Message from the Chair

Dr. Cheryl Frech

What are your memories of UCO and the Department of Chemistry? Perhaps you recall a trip with faculty and other students: floating the Illinois River, skiing, or perhaps to a local, regional, or national ACS Section meeting. Did you study late into the night at the UCO Library, or early in the morning in the Howell Hall Atrium? Do you remember SAACS or SAFS club meetings, speakers, and activities?

We’re still here – making memories for the current students. We just celebrated National Chemistry Week. Dr. Ferguson continues his outreach events at the Child Study Center and the mall. A few faculty dressed up this year as their favorite elements. Students are buying tickets for dunk-the-professor. New students learned the subtleties of tie-dye from experienced dyers.

Our classroom technology improves each year, with better projectors, new “smart boards”, and a document camera. We haven’t been able to replace the student-sized desks in all the classrooms yet, but one of these years we will. We are able to replace and upgrade our laboratory instrumentation thanks to some internal grants and student fees.

We enjoy hearing from former students. Send us an email with an update about your career. What courses at UCO best prepared you for your current responsibilities? What do you wish you had paid more attention to? How can we better prepare our current students? If you return to the OKC metro area for business, vacation, or family, please come see us, say hello, and see for yourself how UCO has grown.

Retirements

Two well-loved members of the UCO Chemistry community will retire during the current academic year.

Kat Taylor’s last day at UCO will be in December. She has served as the Chemistry Associate and worked in the department storeroom since 1999. We will miss her quiet competence and excellent organization skills. Kat is digging up her iris and transporting them to her new home in the vicinity of Cleveland, Oklahoma, where she’ll be closer to her family. Her plans for retirement include quilting, gardening, other hobbies, and sleeping late.

Dr. Olivia Hanson will retire at the end of this academic year to embark on a new career as a geotech, a new field in the petroleum industry. A geotech uses computer programs to draw geologic maps and make illustrations for the geologists. She said, “I am too young to retire, of course! I wanted to have one more career before I really do retire, something completely different, with no piles of papers to grade at night.” She has been learning Excel and Access and will start classes in Geologix, the mapping program, in January. She is hoping to find a job in the state, but her new career may not allow that. She thinks she might miss teaching, “because the best part of my seventeen years at UCO has been the outstanding and interesting students who have been in my classes. When they visit or email us, it is a little like hearing from family. I so enjoy hearing of their successes.”

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Dr. Frank Roy Frow, a Chemistry Faculty member at UCO for 26 years died at the age of 82 on May 8, 2007 in Oklahoma City. Dr. Frow retired from UCO in May 1991 after a lengthy career of teaching Biochemistry, Organic Chemistry and General Chemistry. Dr. Frow enjoyed his family, playing golf and was a serious OU fan. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and children John, David, Emily, Michael and Susan.

Club Activities

The UCO SAACS (Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society) reports a number of exciting activities. In March 2007 six students traveled to Chicago to attend the ACS National Meeting. Vice president Christina Lindsey presented her undergraduate research in biochemistry, and club activities were highlighted in a poster prepared by SAACS president Paul Jordan. For the 2007-2008 academic year, the group plans greater involvement and participation in a variety of upcoming events. In early September, SAACS members participated in a joint cookout with SAFS members at Hafer Park. Later that month, members from both SAACS and SAFS braved the treacherous waters of the Illinois River on a twelve mile float trip. The chapter’s National Chemistry Week activities included chemistry shows at Quail Springs Mall, the Omniplex, and Washington Irving Elementary School. In addition to monthly meetings, the chapter continues to invite professional scientists to the university to provide SAACS members with information regarding graduate schools, summer research positions, and potential jobs. A major goal of the chapter this year is to encourage more members to attend the upcoming national ACS meeting held in New Orleans in April 2008. Recent club activities can be viewed at youtube.com (search for UCOChem).

One highlight of the Student Academy of Forensic Science (SAFS) 2006-2007 academic year was the International Association of Identification (IAI) regional conference held at UCO. At this conference, criminal justice and forensic science professionals, working in police departments and crime labs, gather to share their experiences and findings and to learn from others. The Crime Scene Weekend is one of the most important and exciting event for every UCO Forensic Science student. Two or three “bodies” are placed at a staged crime scene. Students, with only a crime scene kit, fingerprinting kit, and their knowledge, are asked to solve the crime. This year’s Crime Scene Weekend was organized by SAFS students and by the Forensic Science Institute Director, Dr. Dwight Adams. About forty students, graduate and undergraduate, represented UCO at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Annual Conference at San Antonio, Texas in February 2007. In addition, the club participated in many community service activities including the Susan B. Komen Race for the Cure, Edmond Safe Trick-or-Treat, a Girl Scout IPP workshop, and a canned food drive.

Summer Forensic Science Academies a Success

The first of three high school summer Forensic Science Academies was held at UCO in June 2007. Drs. Bost and Rundle cosponsored this event and were assisted by five UCO graduate and undergraduate chemistry department students. Thirty high school students were selected to participate in a weeklong session that included a number of short presentations on forensic science and the techniques used to analyze evidence. Near the end of the week, four mock crime scenes were set up and the high school students used the skills they had learned to collect and analyze evidence to link the scenes and determine the perpetrator. The workshop was enhanced by participation of forensic scientists from DNA Solutions, the Oklahoma City Police Department, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, and UCO recruiters from the Prospective Student Services office. The academy is funded by a three-year grant from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.
Staff and Faculty Updates
The current faculty are a diverse and hard-working group. Here are some brief glimpses into their lives.

Dr. F. Albahadily and his four freshmen students are having fun using the recently acquired VARIAN 6000i UV-VIS-NIR spectrophotometer to study biodiesel produced from different cooking oils.

Dr. Robert Bost has initiated an undergraduate research project, involving the use Raman and/or FTIR spectroscopy to make thin-layer chromatography results both permanent and suitable for electronic storage. He has served as Team Leader for a FEPAC accreditation for the fourth year.

Dr. John Bowen has been concentrating on promoting undergraduate research at UCO. He initiated a research-oriented experiment for Quantitative Analysis and Lab and encourages students to participate in Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) programs funded by NSF. He provides research experiences for 10 high school students working on chemistry, biology and forensic science projects in conjunction with Edmond North High School.

Dr. James Dechter reports that he continues to learn from his late-life experiment in home ownership; most recently he has learned how to do battle with webworms - through chemistry. Among more pleasant events of the year, he traveled to Oregon to view the coast and attend their Shakespeare festival. He continues to teach general chemistry and inorganic chemistry and to nurse the NMR spectrometer through what is reported to be a global shortage of helium.

Dr. Mike Ferguson has presented several chemistry "magic" shows to a range of audiences. He worked with Chemistry Club members to give shows in November 2006 and 2007 at the Omniplex and Washington Irving Elementary School, and in June 2007 at UCO for a "Harry Potter" party. Dr. Ferguson serves as a co-sponsor of the Chemistry Club, and he has held several "Demo Schools" to teach students about preparing and performing demonstrations.

Dr. Cheryl Frech has noticed that the age gap between her own children and the students in her classes has become very narrow. She continues to balance her responsibilities as department chair with teaching general chemistry and service to the ACS. She enjoys her children's activities (soccer, dance, band), bridge and fiction clubs, and family travel.

Mr. Don Gibson continues to do a little bit of research with nanoparticles. concentrating on two areas of interest, cancer therapeutics and sunscreens with anti-aging properties.

Dr. Mike Hellwege continues to work on his “big syllabus” and the corresponding PowerPoint presentations, along with the related website at http://cms.ucok.edu/chemistry/Hellwege/Lecturefiles.htm. He also is becoming a grandfather again as his son and daughter-in-law prepare to adopt 5-year-old Miguel. The aforementioned daughter-in-law is also expecting a baby boy in March.

Dr. Mike Jezercak continues to enjoy torturing physical chemistry students and has expanded his reach to other venues. He continues to work in support service to keep the department connected to the World Wide Web.

Dr. Tom Jourdan - At the close of 2006, Dr. Jourdan retired from his position as a Supervisory Special Agent of the FBI to assume two roles at UCO, those positions being Assistant Director, Forensic Science Institute (FSI) and Associate Professor of Chemistry. His primary responsibility at the FSI is the extra-territorial program, which is coordinated with the United Nations’ International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Since coming to UCO, he has participated in IAEA training courses in Pakistan, Brazil, China, India, Singapore, and South Africa. Dr. Jourdan’s leisure interests include clay bird shooting and classic cars.

Ms. Lisa McGaw joins the UCO Chemistry department for her second year. She can often be found teaching teachers in the summer and on breaks. She currently serves on the TSDS committee to produce quality chemistry end-of-course exam questions for high school. When not teaching, Lisa also stays involved in several writing projects for chemistry. Spare time is spent with her family, sponsoring youth at her church, biking and walking whenever possible.

Dr. Luis Montes – At the annual convocation ceremonies at the start of the semester Dr. Luis Montes was recognized with the UCO Provost’s “Modeling the Way” award for his work on many university committees and leadership of the Faculty Senate. Since he is no longer involved with the Faculty Senate he is spending more time in the classroom. He also has more free time to pursue physical activities such as competing in Ultimate Frisbee tournaments around the country.

Dr. Dallas New teaches Organic Chemistry lecture and lab. He also serves as a faculty advisor for the Chemistry Club and Gamma Beta Phi. He is the coordinator of the UCO Regional Oklahoma Junior Academy of Science competition for middle and high school students and the webmaster for both the Oklahoma Academy of Science and Oklahoma Junior Academy of Science. Outside of work he enjoys spending time with his wife and children, working out, and playing racquetball.

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Dr. Dana Rundle – Dana Rundle continues to serve as the coordinator of the graduate forensic science program, as well as be a co-director of our first high school summer academy for forensic science. Dana is also working with a graduate student, Alysha Rauhauser, on identifying intercellular signaling pathways that are activated in response to an experimental anti-cancer drug.

Dr. Dave von Minden is completing his fourth year of service on the Faculty Senate and continues to serve as a faculty advisor to SAFS. He accompanied students to the American Academy of Forensic Sciences at San Antonio in the Spring of 2007, the Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists meeting at Austin this fall, and plans to attend the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in Washington, D.C., this spring. Dr. von Minden plans to establish an endowed scholarship fund in his name.

Mr. Lane Whitesell has enjoyed the input from non-science majors this year in teaching Chemistry and Society. He has a new official nickname of Hopalong, courtesy of Dr. Jez, for his outstanding performance in clomping through the department first on crutches and then in a walking cast after breaking his ankle on campus during summer school.

EMERITUS FACULTY UPDATE

The emeritus faculty may be officially “retired”, but they lead very active lives and all support the Chemistry Department in various ways. Their email addresses are included: they enjoy hearing from former students.

Mrs. Cindy Coleman – Since retiring in May 2000 Mrs. Coleman remains busy buying and selling antiques using eBay and two antique stores. In addition, she keeps busy with helping care for her father-in-law and her children and grandchildren who reside in Ada, OK. Her son, Scott, and his wife recently adopted three children from Africa. cindycoleman@sbcglobal.net

Dr. Fred Grosz still spends much of his time traveling with his wife. In autumn 2006 they spent nine weeks in Australia/New Zealand. January through March 2007 were spent in Arizona where he played senior softball and hiked in the Superstition mountains. In June 2007 he and a grandson rode the 450-mile Oklahoma Freewheel Bike Ride. When he is home he spends time at UCO tracking Chemistry/Forensic Science alumni and continues to work on the Endowed Scholarship Fund Drive. fgrosz@ucok.edu

Dr. David Hart recently retired from serving as an adjunct chemistry professor, but continues to keep busy researching the genealogy of his family. During the summer he spends his time at his ranch in Colorado, visiting relatives in Illinois, or traveling. Hart3804@sbcglobal.net

Dr. Verlin Richardson remains quite active in his church and other service organizations. He helps transport food to the Hope Center in Edmond and serves on the Board of Directors for the Edmond Historical Society. He and his wife take frequent trips to Texas and the east coast to visit their children. In mid-October they took a nine-day fall foliage bus trip to West Virginia.

Dr. Terrill Smith continues to reside in San Antonio where he is active in the ACS and Sigma Xi organizations. He and his wife visit Edmond several times a year to visit family and attend UCO functions. They recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Tdsnax@satx.rr.com

Dr. Larry Westmoreland taught two Intro Chemistry Labs sections during the spring 2007 semester. He and his wife, Leah, visited Delaware and Pennsylvania in May and in June took a trip to Germany. They next travelled to Oregon via Utah and Arizona, visited Lake Tahoe and Crater Lake, attended the Shakespeare Festival in Oregon, rafted in Idaho, and visited the Hart Ranch in Colorado. In September they took a walking tour of Romania. When they are home, Larry is involved in the Edmond Visual Arts and the Centennial Commissions and he is an Edmond Historical Society Volunteer. Bachscanyon@sbcglobal.net

Ms. Karen Weathers – Since retiring as Administrative Secretary, Karen has kept busy moving into a bigger house, helping her children and grandchildren and traveling with her husband. This past year she spent a lot of time in Colorado with her daughter and grandchildren. She and her husband attend bass fishing tournaments in the area. karengrammy@sbcglobal.net

DISTINGUISHED FORMER STUDENT AWARD

On September 21, 2007 Dr. Joni McClain was honored by the UCO Alumni Association as a Distinguished Former Student. To be eligible for this award, a former student must have achieved distinctive and notable accomplishments in the categories of professional service, community service or service to the university.

Dr. McClain received a BS in Chemistry from UCO in 1979 and an MD from the OUHSC in 1983. Joni is currently the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner for Dallas County and is on the faculty of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Joni has been a strong supporter of UCO and the Chemistry Department and is establishing the Dr. Joni McClain Endowed Scholarship for women pre-med majors. She is planning to teach the Death Investigation course for the MS in FS program as an interactive distance learning course.

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## ENDOwed Scholarship Fund Drive Update 2007

Letters for the 2007 Emeritus Faculty Endowed Scholarship Fund Drive were sent to graduates, friends, family, and acquaintances in August 2007. To date, over $7,000 has been contributed. A total of $94,653 has been received from graduates, friends, faculty, family, emeritus faculty, and matching donations since the Emeritus Faculty Endowed Scholarship Fund Drive began several years ago. A big THANK YOU goes to all who have contributed to this successful campaign. The status of the Emeritus Faculty Endowed Scholarships to-date is as follows:

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<td>Mrs. Cindy Coleman</td>
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<td>Dr. Fred Grosz</td>
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<td>Dr. David Hart</td>
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<td>Dr. David Hart</td>
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<td>Dr. Terrill Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Larry Westmoreland</td>
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The current goal is to endow each of the six scholarships to the level of $20,000. With tuition increases and the number of students requiring financial aid, it is important to increase the endowment beyond the minimum as only the interest can be used to fund scholarships. Please note that contributions to the Chemistry Dept. General Endowment Fund are also welcome. You can contribute by printing out the pledge card and sending it with your contribution to University of Central Oklahoma, Chemistry Endowed Scholarship Fund, 100 N. University, Box 88, Edmond, OK 73034-5209. Your support is greatly appreciated. If you would like to establish an Endowed Scholarship in your name, please contact Dr. Cheryl Frech, cfrech@ucok.edu, Dr. Fred Grosz, fgrosz@ucok.edu, or Beverly Endicott, bendicott@ucok.edu for additional information.

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### YES, you can count on my support for the Chemistry Endowment Scholarship Fund

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>platinum</th>
<th>Gold</th>
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<td>$500-$999</td>
<td>$250-$499</td>
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I wish to designate my contribution toward the designated scholarship fund or to the general fund for future scholarships.

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<tr>
<th>Scholarship Fund</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Cynthia Coleman $_________</td>
<td>Dr. Fred Grosz $_________</td>
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<td>Dr. Verlin Richardson $_________</td>
<td>Dr. Terrill Smith $_________</td>
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I would like to contribute to the General Fund in the amount of $_________

| Name ____________________________ | Address ___________________________________________ |
| City _____________________________ | State ___________________ Zip Code __________________ |
| Home Phone (_____) _______________ | E-Mail ____________________________________________ |

Your contribution to the UCO Foundation is fully deductible as a charitable contribution for income tax purposes.

### Payment Information:

___ Check for $_________ is enclosed (Payable to UCO Foundation)

___ Please bill my credit card for $_________ _____ Visa _____ MasterCard

Credit Card # ________________________ Exp Date ________ Signature ______________________

___ My company has a matching gift program. Name of Company ___________________________

University of Central Oklahoma Endowed Scholarship Fund, 100 N. University Drive, Box 88, Edmond, OK 73034 (405) 974-5476 FAX (405) 974-3862 cfrech@ucok.edu
Awards

Club Awards:
The Student Academy of Forensic Sciences received the 2007 Vice President’s Award for Outstanding Student Organization. Drs. von Minden and Bost sponsor this organization.

Drs. New and von Minden received the Advisors of the Year award for their work with Gamma Beta Phi.

The UCO SAACS Chapter won a “Commendable Chapter” national award for its 2006-07 activities. Of 300 SAACS chapter, 28 received Outstanding awards and 51 received Commendable awards. Students and sponsors, Drs. New and Ferguson, will receive the award in New Orleans in April 2008.

Faculty Award:
Dr. Luis Montes received a Provost’s “Modeling the Way” award for his outstanding leadership activities.

Awards

Chemistry/Forensic Science graduates who have previously received Distinguished Former Student Awards include:

Mr. Tom Bevel (1977) Ms. Janice M. Davis (1975)
Ms. Joyce Gilchrist (1980) Dr. Tom Innerarity (1965)
Dr. J. Gail Neely (1962) Dr. Willie P. Ozbirn (1966)
Mr. Roy C. Valla (1933) Dr. Frankie Wood-Black (2005)