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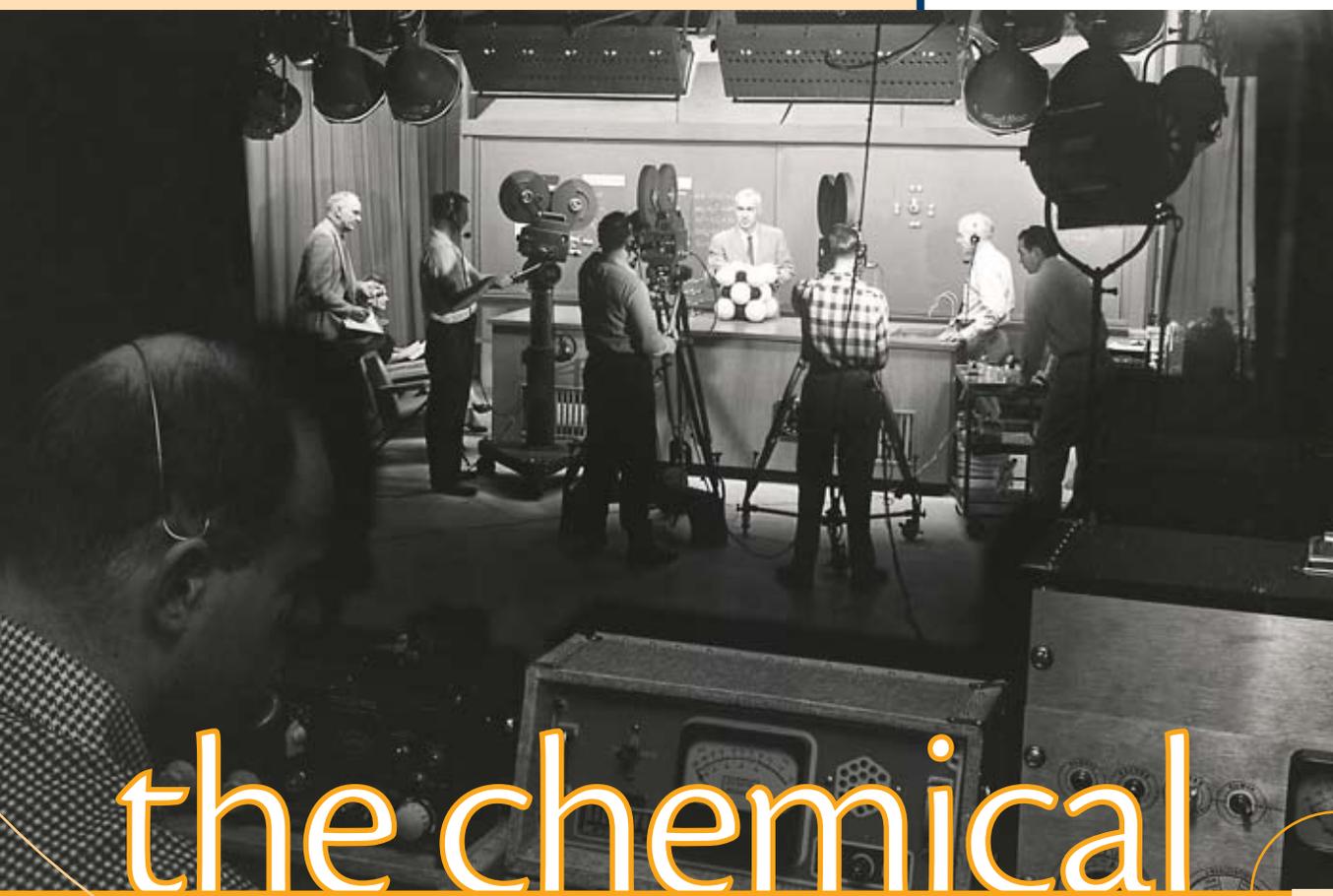
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## 2008–2009 Chemistry Staff Recognition

On April 1, 2009, the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences held a ceremony and reception to honor staff who have attained between 5 and 30 years of continuous service to the University of Florida. Twelve staff members from the Department of Chemistry were recognized for having achieved one of these milestones. **Sara Klossner** (5), **Antoinette Knight** (5), **Joey Lott** (5), **Christy Nguyen** (5), **Melinda Olszak** (10), **Lawrence Hartley** (15), **Beverly Lisk** (20), **Joe Shalosky** (20), **Glennis Brown** (25), **Maribel Lisk** (25), **Gwen McCann** (25), and **Steven Miles** (30). Congratulations and thank you for your dedicated service to our department.

## keep in touch **with Chemistry**

We want to hear from you! Send your update to: Maribel Lisk, PO Box 117200, Gainesville, FL 32611-7200. Please include your degree (BS, MS, PhD, etc.), graduation date, and e-mail address if you have one. Photos are welcome, too! You can also e-mail your update to [chairadmin@chem.ufl.edu](mailto:chairadmin@chem.ufl.edu). To make online contributions to the department, go to <https://www.uff.ufl.edu/OnlineGiving/CLAS.asp>. Select "Chemistry 001401" and continue through the prompts.



# the chemical bond

SPRING 2009  
University of Florida  
Department of Chemistry



...on the cover

You might recognize this photograph (circa 1968) from page 58 of the Fall 2008 issue of "UF Today", a publication of the Alumni Association, celebrating WUFT's 50 years "on the air." You might not have known that the professor was **John Baxter**, who came to the Department of Chemistry in 1952 to direct the first-year chemistry program. During his years at UF, Dr. Baxter engaged in several activities using technology to spread the word about chemistry. The scene represented in this picture was part of the filming of a series of some hundred or so movie reels, each of which could be used by a high-school teacher to supplement a usual class. This series was produced by the Encyclopedia Britannica and most of the filming was carried out in a studio under the north end of the west-side Florida Field stadium, specially constructed to represent the front of a classroom as shown in this picture. The director is standing at the right with earphones and a technical consultant is at the left.

One of these reels was devoted to modern chemical instrumentation and was filmed in Leigh Hall. There was a ten-minute portion on NMR and I (Professor **Wallace S. Brey**) was the actor and narrator. It took most of an afternoon to film this segment, with perhaps ten retakes until the director was satisfied; my voice was dubbed in later in the stadium studio as the picture was played on screen.

—Wallace S. Brey

## Professor Rodney J. Bartlett

received the prestigious 2008 Schrödinger Medal of The World Association of Theoretical and Computational Chemists. Bartlett was awarded the medal for the systematic development of correlated wave function methods, especially many-body perturbation theory and coupled cluster theory. The Schrödinger Medal, recognizing the world's most outstanding theoretical or computational chemists, was presented at the WATOC 2008 World Congress held in Sydney, Australia, in September 2008.



## UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS: Congratulations!

Many congratulations to our recent BS graduates and also to our undergraduate award winners.

On the first Sunday in May, 87 students received their bachelors' degrees, 28 in the standard chemistry program and 59 in the biochemistry track. This record number adds to the 28 Summer 2008 and 18 Fall 2008 graduates to give 133 new chemistry graduates over the entire academic year. The diplomas of 69 of these graduates also bear the words *cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, or *summa cum laude*. We are all very proud of our thriving presence in the Gator Nation.

With so many students having excellent records in both course work and undergraduate research, we faced the difficult (but happy) task of choosing the outstanding graduating senior for the Colonel Allen R. and Margaret G. Crow Award. In the end, the department decided to split the award among three graduates: Nathan Strutt, Frank

(Chris) Curran, and Jennifer Mattler.

Nathan Strutt, who performed undergraduate research under Mike Scott, is headed to Northwestern University for graduate studies in nanotechnology under Prof. Fraser Stoddart. Jennifer Mattler's undergraduate research advisor was Ron Castellano. She will work on her Ph.D. in synthetic organic chemistry at Stanford University under Prof. Paul Wender. Chris Curran, a major in our biochemistry track, is taking a two-year hiatus from his academic pursuits to serve in Teach for America. Chris worked with Lisa McElwee-White on his undergraduate thesis, and he eventually will seek a Ph.D. in chemistry.

Every year, the department also awards several outstanding junior chemistry majors with funding provided by donations from Howard and Brenda Sheridan, Joseph P. Laforanara, and Gordon M. and Joyce L. Smith. The 2009 winners are Srinivasan Venkatesh, Travis LaJoie, Alex Wang, and Laura Fishwick. Congratulations to Srinivasan, Travis, Alex, Laura, and our many other excellent undergraduates.

## John Eyler Retires

Professor John Eyler started his independent career at UF in 1974. He served as the head of the Physical Chemistry Division from 2004–2007.

John was chair of the Department of Chemistry from 1994–2000. He published 150 original research papers during his career (to date!) which focus on the technology and applications of Fourier-Transform Ion Cyclotron Resonance (FTICR) Mass Spectrometry. John was one of the early adopters and developers of this powerful technique that features the highest mass resolution currently possible. He has used FTICR to study the infrared spectra of ions in the gas phase by using powerful tunable IR lasers. John is an active member of the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory community and in recent years has branched out to collaborate with the Free Electron Laser for Infrared eXperiments (FELIX) facility located at the FOM Institute for Plasma Physics at Rijnhuizen in the Netherlands. On April 24, the department celebrated John's career with a Festkolloquium in which John took the opportunity to reminisce about his 35 years of research at UF, and James Bruce, an alumnus of John's group and professor at the University of Washington, gave the keynote address. John plans to remain active in his research and we wish him continued success.



## A note from The Chair

We spent a lot of time watching the newspapers this year, wondering like everyone else about the state and national economy. While waiting for the economic picture to clear, we've continued to move forward. Let me update you on some exciting developments.

You may have heard that we have a new building planned for the corner of University Avenue and Buckman Drive (17th street). Tentatively called the Chemistry/Chemical Biology Building, it will be the new home to general and organic teaching labs as well as chemical biology and organic graduate research space. The architects are here as I write this, and we hope to have renderings and plans available for viewing very soon.

We made three successful tenure track faculty offers this spring. Professors Stephen Bruner, Rebecca Butcher, and David Wei will be joining us during the 2009–2010 academic year. Steve will be moving from Boston College, where he is cur-

rently an Associate Professor and Rebecca is coming from a postdoctoral appointment at Harvard Medical School. Both Rebecca and Steve are biochemists. David, currently a Postdoc at Northwestern, is a physical/materials chemist. We look forward to welcoming our new colleagues.

The students continue to flock to chemistry! As reported elsewhere in our newsletter, we had a record number of graduates this academic year. Along with high numbers, the incredibly high quality of our students is really keeping us on our toes.

We are adding several new instruments to our research and teaching labs. Khalil Abboud along with several other faculty colleagues were successful with a major instrumentation proposal to the National Science Foundation for a new single crystal X-ray diffractometer. We also acquired a second 500 MHz NMR this year. In the teaching labs, we added two new FTIR spectrometers for the organic labs and an



ion chromatograph to the upper level instrumental analysis laboratory.

Incidentally, our efforts to acquire all the new instrumentation this year started with alumni donations. We were able to use these resources to leverage additional funding through grants or university matching to make very significant enhancements to our program.

We are grateful for continued support by our alumni and friends, which enables us to look forward, ever increasing the quality and competitiveness of our teaching and research endeavors.

—Daniel R. Talham