are positions created to recognize faculty's achievements and long-term commitment to Binghamton University;

<http://harpur.binghamton.edu/archive/bartle.htm>)

Rumor has it that Bruce is continuing to make beautiful custom pens and boats.

Stan Whittingham has installed a Brüker single crystal X-ray diffractometer in the Institute for Materials Research. The diffractometer, one of the first three

installed in this country, is a state of the art instrument that can obtain patterns from crystals as small as 10 μm . Operated by University Crystallographer **Peter Zavalij**, the instrument will be used to obtain structures of solids from a variety of sources, including biological, inorganic, and organic compounds synthesized by faculty at SUNY Binghamton.

Scott Oliver, now in his second year at Binghamton, received a PRF-G grant. His group has discovered a series of germanium- and tin-based materials whose structures are extended on one, two or three dimensions. These materials have potential applications in catalysis and ion-exchange.

Recent Gifts

Feyyaz and Jamie Baskent established the Feyyaz and Jamie Baskent Summer Research Fund, to be awarded to an undergraduate student who is involved in summer research, with emphasis on organic chemistry. Feyyaz graduated from Binghamton with a degree in chemistry, and was recently inducted into Binghamton's Athletic Hall of Fame for his outstanding accomplishments as a soccer player (among other things, Feyyaz scored 22 goals in one 14-game season!). This year's Baskent awardee is **Adam Pristera**, a senior chem major from Frankfort, New York. Adam is working with **Professor Jones** in synthesizing porphyrins and conducting polymers.

Gene Stevens, eschewing the "wait-until-you-retire" philosophy of faculty giving, has donated money to the department to purchase a new Jasco CD spectrometer. He even got the university to kick in matching funds!

The **K. Keith Innes Summer Research Grant** was established a few years ago to with a large bequest. The purpose of the grant is to provide full funding for a graduate student for summer research using spectroscopy in physical chemistry, chemical physics, or other fields of chemistry. This summer's award winner is **Zhentao Zhu**, a graduate student working with Professor **Jan Musfeldt**. Zhentao worked on the electromagnetic response of fullerene polymers and tungsten bronzes at low temperature.

The **Clifford E. Myers Fund** has been established for student support in inorganic and materials chemistry. No awards have been made yet from this fund while we wait for the endowment to increase sufficiently to make the award permanent. So far, 92 faculty and friends have donated to this fund.

The department is soliciting donations to mount a plaque in the lobby of Science Building Two commemorating Max Hull's many years of service to the department and to Harpur College. The inscription on the plaque will read "In recognition of his contributions, C. MAX HULL, 1908-1999, Harpur College, Division of Science and Mathematics Chair, 1954-1963, and Department of Chemistry Chair, 1965-1968." Several faculty and friends have already contributed to this plaque.

Contributions Needed

Made a lot of money in the stock market lately? Won the lottery? Consider donating some money to the Chemistry Department. The Department welcomes contributions earmarked for a specific purpose, or for its general fund. To donate, send a check made out to the Binghamton University Foundation and an account number listed below. Send the check to The Binghamton University Foundation, P.O. Box 6005, Binghamton, N.Y. 13902-6005. Write on your check one of the account numbers given below

Funds that are currently open include:

Clifford E. Myers Fund (account 2040450): student support for research in inorganic and materials chemistry

K. Keith Innes Summer Research Grant (account 2057595): summer graduate research fellowship

Chemistry Account (account 1078595): unrestricted account. If you wish to contribute to the Science 2 plaque honoring Max Hull, please use this account number and write on the check "Max Hull Plaque."

Other methods of giving are also possible. Contact the Chair, Alistair Lees (alees@binghamton.edu; 607-777-2517), or the Binghamton Foundation (607-777-6449; campaign@binghamton.edu), or see <http://campaign.binghamton.edu/how.html>

The department gratefully acknowledges these friends who have contributed to departmental accounts during the period February, 1999, through August, 2000:

Mr. and Mrs. Henry R. Arbin
Professor Susan Bane
Mr. Feyyaz O. Baskent
Dr. Paul B. Bertan
Professor John E. Bielenberg
Dr. Donald D. Blake
Ms. Mary Bridge
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Britto
Ms. Karen M. Bromley
Mr. and Mrs. Richard G. Burrigh
Mr. Alfred Carlip
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Chapel
Mr. John A. Clum
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth L. Coleman
Faculty/Staff at Broome Community College
Mrs. Diane Conneman
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Conti
Mr. and Mrs. Curtis A. Coutts
Dr. and Mrs. James G. Cowing
Mr. & Mrs. John H. Dalton, Jr.
Ms. Venita J. Dibble '97
Dr. John J. Eisch
Dr. and Mrs. Lyle J. Eisch
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas D. Feisel
Mr. & Mrs. Clive Fenton
Mr. and Mrs. John Fenzel
Mr. Eugene D. Flood
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gallagher
Dr. Douglas Gersh
Dr. Helen Gilles
Mr. Robert F. Gonzales
Mrs. Patricia Gorman
Mr. John Grant
Mr. Alan B. Green
Ms. Rubyanna B. Greening
Mrs. Marion Hanscom
Mr. Joel M. Harris
Mr. Richard J. Hofferbert
Dr. Michael M. Horowitz
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Howell
Mrs. Ruth C. Innes
Mr. K. Keith Innes
Mr. David M. Jenkins
Dr. Wayne E. Jones, Jr.
Mr. Robert J. Kematick
Dr. Michael Kirkup '73
Dr. Stanley J. Konopka '71
Mr. and Mrs. N. H. Krikorian
Mr. Harry Kroger
Ms. Jeanne LaBonte
Mrs. Helen Bacon Landry '79
Mr. and Mrs. Alan M. Leibowitz
Dr. Alan Lerman
Mr. Saul Levin

Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Lewis
Ms. Frances D. Littlefield
Li Liu
Mr. & Mrs. E. Scudder D. Mackey
Ms. Lois D. Mackey
Mr. & Mrs. Scudder D. Mackey
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley K. Madan
Mr. Robert John Manfre
Dr. David M. Manuta
Dr. Karen M. Mattia '87
Ms. Bette G. McClure
Dr. & Mrs. Bruce McDuffie
Mr. Richard McFarlin
Dr. Janice Musfeldt
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Myers
Mr. and Mrs. Albert L. Myers
Dr. & Mrs. Clifford E. Myers
Dr. H. Richard Naslund
Mr. Charles Nelson
Mr. and Mrs. John Neno
A. Lee Nesslage
Prof. Wilhelm F. H. Nicolaisen
Dr. Bruce E. Norcross
Dr. & Mrs. Bruce E. Norcross
Dr. Scott Oliver
Dr. and Mrs. Richard Pastore
Dr. David G. Payne
Dr. Eugene E. Peckham
Dr. Solomon W. Polachek
Dr. Robert L. Pompei
Dr. and Mrs. Herbert B. Posner
Ms. Barbara Merritt Roberts
Mr. Keith Roe
Mr. and Mrs. Michael W. Rothenberg
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin H. Rutkowski
Mr. George Sackman
Mr. & Mrs. Richard F. Schwartz
Ms. Julie Shapiro
Ms. Jane B. Shear
Mr. Melvin Shefftz
Dr. and Mrs. Julian Shepherd
Mr. Timothy J. Singler
Ms. Theresa Anne Sissenstein
Dr. Norman E. Spear
Mrs. Helene K. Stalcup '77
Dr. & Mrs. Eugene Stevens
Dr. Eugene S. Stevens
Dr. & Mrs. Albert H. Tricomi
Mr. and Mrs. Donald B. Trow
Dr. Donald Wager
Mr. Alan B. White
Dr. M. Stanley Whittingham
Dr. Larry M. Wier
Mr. Karl Wilson
Dr. Chuan-Jian Zhong

Note: the list of contributors was provided by the Binghamton Foundation based on their records.
We sincerely apologize for omissions or inaccuracies.

Alumni News

Stan Madan

Alumni News Coordinator

Stephen Slavin, MD (BA '88) left Long Island and is an anesthesiologist in Tunkhannock, PA (45 minutes from Scranton). He was married last July to wife Lori. Address: 1070 Green Holly Road, Clarks Summit, PA 18411

Erik Host-Steen (BS '95) is working as an Applications Engineer for Williamson Corporation in Concord, MA (manufacturer of noncontact temperature sensors). He received his MS in Environmental Engineering September 1, 1997, University of Buffalo. Address: 161 Stevens Street, Apt. 3, Lowell, MA 01851

Martin Mango, MD (BA '66) General Internal Medicine Private Practice since 1975. Coordinator for first and second year medical students (Univ. Buffalo) and Intro to Clinical Medicine (Clinical Asst. Professor of Medicine, UB Med. School), Former Head of Medicine at Buffalo Children's Hospital; Coach and organizer inner city basketball teams, "Drifters", ages 10-16 and 20-40. Wife, Pat, and 4 children: Andrew, 25, Graduating Catholic University School of Law, Washington, DC, Michelle 23, Graduated Ohio State, Nutrition (married to major league baseball pitcher), Aaron, 21, Graduating Union College, Geology, Laura 18, Graduating High School. Address: 1825 Maple Road, Williamsville, NY 14221 (North Buffalo suburb)

Marsha Ferziger (BS '92) writes "Starting in September, I will be a Bigelow Fellow at the University of Chicago Law School, teaching legal research and writing to law students. Hopefully, from there I'll move into legal academia and use my chemistry degree to teach patent law." Marsha tells us that **Mike Orlep** ('92) will marry **Debra Hersh** ('94) in July. Address: University of Chicago Law School, 1111 East 60th Street, Chicago, IL 60637.

Wendy Gloffke (Ph.D. '93, Whittingham) Assistant Professor of Chemistry - Cedar Crest College. In the midst of developing a forensic science concentration in conjunction with local forensic science professionals; contracted by W.H. Freeman Publishers to co-author a non-majors' chemistry text with Rupert Wentworth of Indiana University. Wendy and Thom Kotch recently stopped by the department and had a chance to talk with Richard Quest and Stan Madan. Wendy informs us that **Peter Munsen** (MS '91) and his wife, Eilene Zimmerman now have a daughter, Leah. They are living in LaJolla, CA where Peter is a practicing patent attorney. 745 North 20th Street, Allentown, PA 18104. Email: wglloffke@cedarcrest.edu

Thomas Kotch (Ph.D. '92, Lees) Assistant Professor

of Chemistry, Cedar Crest College. Currently working in the area of Biochemistry/Biotechnology. Research focus - working with Dr. S. Giordano to examine optic nerve regeneration in zebrafish. Thom stopped by to visit the department and had a chance to see Dr. Madan and Richard Quest. Address: 745 North 20th Street, Allentown, PA 18104. Email: tkotch@cedarcrest.edu.

Judy Lloyd (BA '72) (Ph.D. '75, Ohio State University) writes "I am professor and department chair at Old Westbury, a small 4-year branch of SUNY on L.I. I conduct environmental chemistry research with U.S. Dept. of Energy and NSF funding through a collaborative arrangement with Brookhaven and Pacific Northwest National Labs. Married for 18 years, one 17 year old daughter. We just visited Harpur to see if she likes the place!" Address: Chemistry/Physics Department, SUNY Old Westbury, PO Box 210, Old Westbury, NY 11568.

Sybil Goodkin (Zipp) (Ph.D. '76, Madan) Tells Stan Madan that she is happy with her new profession and enjoys it very much. Address: 175 East Limberlost, Tucson, AZ 85719

Nicholas J. Stamato, MD, FACC (BS '76, Biology and took chemistry courses in our dept.) Serves the community and his patients with passion in his Cardiology Associates group. Recently, in the Sun & Bulletin he had some good advice for people with heart problems. He is associated with Cardiology Associates, 30 Harrison Street, Johnson City, NY 13790 Email: www.cardioassoc.com

Shakror Khan (Ph.D. '77, Schrier) is still in touch with Stan Madan. He has his own business and tells me that his outfit has eight or nine FDA approvals for new food products. Address: 2069 Westfield Drive, Gurnee, IL 60031.

Mohammed Bakir (MA '80, Stevens; Ph.D., Purdue with Robinson) is teaching at the University of the West Indies-Mona Campus. He has had good luck with funding and has a very good research program at UWI for his students. Email: mbakir@uwimona.edu.jm

Michael J. Saliby (Ph.D. '80, Madan) Professor of Chemistry at the University of New Haven. Is still in touch with Stan Madan. He is now full-time teaching after serving in many administrative positions for eight years. He has completed a lab manual. In September '98 Lori and Mike had a son, Chris.

David Gasper (BS '81) passed his bar examination recently and is working as a lawyer and scientist at DuPont in Durham, N.C. He visited recently with Stan and we had a great time talking about the old times **Bruce Wilson** (BS '81; MS '84, Madan) He had three research papers from his MS Thesis published in reputable inorganic chemistry journals in 1985, 1986

and 1988. He is in touch with Stan Madan every year and is manager at Pall Mall, Inc., in Cortland, NY, where he heads a department with nine or ten people under his direct supervision. His older son was in Scotland and UK this past summer with the Boy Scouts. Bruce travels in his position and keeps up with the new findings in his field.

Kathleen Fallot (Marring) (BS '82) (MS '87 Computer Sci.) Has two lovely boys. Her husband is at IBM. Kathleen hopes to go on half time from IBM and devote her time in caring to the needs of her son and family. She also is busy with community drives in her spare time along with her professional commitments.

Mark J. Schadt (BS '82; MS '84, Lees) and his wife Rebecca (BA '84) recently (4/22/99) talked with Stan Madan, and indicated that Rebecca's mom had some health difficulties. Stan also had a nice talk with Mark's boss recently and discovered that he (i.e. his boss) treasured Mark's work at IBM. He mentioned that, "Mark was a very focused person and an excellent worker." Recently he has changed his job locally and the family lives in the area. His company, International Flex Technology Inc., produces flexible circuits.

Apostolos Rizos (Ph.D. '85, Doetschman) was back in the department on sabbatical leave from University of Crete, Greece with Dave Doetschman to do research in the Pulsed EPR Center. He was back in the fall of 1998 to visit Washington, DC on some mission and Stan Madan ran into him at the Oakdale Mall while he was visiting Dave to finish up the loose ends of his sabbatical leave.

Michael Capani (MA '89, Janauer) Stan Madan runs into Mike at Wal Mart during his walks in the aisles. Mike works for Broome County Building Supply in Vestal, NY. He appears very happy with his position at this outfit. It is amazing how well he is doing and making his way into life after such a serious accident in the eighty's.

Ester (Madrid) (MA '72, Janauer) and **Tom Bargar** (BS '72) As an undergraduate he did his research with C. Max Hull which resulted in a publication in J. Org. Chem. **40** 3152 (1975), after Max's retirement in 1974. They work with Dow Agro Sciences - a subsidiary of Dow Chemical Co. They were visiting the area recently when Stan Madan met them during his daily walks in the Wal-Mart area. Ester spotted Stan and called out and they had a lovely conversation. Their address is as follows: Ester & Tom Bargar, 4620 Hickory Street, Zionsville, IN.

Michael Reilly (Ph.D. '95, Oh) Stan Madan ran into Mike at the Town Square Mall recently. They had a nice chat. He is happily working for Procter & Gamble Pharmaceuticals, Norwich, NY. His home address:

Two Chenango Avenue, Sherburne, NY 13460.

Lynn Pert (BS '85) She has been associated with IBM for ten years or so as Chemical Engineer. Recently she decided to be a homemaker and pursue some other interests.

Mark S. Tinklepaugh (MS '83, Dix) He is associated with the Riverside Associates in Anesthesia, PC. SKM did not get to meet him on 4/26/99 since he was off duty, but the nurse at the ambulatory unit of Lourdes Hospital where Stan was taken had a special interest to convey greetings to him.

Michael Sulich (BA '54; MS '67, Madan) has retired from IBM, Endicott, after 30 years service. However, he always wanted to be a teacher. Ever since his retirement he has been in great demand as a substitute teacher of chemistry in public and private school systems in the area. Recently, he has had a hip-replacement, but that has not slowed him down from his passion to be available for helping out the regulars.

Bruce Lipschutz (BS '73) Was a winner of ACS Arthur C. Cope Scholar Award (1977). He was also cited in C&E News in May 1998 for some breakthrough in his research area. Professor Myers had him at Binghamton as a speaker for our colloquium speakers program on May 1, 1998. He is Professor of Chemistry at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Elizabeth K. Wilson (BS '84, Kirschner; MA, Journalism, NYC '95) visited the campus recently as an invited speaker on campus for a Women in Science program (1995). She is currently Associate Editor, in the West Coast News Bureau for C & E News. Recently, she has written some excellent reports on many issues of interest to chemists: see April 8, 1999 C & E News, p. 24-32, April 26, 1999, C & E News, P. 24-32.

Louise Grossman Fidler (BA '62) visited the campus for Alumni Reunion 1998 in May. She works at MCI as manager of software development. Her son Charles has a Ph.D. in physics from Brown University and is a professor at Cleveland State Univ.; her son Daniel has a Masters in statistics and electrical engineering from Carnegie Mellon and is a mortgage banker in North Carolina. She was in Stan Madan's first offering of an Inorganic Chemistry course at Harpur College. Her address: 14 Sandza Lane, Manitou Springs, CO 80829

Elizabeth Stanley (BA '62) visited the campus for Alumni Reunion 1998 in May. She obtained a Ph.D. in Chemistry from University of Illinois in 1966. She was in Stan Madan's first offering of an Inorganic Chemistry course at Harpur. She is associated with Ames DOE Laboratory at the Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.

Rahul Panesar (BS '96) dropped by during the 99 spring break to visit the department. He was the First Annual Stanley K. Madan Award in Inorganic Chemistry (1996). He is finishing his first year at upstate medical school and is very busy and enjoying it very much.

Jim Pankow (BA '73) During his tenure in the department he headed a NSF-funded Student Studies project in collaboration with Gil Janauer on the Susquehanna in the summer after his junior year. He went on to obtain a Ph.D. in Environmental Science and is with the Oregon Graduate Institute's Department of Environmental Science and Engineering and has been cited twice with various ACS awards in 1998 for his work at the Center in Environmental Studies. In 1999 he received an ACS Award for creative advances in environmental science and technology.

David J. Russell (Ph.D. '83, McDuffie) is with IBM, Endicott as Advisory Engineer Lamination/Materials, Development, IBM Microelectric Division. Stan Madan runs into him often in the K-Mart area. He was recently cited in Sun Bulletin (Feb. 7, 1999) for his excellent work at IBM and has been awarded many patents for his efforts. His wife (Karen, who worked in the department some years ago) is busy raising, along with David, three daughters. In addition, Karen also works for Binghamton Savings Bank in the area. The older daughter is almost ready for college as per my recent conversations with David. His telephone number: 607-757-1480; fax: 607-757-1156; email: daviruss@us.ibm.com.

Lisa Kulikowski Mihalko (BS '87). She completed a BS in Pharmacy at SUNY-Buffalo in 1994 and works as a pharmacist at Wegman's Pharmacy, Johnson City, NY. Address: 1173 Green Meadow Lane, Endicott, NY 13760. Stan Madan sees her at the pharmacy and is always interested in how things are in the department.

Paul Bertain (MS '74, Madan; Ph.D. '95, Hartwick) is still busy teaching at Onondaga Community College in Syracuse as Professor of Chemistry. He has three grown children and four or five grandchildren. His email address: bertarp@goliath.sunyocc.edu

Linda Herman Weiner, M.D. (BS '67) completed her medical studies (MD) at University of Pittsburgh and residency in Pediatrics in Los Angeles. Her husband (BS '65) is a surgeon. They moved to Hawaii looking for a rural lifestyle to practice and raise their kids. Their practices have thrived and they are blessed with three wonderful children: Nancy, 23, Merry, 21 and Ethan, 17. In 1997 they climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. In 1999 they plan to climb Mt. Blanc with other medical personnel when they "retire" after their children finish their education. They plan to do wilderness medicine and also medical missions in the third world countries.

Linda did undergraduate research with Stan Madan and published an excellent paper in Inorganic Chemistry. **7**, 491 (1968) in collaboration with Stan Madan and C. Max Hull. As a follow up to that work of 1968, Stan Madan refereed a manuscript (after 30 years) of some Canadian authors who made a thorough study of the Ru (II) complexes reported in the 1968 paper, and some of these complexes have anti-cancer activity. The work appeared in Inorg. Chem. **36**, 5635 (1997). Address: Kalaheo Clinic, Inc., 4489 Papalina Road, PO Box 520, Kalaheo, Hawaii 96741.

Warren V. Miller (Ph.D. '71, Madan) Warren came to the department in the fall of 1966 for graduate work from Clarkson School of Technology. Incidentally, 1966 was the year the department initiated its Ph.D. program. He was the first Inorganic Ph.D. from our department. He was a recipient of a NEAD Fellowship from 1967 - 1970. During his tenure as a graduate student he had co-authored seven research papers from his dissertation in Inorganic Chemistry (ACS) and other international journals. He presented some of his research at a national ACS meeting during his graduate years in the department. After finishing his Ph.D. he went on to do a postdoctoral work with Professor L. Vaska and published significant research with him that was cited in C & E News in the 70's. He then went on to work for two or three different industrial positions. His last stint was with SPEX's for a number of years before he opened up his own industrial company in New Jersey area. He was an invited speaker at the 28th ACS-NERM, June 22-25, 1999 honoring Professor Vaska at the Vaska's symposium; see C&E News, May 10, 1999, page 51. Address: P.O. Box 370, Three Bridges, NJ 08887. email: mvlabs@world.att.net

William Muniak (BS '74 Chemistry, MS '76 Comp. Science) He is associated with Lockheed Martin since his graduation. He is happily married and enjoys his work very much.

Stephen Payne (BS, '78) Presently Associate Program Leader at Lawrence Livermore Lab in California. Specialty is in diode-pumped solid-state lasers and physics/chemistry of optical materials; strong interest in inertial confinement fusion. Married to **Patty Clifford** ('79) (now Payne); two children: Hayden and Jessie (3 and 10); lived in California since 1985; "It's beautiful here being near Napa, San Francisco, Tahoe, Monterey, etc.!" Address: 3090 Massachusetts Street, Castro Valley, CA 94546

Louis E. Piccirilli, DDS (BA '51) Dr. of Dental Surgery 1955, University of Buffalo, Practiced Dentistry in Endicott, NY 1955-1992, Retired, 1992. Address: 717 Valley View Drive, Endwell, NY 13760

Brett Pleune (BS '93) has earned a Ph.D. degree from the University of Maryland (Spring 1998) in

Inorganic Chemistry. Research focused on the stability of paramagnetic transition-metal polyhydride complexes and their reactivity. Accepted a postdoctoral position at Arizona State University, working in materials science field using MoCVD techniques to synthesize new semiconducting and vitrahard materials. Brett informs us that **Jim Treubig** (BS '92) is in good standing at the University of Rhode Island and should earn his Ph.D. shortly. **Michael Lienbard** (BS '93) is currently working toward his Ph.D. degree at RPI. Email Brett at: bp42@uemail.umd.edu

Mike Sulich (BA '54 from the barracks in Endicott, Dr. Paul, etc.; MA '67, Madan) After taking an early retirement in 1987 from IBM after 31 years of working in both military and commercial assignments, I found a new challenge in substitute teaching of reagents and AP chemistry, primarily at Union-Endicott and Vestal High. The material presented and the ability of the students to absorb concepts we did not get until college level is one of the greatest satisfactions in teaching. On a personal note - Shirley (wife of 41 years) and I are proud grandparents of 4 wonderful grandchildren who are convinced Grandma & Grandpa "know everything." Address: 565 Leon Drive, Endicott, NY 13760

Dan Herschlag (BS '82) has received an ACS Arthur C. Cope Scholar Award for the year 2000. Dan received a Ph.D. from Brandeis University, did postdoctoral work at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and is currently on the faculty of the biochemistry department at Stanford University. Dan writes in an email, "... I do have wonderful memories from Harpur College. Indeed I think it was an ideal place to learn, and learn in the broadest sense. I was able to conduct independent research, with Gene Stevens in chemistry and Fred Kull in biochemistry, but I was also able to write music reviews for the campus paper, serve as editor of the campus poetry magazine, take art history classes, etc. Simply put, Harpur College was for me a perfect liberal arts environment - where I was able to deepen and broaden my intellectual perspectives. And this was possible because I was surrounded by really smart students and faculty, but, as importantly, by students who really cared about learning and faculty who really cared about teaching."

Excerpts from a letter **Bill Lewis to Lois Mackey**:

Dear Lois:

Here is a surprise for you, another voice from the past. Mary and I would like to thank you for the trip down nostalgia lane in the last "Chemistry Newsletter." The interview was great! All the things I wanted to know about you 30+ years ago were included. As I recall, you were my sounding board when I was trying to

decide which job offer to accept. I chose Kodak and you were supportive of the choice, so I was confident that I had chosen well. Certainly my career there substantiates our thinking in 1965. I worked with Dr. James for about 5 1/2 years. We did research and published papers just like academia. Nine years of research into color photographic products followed, including the marketing of a new line of EKTACHROME films for which I had done a lot of work. The remaining years were in the film production area, with the last 6 years devoted to the development of information systems for the production of sensitized film and paper...

I retired from Kodak in December, 1991, and returned to college to learn how to be a teacher. We then moved to North Carolina, where I had hoped to be secondary science teacher. Alas, I did not fit into the future plans for any of the principals. I then taught chemistry, applied physics, and algebra at the local community colleges for one year before securing a teaching position at East Carolina University, where I am now completing my fifth year.

After 1 1/2 years at East Carolina, I was assigned a job very much like what you had at Binghamton. I am the curriculum and teaching coordinator for all of the general chemistry labs. We have about 650 students per semester, so it is a big job, as you can well remember. That is not my only job, however. I also teach labs and at least one section (usually two) of General Chemistry II, between 120 and 180 total students. My job at Kodak was easy by comparison! I thought I had retired! The day-to-day rewards of seeing students mature and grow in understanding outweigh the nightly homework I have to do, although Mary is not in total agreement with that. I have, with the help and cooperation of many others, completely renovated the general chemistry lab curriculum to be compatible with the needs of industry and the working world. Two-thirds of our curriculum in General Chemistry II Lab use Macintosh computers for data acquisition and graphical interpretation of data. I am currently in the midst of editing the third edition of our lab manual supporting the curriculum...

Yes, I was the first person to receive a master's degree in chemistry from Binghamton. I have considered that a badge of honor for all 33 years since it was conferred on me...

Best regards, Bill Lewis

Let us hear from *you!* Send your news to
Stan Madan, Alumni News Coordinator
Chemistry Newsletter
Chemistry, Box 6016, SUNY
Binghamton, NY 13902-6016

In Memoriam

C. Max Hull

(1909-1999) C. Max Hull obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois, and his doctorate in chemistry from Ohio State University. After a stint in industry at Standard Oil, he joined the academic ranks as Chair of the Chemistry Department for the Associated Colleges of Upper New York in 1946. He joined the chemistry faculty at Harpur College in 1953, and was chair of the Harpur College Division of Science and Mathematics from 1954 to 1963. In 1965 he became chair of the Chemistry Department, and led the development of chemistry's doctoral program and the design of Science Building II. Max retired from the university in 1974, and moved to New Jersey in 1995. He died August 19, 1999.

Max asked me to join the department in the Fall of 1960. From the very beginning, he made my wife and me feel most welcome, and he and his wife shared their home with us many times. Max was a fair-minded administrator, a dedicated teacher, and a first-class chemist. We often attended professional meetings together, and I recall walking the boardwalk (4 miles) at an Atlantic City, NJ, ACS meeting with him, finally ending at his favorite restaurant. Even after his retirement, he frequently joined us for seminars and for coffee in the faculty lounge on the third floor of the tower. He also completed his contributions toward a joint research paper, which we had planned some years earlier. He always fulfilled his commitments. Max also introduced me to handball, and we had some very spirited matches (most of which he won).

Stan Madan

Steven G. Utterback

(Ph.D. 1982) (1954-1999) Steve Utterback did undergraduate studies in biology, BS-Magna Cum Laude, Syracuse 1975. Steve joined the graduate program in chemistry at Binghamton in 1975, worked with Professor Schrier, and completed his Ph.D. with Prof. Doetschman in 1982 on the topic, "Low Temperature EPR and Photochemistry of Nitrosylhemoglobin Single Crystals." He was instructor of chemistry at SUNY Oneonta, 1980-81. Steve did postdoctoral studies with Prof. Clyde Hutchison at the University of Chicago, 1981-84. Steve joined IBM Research at the Watson Laboratory as a postdoctoral researcher in 1984 and achieved Research Staff Member Status in 1986. He led a development project on scanning electron beam micro-metrology his last four years at IBM. In 1993 he returned to teaching, as Adjunct Professor of Chemistry at Hostos Community College, Bronx, New York. He continued research collaborations until his death with Drs. Cannon (Columbia Presbyterian), Dr. Clancy (NYU Medical), Dr. Doetschman (Binghamton) and Dr. Turro (Columbia). Steve's scientific research career resulted in 15 scientific publications and 10 patents and inventions.

Steve was a product of the sixties and seventies. He enjoyed the gentler music of the period, such as Paul Winter, Santana, and Jimi Hendrix. He was raised with a sister and brother by a general medical practitioner in the Adirondacks. His brother, David, was briefly attracted to chemistry graduate work at Binghamton but eventually developed a successful career as an artist. Steve's hobbies included an avid interest in reptiles and insects, particularly snakes and spiders, a collection of which could always be found in his home. His enthusiasm for reptiles and his smooth, calm handling of them generated a positive attitude in people who knew him toward these creatures. One of Steve's last and fondest memories was of periods spent at his family's old holiday home on the coast of Maine.

Dave Doetschman

In Memoriam

K. Keith Innes

(1928-2000) K. Keith Innes graduated from Central College, Fayette, MO, in 1947, obtained the Sc.M. degree from Brown University in 1949, and the Ph.D. degree from the University of Washington, Seattle, in 1951. Keith did postdoctoral work with Gerhard Herzberg. His academic career started in 1953 at the University of Oklahoma, Norman. In 1955 he moved to Vanderbilt University, and in 1969 he joined the chemistry faculty at SUNY Binghamton, where he became Distinguished Research Professor. He retired in 1990. Keith died January 13, 2000.

Keith Innes was a highly respected member of the chemistry faculty. When I first came to Binghamton, I ran the departmental seminar course on a very limited budget. I wanted to invite Gerhard Herzberg, who had won the 1971 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. I approached Keith about inviting him. Keith invited him, arranged for a press conference, hosted a nice comfortable dinner at his house. It was clear to me then that Keith was the peer of the best spectroscopists in the world.

Keith's stellar scientific reputation brought visibility to Binghamton and attracted high-quality graduate students to the department. Although many of the students came to work specifically with Keith, they raised the enthusiasm and work ethic of all the students in the department.

When Keith Innes spoke, people listened. In polarized faculty meetings, he would listen dispassionately to arguments, then at the end he would speak. His natural but low-key prestige and authority would calm everyone down, and his suggestions adopting the middle ground would be accepted by everyone. He also used his somewhat dry sense of humor in meetings. I remember once I came off a semester with a heavy course load, and was primed to fight for a lighter course load the following semester. At the meeting with colleagues to discuss course assignments, Keith sensed my need, and began the meeting with the question, "What should Mike and I teach?"

Mike Starzak

Clifford E. Myers

(1929-2000) Cliff Myers was born June 1, 1929, in Jefferson City, TN. He obtained his doctorate from Purdue University and did postdoctoral work at the University of Illinois. Before coming to Binghamton in 1963, he was on the faculty at Lynchburg College in Virginia, and Alfred University in New York. Highlights from his tenure at Binghamton include chair of the 1992 Gordon Research Conference on High Temperature Chemistry, and chair of the 16th Northeast Regional ACS Meeting. Cliff died January 11, 2000

Cliff was a righteous man. I often thought that if the professor gig hadn't worked out for Cliff, he would have made a fine fundamentalist preacher. Cliff could wax long and eloquently about many a diverse topic, ranging from the slightly ribald to the strongly moral. He enthusiastically immersed himself in life in much the same way he dived in and swam in the waters of the West Gym pool. Cliff was keeper of the Harpur College undergraduate tradition in the Chemistry Department, and he passed that tradition on to me and other young members of the faculty in the 1980's. I will miss him.

Jim Dix

Interview with

Cliff Myers

Ed. Note: Below are excerpts from an interview I did with Cliff Myers in the fall of last year, four months before he died. During the interview, Cliff was his usual expansive and loquacious self, and, while aware of the cancer growing in him, maintained his positive outlook on life. Cliff succumbed to cancer on January 11, 2000. The complete text of the interview can be found on the Chemistry Department's web site, at www.chem.binghamton.edu (follow the Newsletter link) -JD

Chemistry Times: Where were you born?

Cliff: I was born in Jefferson City, Tennessee, June 1, 1929, the seventh of eight children. My next oldest brother, Albert, is still living; he's in his mid eighties now, and he was a chemist. In pictures of us early on we look very much alike so he was always held up to me as a kind of role model. The chemistry profession is fairly strong in my family. Albert has three sons and the older two are chemists. My oldest sister's husband is a chemist. They have two sons, both of whom are chemists.

CT: Were your parents chemists?

CEM: No, my father and mother grew up on a small poor farm in eastern Tennessee. My mother was born in 1889 and my father, I think, in 1891. The schools they had in their communities were minimal but father went off to college at Carson Newman College in the neighborhood of 1910. In those days there were high schools only in the cities. My parents were put in what is called a preparatory department which was to bridge the gap, a bit like some of our programs now for those who are educationally deprived in one way or another. Mother, I don't think, took any college courses at all. Dad took some. She left to take an exam to teach grade school. She taught for a couple years. Dad quit school and they got married. He was also a school teacher and school principal, county superintendent of schools in Hawkins County in Tennessee, then for several years in the Tennessee Department of Education in Nashville, the Office of Teacher Certification; he headed the office for a good period of that time. In 1928 he was asked to join the staff at Carson Newman College as Treasurer. He held that job for 28 years. At any rate, he saw the college through the depression and met every payroll. I think he had to take some salary reductions and got all eight of us through college. We all lived at home. So when I went off to grad school, I had a lot of growing up to do. It was a pretty strict household.

CT: What was it in high school that made you go into chemistry?

CEM: Well it was the influence of my older brother. People would say, when I was a kid, "What are you going to do?" and I would say, "I'm going to become a chemist." "What does a chemist do?" I didn't really know. We had a very small high school. There were six high schools in the county, this was before integration and there were five white high schools, ours was the largest with 200 students.

CT: There must have been something that you liked about chemistry.

CEM: I was good at mathematics. I liked it. My high school teacher's background in chemistry was modest to say the least. She was quite good in biology. I could read the book and figure out how to do the problems. Chemistry was what I was going to do, although I must say that in the summer before my senior year in college, I thought about ditching that and going into choral music which had always been something that I enjoyed very much. But since I had only taken a couple years of piano by the eighth grade and first year of high school, and hadn't practiced enough to become really proficient, I decided that that's not a very good idea. That's worked out as a very good avocation, I've done a lot of choir directing and singing.

CT: You and Marilyn were married in 1953.

CEM: I met her in September of 1951 at a church group. She was from Jamestown, NY, starting her second year in home economics as an undergraduate. We started dating in the spring and got engaged early that summer. I popped the question on the shores of Cherokee Lake in East Tennessee after we were down visiting my family. We were pretty sure about things before that but made it official then.

CT: How big were the intro chem classes [at Harpur College in 1963]?

CEM: I taught Chem 111, which was like 107, the first year. As I recall I had about 125 in the Science I lecture hall. So I had some of the recitations from that. In addition to that, one semester I was helping Gene Schrier in the physical chem lab and another semester was helping Bruce McDuffie with the analytical lab. All the science departments, except math, were in Science I. We shared the north wing, where Geology is now, with Physics. I had four or five different places where I had my desk in all of that time.

CT: How big were the labs then?

CEM: That I don't know, but we accommodated up to 24 students in each lab. The physical chem labs were on the first floor and the analytical lab and organic lab on the second floor. Bruce McDuffie was department chair. He didn't have a separate office or secretary.

The secretary pool was down in the division office. The division was much more important in those days. Where the geology chair's office is where the division chair's office was. There was a secretarial pool there. It was a different time. The classes, once you got beyond general chemistry, were not as large. There was also a general chemistry honors course, 111H, 112H, that Bruce Norcross taught. Max [Hull] was division chair and didn't have as big a teaching load.

I finished my two first semesters, November and March. The second year I elected to teach the July semester and to take the November semester off and come back and teach in the spring semester. I had grants from Los Alamos and arranged for a three to four months stay out there. We rented our house to Larry Verbit. At any rate that was a very interesting experience being at Los Alamos. The security gates were still there but not in operation. It is a very interesting part of the country, a beautiful part of the country. I was back there for half a sabbatical back in '83. We piled in the car and made a long trek to Los Alamos. We had a half a duplex up near the golf course. We took the kids and put them in school; they were 6 and 8. Greta was in first grade. Ken was in third grade out there, didn't miss a beat. They could walk to school. The schools were good, the best schools in New Mexico. I had an interesting time. Didn't get any publications out of it but learned a lot.

CT: When you first came here, the department started working on the Ph.D. proposal to the State University.

CEM: It went to the State University of New York and ultimately the State Education Department.

CT: How did you justify the argument?

CEM: Well it was mostly a matter at that point that we were building a faculty. In '65 Harpur became one of the four university centers, programs in History and English were approved. I think, by that time Max Hull was 100% back to the department succeeded by Hugh Hunter or Bob Hart as division chair. We had a committee in the department. I was on it. Martin Paul retired by the time I came back from Los Alamos, retired in the March semester. He took a position in Washington, and Max became department chair at that time.

CT: Was there much resistance from the faculty from going from a four-year Harpur College?

CEM: Not in chemistry. There was resistance in other departments where they felt that we really would lose a lot or that things would change in undesirable ways, and in some ways it has changed.

CT: In what ways would that be?

CEM: The classes, generally, were small except for some freshmen classes and they were all taught by faculty. There was a big course offered, a division course in Humanities, called Lit Comp 101. They had one lecture and a couple recitations. I think the recitations were taken from people all over the humanities division. In fact one of the best teachers was a guy named Phil Freidheim. He was in the Music Department. People who organized that course, according to them, he was one of the best they had. He was a person who engaged the students and so on and so forth. There was resistance in other departments. There was resistance in our department, not to having TA's running the lab, but having anybody, other than faculty, running recitations. Doreen Mayes must have graduated in '64. She was in the physical chem lab that I helped out with. Max gave her a position of maybe a stockroom clerk. It quickly became apparent that she was quite good. She wound up as our first administrative assistant in the department. She was excellent in that job.

We were still 10 faculty at the most. Then some emergency came up; I know that Dorothea Mueller fell and broke her leg and was out for awhile. That may have been the occasion. We needed to do something. So Doreen was put in charge of, I think, maybe a recitation. There was considerable resistance to that, but she did a fine job. In any event, it was not long thereafter that she became a regular recitation instructor. By that time Lois Mackey was on board, first as teaching labs, and then supervising TAs. There was an ad from Chemical and Engineering News from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, for a person to run their freshmen lab program. I showed it to Doreen and she jumped on it. She got the position and again did a fine job for them that they encouraged her to get a Ph.D. She thought about coming back here but decided that that would not be wise, so she took her Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry at the University of New Mexico and came back to a regular faculty position at Fort Lewis and later served as chair of the department and has been an assistant dean. She is thinking of retiring. Her husband is in the English Department and he took retirement.

That incorporates some of the changes that were occurring. We gradually moved to this idea of teaching assistants doing recitations and having responsibility in the labs. After Lois retired, Richard Quest came and of course is doing phenomenally. That's been a real good situation.

CT: In the late 60's. Harpur College was sort of a hotbed of student unrest.

CEM: That was true. Out in the community they think

of me as sort of liberal, and on the campus I was thought of as fairly conservative. I remember I was on a committee that was called to investigate alleged improper behavior of another faculty member, and they were talking about me being chair of the committee. They proposed me. Another faculty member said, "You're known on campus as pretty conservative." I was not made chair of that committee. It was a delicate matter. It had to do with protests. So I stayed out of that sort of thing. I'm not terribly politically active. I mean I vote, though I haven't voted for a Republican president since Eisenhower. I'd say I'm a Rockefeller/Javitts Republican. We were away for part of that period. I had a sabbatical 1969/70 when we went to Brussels on half pay and savings. They had protests over there. That was the Fres University of Brussels which is known as a very left-wing kind of place politically. That did not affect where I was. I guess where it bothered me is where it affected the academic program.

CT: How is that?

CEM: There was something set up called University Assembly. The Faculty Senate for awhile was no more. The University Assembly had a stated number of representatives from each of the constituencies: the faculty, administration and the students. I didn't like that because I felt one should consult students, but academic decisions should be made by faculty. It was at that time that we went to a grading system of ABC, no credit. We've since dropped that, went back to ABCDF, which better reflects the range, although not all the instructors use full range. That was a time when I felt that standards were compromised and we have not fully recovered from that. I think in our department, by and large, we maintained our integrity of standards through that period, and have since. Most of the wild stuff going on over in the administration building didn't affect me very much.

CT: The thing I remember about the 70's is the big retrenchment in the late 70's.

CEM: Yes, that was a tough time for us. We didn't so much as lose positions, but we had positions we could not fill. That was a problem. We were down to 12 faculty; we had TAs of course. It was a difficult situation.

CT: That's when Physics lost its Ph.D. program? Was there much give and take between Chemistry and Physics in which was going to be dropped?

CEM: Not really. We were put on probation for a period of time. John Eisch came in as professor/chair of the department. Of course, he had a large research program. Keith Innes had arrived in mid year of '68-'69.

Schrier was quite productive, Stan Madan was publishing; outside funding was limited. Eisch had considerable funds; Schrier had support all this time. Others in the department were doing research and publishing, but in this particular period, there was limited support. There was a lot of pressure I think coming from the private sector on higher education, against expansion of State University. So the State Education Department was pushing for a review of all Ph.D. programs in the state. It was at that time that we lost a number of Ph.D. programs here, including Physics.

CT: What was the morale of the chemistry faculty at that time?

CEM: We were soldiering on as best we could. Teaching loads were heavy. For several semesters I taught two courses. I did not have support then and what research I was able to do was either with my own hands or with undergraduate students. I'd had one Masters students early on.

CT: Health issues aside, what plans do you have now? I know that's a tough question.

CEM: That's a very tough question. Right now things seem to be going well, certainly not in remission. But I am back on taxol after an almost fatal experience back in January when I had a severe allergic reaction to the carrier. Apparently taxol is not very soluble. They have something in the solution that allows you to get more taxol dissolved; the carrier is called cremofore. I had a very severe allergic reaction, Code Blue situation at the hospital. I'm back on taxol with a weekly injection; aside from hives the first time, I've had no problems. I had a CT scan 2 or 3 weeks ago [August, 1999] and the tumors in my liver had not grown at that time, and the esophageal tumor which is the primary tumor may have shrunk a bit, and other characteristics may have lessened. So it's a reprieve. Long term plans—it would be lovely for this to go into remission and get some strength back. My blood counts, as always, are down, not so far down that I can't have treatment. It's day by day. That's all I can say.

CT: Give us your thoughts about where Binghamton University is headed in your perspective of 35 years associated with the college.

CEM: I have high hopes for the Chemistry Department. I think the young people we have added are all top drawer for our situation. Funding is tough. This is a real tough time. Jan Musfeldt has done very, very well. Wunmi Sadik had support already in hand by the time she arrived on campus; that's a good program. I think we've made some excellent hires in the last few years. I think the department is going to be quite good. The

university as a whole is doing well. As a university we need to move up to the Carnegie category with external support and that is not entirely in Chemistry's hands. From what I hear the new provost for research and graduate studies [Fran Carr] is pushing ahead very heavily. I think that will put pressure on some departments. I don't know enough to know which ones. It will put pressure on us, but I think we've been putting that pressure on ourselves anyway. I think we've been pretty strict on our tenure decisions. But it'll also mean pressure in the terms of allocation and resources and I think there is where we could use some more support as we demonstrate we're worthy of it. There may be programs that have had support that will continue in their teaching programs but I think they may find themselves coming to harder times as the emphasis increases for us to become more of a research university.

CT: Any thoughts about the move to Division I, the NCAA, and the new mascots, Bearcats?

CEM: I was on the intercollegiate athletic board for awhile and I've been involved as an announcer for the swimming team for a number of years until my health prevented my continuing. Four words. I don't like it. For this reason: they're probably going to count on men's basketball as a revenue source and that puts pressure whether we like it or not on the academic program. I think we're in danger of losing something very important. I remember going to an athletic awards banquet a few years ago when there was stellar performer in two different sports; a young woman who was also an honors graduate and was going to law school. We've had people, Feyyaz Baskent, one of our alumni, made a generous gift recently to support summer scholarship in organic chemistry. He has done extremely well and has his own business, president of a company in California. He was a stellar soccer player. I think we're going to see less of that and that is unfortunate. These people were students first and athletes second. I don't see what's wrong with "The Colonials," it's part of our history. "Binghamton Bearcats." I don't even know what a bearcat is... a mythical animal. Got that off my chest—.

CT: You've had a long and productive life as a chemist. A lot of things have happened. What would be the one or two most significant things professionally that you've done as a chemist?

CEM: I like to work with people. The two things I'm proudest of: one is being the general chair of the 16th Northeast Regional Meeting of the ACS which was held on our campus and I think was very successful. The other was being chair of the Gordon Research Conference on High Temperature Chemistry held in 1992. Those two things. The latter I never thought would come my way. I was surprised to be nominated and even more surprised to be elected. I followed Margaret Frisch, and I had worked with her as vice chair 2 years previously and had learned a lot. We worked as a team. I thought I had a real good program and the participants there seemed to like it very much.

CT: How about your personal life?

CEM: Well I think the most important event in my personal life occurred on August 26, 1953. That's the day I got married. I don't know how she's managed the past 46 years, but she's wonderful.

CT: She must have some thoughts about being married to an academic chemist.

CEM: It has afforded her some travel and things of that sort and has put her in contact with a very lively group, the University Women. But she had her own professional career. She taught in Binghamton Central High School before we went to Brussels and came back and did a Masters degree at Binghamton in Sociology. Shortly after finishing that she started work as Broome County Cooperative Extension. Then she was with Extension for 17 years and the last 10 years of that was home economics program leader. So she's had her own career. She took early retirement when we went to Europe the second time. There is no way they'd give her study leave for a whole year. She's been active in the church and helping out with our grandchildren. They live 15 minutes away. Anna was born while I was in Europe; Marilyn had come back because she knew it was going to be soon. She was Anna's nanny for a period of time until she was ready to go to preschool. Then still up through last year was taking care of the gals after school, but with my problem it's been a bit more difficult. But she's active in the church. She's downstairs now working on a fundraising project. I think she's enjoyed the academic atmosphere and put up with my mood swings and frustrations, rejoiced when I've rejoiced and wept when I've wept, but also has a very practical side which is quite good.

CLIFF MYERS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

A fund in the name of Cliff has been established by the department. The purpose of the fund is to provide a summer student research fellowship in materials or inorganic chemistry. Contributions to the fund can be sent to Binghamton University Foundation, Account 2040450, P.O. Box 6005, Binghamton, N.Y. 13902-6005

Let Us Hear From You!

Name _____ **Degree, Year** _____
Email Address _____
Web Page URL _____

News _____

Letters and email messages welcome too!

Mail your news to

Stan Madan, Alumni News Coordinator
Chemistry Newsletter
Chemistry, Box 6016, SUNY
Binghamton, NY 13902-6016

Jim Dix, Editor, Chemistry Newsletter
Chemistry Department, Box 6016
State University of New York
Binghamton, NY 13902-6016

NON-PROFIT ORG

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT NO. 61

BINGHAMTON, NY

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED