



Chemistry Newsletter No. 39

September 26, 2006

Dr. James Chapman told me that Cagney Bennett ('06) has started to work at MRI within the last few weeks.

And checking back, I thought I had included Justin Schmidt's ('04) wedding in the last edition of this newsletter. So let me correct that right now. Justin and Kristen Ryan were married at Our Lady of Sorrows Church here in KC on Saturday, August 26. I was tied up all day, so I wasn't there. Justin is getting his Pharm. D. at UMKC.

September 28, 2006

Yesterday, I got an email from Grace Zentz ('06). Grace is taking a year off from school and working for Aetna Insurance in Olathe, KS, for a year before going to KCUMB a year from now. She is also going to compete in the Miss Kansas in December. Her email is below.

September 30, 2006

Last Thursday evening the Golden Hawks had a dinner to which I was invited. They graduated in June and I arrived in August, so I did not have them in class, but I have gotten to know a number of them since. By my count there were 32 here, and most with their wives.

I guess it should be ladies first, so that is Friederun (Beherns) Boone. She and her husband live on a farm up near Bethany, MO. She is as spry as ever. She retired from Colgate in KCK several years ago. For the information of those who don't know her, she was a chemistry major and the only young lady in the day school in those days.

Then there were two Physics folks, Frank Huppe from Delaware and Will Declercq from Tuscon, AZ. Both are retired. And Frank Galiano who lives in Beaumont, Texas. Joe Grantham was there. Joe is teaching at St. Teresa's. Tom McGuire was pretty much the organizer of the whole affair, as I gather it.

Several physicians were there, Henry Wellman from Indianapolis, where he has been on the faculty of the Med school. Fred Nobrega was down from Rochester, MN. I saw George Myers, too, and Allen Thiel came from St. Louis. There were a couple of dentists, Dale Watts and Bill Morrissey. As I recall, all the physicians and dentists have

retired from practice within the last 5 or more years. Though, I must admit, none of them look old enough to retire!

There were a few others, not scientists, there that I knew. Clarence Mitchell who is still practicing law here in KC, though he has been slowed down a bit due to cancer. Others that I knew were Bob Himmelberg, Jack McCloskey and Dave Ragan. He tells me that his brother Jim, who taught English here for many years, is not doing too well due to some kind of lung disease.

Most of the guys were here with their wives, so it was quite a fine gathering and I certainly enjoyed them all.

In the last day or two, I have gotten several emails. One from Mike Riley ('96). Mike is doing a 2-year fellowship in cardioelectrophysiology at Emory in Atlanta.

This weekend John Koelzer and the Math folks had their annual Math Expo and Seminars, and one of the folks I saw here was John Soptick ('66). John has been teaching at Kansas City, Kansas Community College for nearly 20 years.

And Janell Jones (Post-Bacc '06) dropped in. She is in first year at KU Med School, and I presume, leading all the classes.

October 22, 2006

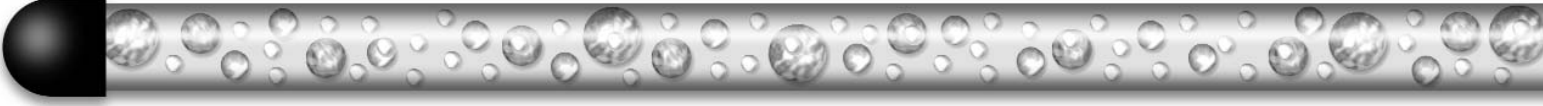
Yesterday I saw Tim ('95) and Mike ('97) Schmitt. They were in town for their father's 60th birthday. Tim is professor of surgery at Virginia University Medical School in Charlottesville. He and Jean were here with their two young boys. Mike came from the other side of the country, San Francisco. He is researching over there. Both email addresses are below.

Mike Surber ('97) was also there with his young son. Mike is an operating room nurse at North Kansas City Hospital.

And a couple of days ago, Molly McCaffery Gallagher stopped in. She lives in a Chicago suburb and works for a family support group in Chicago.

October 29, 2006

Just a few notes on this weekend. Friday was a real "blow-out" inaugurating Fr. Tom Curran, O.S.F.S., as the new University President. The Mass was at 1:30 p.m. and Dr. Tim McDonald really did a great job with the music. Both the local Bishop Finn, (KC, Mo.) and the Archbishop Nauman (KC, Kan.) graced the affair, as well as a whole bunch of the local clergy.



The Inauguration ceremonies were in the field house. This was really quite an affair, and then of course followed by a reception. I saw some of the old timers there, like Joe Rydzal and Bob Knickerbocker. At the ceremony in the gym, I saw Dr. Janet Sheeran (who was once our dean, as well as English Professor). And Daffy and Dick Shaw were there “with bells on,” if I may say so. All in all, quite a grand affair.

Last evening was the Rockhurst Gala at the Muehlbach Hotel downtown. Jeanine (Clune) ('75) and Mike Cindrich were the Gala chairs for the occasion. This was quite an affair, too. And among others, I had a nice visit with Tom Sack ('80). I think I mentioned in the last newsletter, Tom has been promoted to one of the vice presidents of MRI – quite impressive.

Yesterday I got a card from Sara (Weilert) ('01) and Clay ('00) Gillette. They are both lawyers at different firms in St. Louis. Clay has just finished his clerkship with one of the Missouri Supreme Court Judges. Just one other note: Sara has taken up running, and ran in a half-marathon!

An email from Olivia Mooren ('01) tells us that she has now gotten her PhD from KU in bioanalytical chemistry and is taking a post-doc position at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville VA. And in fact, she is moving there this week or next.

November 7, 2006

It seems I am always catching up. So, here it goes, again. About a week ago, a young lady came pushing a baby carriage, it was Erin (O'Dell) Markey ('04) with young (6 weeks) Ella inside. Erin has decided to be a stay-at-home mom for now, at least. She, Shawn and Ella live in Lee's Summit.

Last Saturday evening, I saw a couple of alums at the Research Hospital Dinner. Larry ('68) and Jane Rues were there. Larry practices family medicine here in KC. He also oversees our University health service. Subbu Sarma ('95) was also there. Subbu is a psychiatrist here in Kansas City.

This morning I got an email from Kevin Gratton ('63). Kevin is on the faculty at Johnson County Community College where he has become the senior faculty member, if I recall correctly.

Kevin also mentioned that his brother Matt ('75) is now back from Iraq. Matt received the Bronze Star for saving some of his Marine cohorts who had been hit and blown up in a Humvee. This was in the *Kansas City Star* Sept. 2, but I must admit I missed it. Matt is an emergency medicine physician.

Gary Gagnon ('00) and his sister Laura just left a few minutes ago. She picked him up to help celebrate his father's

birthday. He looks prosperous doing his emergency medicine residency in Dallas, TX. He is considering staying in Texas after finishing residency next summer.

Last Thursday we had the first day of our professional talks to the science freshmen. Each one meets with a small group of freshmen students to tell them what life is like in their schooling and or professional life. Mark Angles ('85) was here to talk about MDs. He is an internist here in KC. Scott Koerber ('07) and Zac O'Neill ('05) talked about osteopathic medicine. They are both students at KCUMB; Zac in second year, and Scott in first year medical school.

Pat Morris ('89) is a dentist in practice in Lee's Summit. He has been here for this occasion before. He relates well with the students.

Bob Foster is a physician's assistant who has also come before. He is on the staff at Children's Mercy Hospital. His son is here at Rockhurst as a sophomore.

Jenny (Losapio) Iverson ('99) came to talk about graduate school. She is doing a post doc at Washington U in St. Louis. Her husband is Scott Iverson (also '99). Her email address is below.

And speaking of O'Neill, today I got an email from Terry O'Neill ('99) announcing the arrival of son TJ (Terry Joseph) a couple of weeks ago. Terry, Kelly and TJ live in Olathe. Terry does bioanalytical mass spectrometry at MRI, and is working with Lisa Haney, Buck Haney's ('92) wife.

November 16, 2006

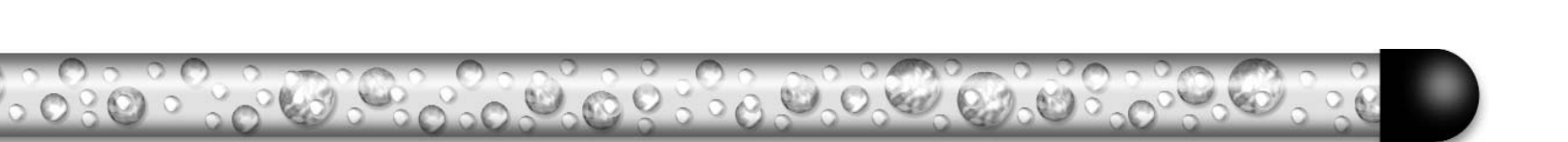
I got a short email note from Julie (Johannes) Arthur here in Kansas City. Her email address is below.

November 22, 2006

Since this is the day before Thanksgiving, we are off, and maybe I will do a bit of catching up. Every now and then, somebody passes on a “hello” from someone. Recently one came from Pat McCarville ('84) in Valley, NE, where he is a physician. And then another came from Nick Verde ('58), a physician in St. Louis. These are really gratifying. Thank you so much.

The other day Bob Haake ('70) came in with his son Steve. Steve graduated from Northwestern and is thinking of getting into our Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Med program. Bob got his DO from what is now called KCUMB. He does critical care medicine in Belleville, IL.

Last Saturday I drove to Leavenworth, KS, for a wedding, Sarah Hund and Eric Kohler (both '01). Sarah got her Ph.D. in



Biochemistry at Loyola in Chicago. Eric is doing his M.D./Ph.D. program at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. Of course there were several Rockhurst folks there for the occasion. Angie (Tina) Booker ('01) and Sheena Gleason ('01) were bridesmaids. Tony Murray was Eric's best man. His wife, Olivia (Mooren, '01), was there, too. Olivia and Tony have moved to Charlottesville, VA, where Olivia is doing her post doc. Adam Alt ('01) and Clayton Gillette ('00) were ushers. Clay's wife, Sara Weilert ('01), was also there.

Yesterday, Colby Parks ('06) stopped in for a nice visit. Colby is a first year med student at St. Louis U. Med School. Besides all his studying, he says he is training for a marathon in the spring.

The other day I got a long email from Dave Parrack ('69). I must say it was really great to hear from him. Dave is a DO from what is now KCUMB. He is a urologist and surgeon in Phoenix, AZ. In 1977 he did a fellowship in urologic oncology at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston, and then in 2002 went back as a patient. He now seems to be clear. He is on the faculty of Midwestern University School of Medicine in Glendale, AZ, as chair of surgery, and having a blast working with about 150 DO students each year.

November 24, 2006

This morning as I was about to start grading some lab reports, the phone rang and Rich Kramer ('76) and his wife, Barb (Weilert, '77), were on their way over. We had a real nice visit, and especially since they had not seen our new (we moved in 10 years ago) digs (Richardson Hall). Their four children are spread around from Duluth, U. Minn, to school in Japan, to high school. They live in Golden Valley, MN (Twin Cities). Both of them work at computer-math type jobs. Their email address is below.

This evening I got a nice email from Jim Bethel ('59). Jim is a physician in San Diego, CA. He was back in KC a month or so ago, but I missed him. His email address is below.

November 25, 2006

This morning I got a note from John Nguyen ('97). John and Wei had a little boy, Brandon Gao, this past week. John is an anesthesiologist in Philadelphia, PA. Wei has a Pharm. D. His email address is below.

November 28, 2006

I got an email from Joe Nguyen ('04) earlier this morning. He will get his MPH (Public Health) in epidemiology this spring

and hopes to get an internship either with the CDC or the NIH. He is still coaching basketball and track and field at St. Louis U. High. His email is below.

December 3, 2006

Last Friday (Dec. 1) we had the last class for the semester and tomorrow we will start final exams. I am trying to finish one for tomorrow morning (General Chemistry II and Honors).

I have gotten a couple of very nice emails in the last few days. One in particular was from Pete Skidmore ('90). Pete and Donna have three girls, from a senior in high school down to 4th grade. Pete is now a lieutenant colonel in the Army. He is in charge of the internal medicine residency programs at the Eisenhower Medical Center in Augusta, GA. He tells me that his classmate, Pat Perkins, ('90) has resigned from the Army and is now in critical care practice in Tulsa, OK. Pat and Tina have six children. Pete's and Pat's email addresses are below.

I got a nice email from John Soptick ('66). John taught here in the early '80s and has been teaching at Kansas City Kansas Community College for some 19 years. He says he is teaching only 17 credit hours this semester from computer assisted elementary algebra to Calculus III. Nothing like variety! Just to keep occupied, he also plays accordion professionally in a polka band, as well as in church choir and other ethnic groups. His email address is below.

A couple of days ago, I got a note from Ed Biersmith ('63). He had been to Ft. Benning affair, and met several of our Rockhurst students, including Mary Pimmel, whose father is Terry ('87). Mary had some art work on display there. Mary should graduate from here this coming May. Ed also mentioned that his son Andy is teaching chemistry in Brunswick, GA. And John Pohlman who was here for a year about 10 years ago has now gotten his PhD and is looking for a teaching job.

I talked briefly to Doug Lindsay ('99) the other day. He lives in St. Louis. His email address is below.

December 4, 2006

This afternoon I got a nice email from Bob Dell'Orco ('63). He and Judy retired and moved to Allen, TX. He has been spending some of his time improving his golf game and doing a little work for the Red Cross (his former employer in the DC area). His email address is below. Bob says he does some of the golf with Con Helling ('63) who is still in practice (Ob/Gyn).



December 9, 2006

This morning we had our winter graduation ceremony. The weather is nice, but pretty chilly – about 30 degrees when the ceremonies were over (about 11 a.m.).

Thuy Nguyen ('01) dropped in for a few minutes this afternoon. She is over here studying for her board exams (number two coming up). She is in her last year at UMKC Dental School. She also tells me that Derek Williams ('83) is on the faculty down there, and has been for several years.

This evening Sokha Tang ('99) called from Philadelphia. He is working for DuPont in the paint division. He also has a 2-year old daughter. His current email address is below.

December 15, 2006

The other day I got a note from Laurie (Rowland) Moore ('93). She is in the Air Force, as is her husband, Sean. They have recently been transferred to Luke AFB and are living in Surprise, AZ. She is a pediatric allergy specialist, and Sean is a nurse in the Air Force.

December 20, 2006

I got a nice email from Steve Martin ('88) at the Lake of the Ozarks (actually, Linn Creek, MO). He and Laura have four children, three biological and a little girl they adopted from China. Steve practices ER medicine down there. His email address is below.

And a note from Chris ('87) and Lucia Rooney. They have a 7th grade daughter and a 3-year old son. Chris does implant dental surgery. His email address is below.

A note from Dan ('70) and Jeanne Strobe says Dan has returned to R&D at ConocoPhillips in Bartlesville, OK. He has had various administrative jobs, including in Houston, TX, over the last several years. In fact he is thinking of retiring, in a year or so. Otherwise, they seem to enjoy spoiling the grad-kids and doing some traveling.

Lisa ('91) (Meyer) and Mike Connor and their four children ages one to seven years are in Overland Park, KS. Mike is a physician, and Lisa seems to keep occupied with the youngsters.

Fred ('90) and Angela ('91) Wallisch and children are in Evansville, IN. Fred is teaching in the Family Practice residency program where he did his residency a few years ago.

Steve ('61) and Mary Ziller are making the most of retirement by traveling and visiting their children spread around the country. They live in Cincinnati, OH.

Speaking of retirement, Bob Kanard ('59) is not quite retired, but is keeping busy with a clinic for indigents in Cheyenne, WY.

He and Mary Kathryn managed to get to St. Louis for several “rather significant” baseball games this past fall.

Mike ('60) and Joan Hitchcock are enjoying retirement in Palm Desert, CA. They have lived out there for years, and this is where Mike taught high school.

Sam and Mary (Graveman) Losapio (both '74) are still in Columbia, MO, but in new digs. Sam still runs his insurance business, and Mary is nursing at the cancer (I think) hospital.

Rick ('97) and Belinda Heck are in North Little Rock, AR, with their two little girls, and soon to be a third offspring. Rick has a thriving family practice office.

Dr. Joe Rydzek keeps plugging along. He lives in Overland Park, KS.

December 21, 2006

Rich ('87) and Renee Sullivan and 9-year old son are in Mount Lebanon, PA. Rich is an ER physician in Pittsburg.

Kevin ('63) and Mary K. Gratton are still in Olathe, KS. He now says he hopes to retire from Johnson County Community College this year, after the fall '07 semester.

I got a nice note from Reva and Bill Servoss in Salt Lake City – the Wasatch Mountains. Reva has been tutoring algebra and geometry at a local charter school. She and Bill have been mostly stay-at-homes enjoying the mountains and their gardens.

Dick ('66) and Rosemary Steichen are still in Albuquerque, NM. Dick is retiring the first of January after five years with Sandia National Labs. But they plan to stay in New Mexico.

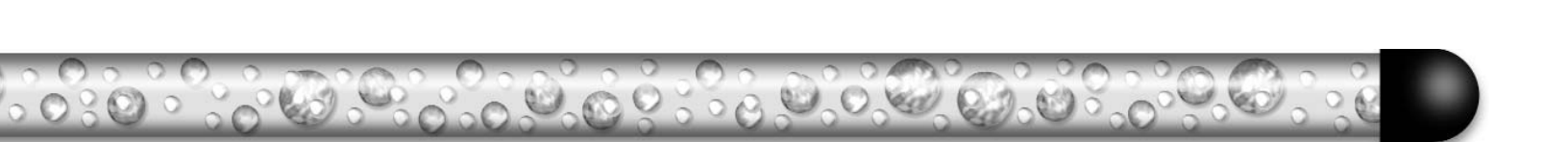
Ken ('68) and Paula Bechtold are in Springfield, MO. He is working with Custom Powder Systems which makes containers for metals powders. It has involved some traveling, including to Puerto Rico, which he certainly enjoyed.

December 22, 2006

John Kedora ('98) left a few minutes ago. He is here for a few days and then to Minneapolis tomorrow to spend Christmas with relatives. John is finishing his residency in surgery and will start a fellowship in vascular surgery next summer. He is at Baylor in Dallas, TX. He was a pre-med scholar at St. Louis U Medical School.

January 1, 2007

Here we are, another new year so guess I should get to this and catch up. A note from Tom ('65) and Kathy Barket. Tom is teaching at Johnson County Community College as he has



been doing since they came back to Kansas City. And Kathy is a nurse at St. Joseph Hospital. Their three girls are all out on their own, and around the world.

Bryan ('88) and Keri Schumacher are enjoying Spain where Bryan is stationed with the Navy. He is a physician serving in Europe, currently mostly in the ER in Rota Naval Base, though I think he would prefer something closer to his training in family practice. He did have a bout in Iraq and got a Bronze Star while with the Marines. Their two little girls (age 6) are learning Spanish as well as English.

And speaking of the Bronze Star, Matt Gratton ('75) is back in Kansas City and back as the head of emergency medicine at Truman Hospital. We are all proud of our alums. Matt and Joanne's three are all in college, graduate school and med school.

I got a nice note from Jim ('84) and Janet Gorman in Fayetteville, AR. Jim is teaching at the University and has his private practice in Family Medicine. Their three girls are all in high school and grade school.

Karen Connery ('92) and her husband Don Peterson are in suburban Chicago. They have a young son since last May. Karen got her Ph.D. in chemical engineering at Notre Dame, and Don got his in Physics.

Brett (Higbie) ('99) and Steve ('03 MBA) Schultz are in Cleveland, OH, where Brett is in her second year of Ob/Gyn residency at MetroHealth Medical Center and Cleveland Clinic. Steve is doing his sales thing though the Northeast.

Pat ('84) and Pam McCarville have three active youngsters (one boy and two girls, 7th grade and down). Pat has an active family practice in Valley, NE, just outside of Omaha. He is also "body pump instructor" at the local YMCA.

Sara (Wisch, '00) and Dave (PT '01) Echelmeyer are still in Rochester, MN, where Sara is about to finish her fellowship in gastroenterology, and then they hope to move back to St. Louis this summer. Sara says learning how to be a mom to her little girl has been the toughest thing yet! Currently, Dave is working in Winona, MN, not too far away.

And last Saturday evening I attended a reception for Mike Leins ('02) and his new bride Darla (Severin) here in KC. They were recently married in California. They are both in their third year of medical school at Midwestern College of Osteopathic Medicine in Phoenix, AZ.

Bryan ('99) and Dawn (Childers, BSN '98) Menges are in Tulsa, OK, with their two young ones. Bryan is doing his residency in ER medicine.

Jim and Sue (Lloyd) Long (both '74) are in the Research

Triangle (Cary) NC. Jim is gathering many frequent flyer miles around the country and internationally selling medical equipment. Their children are spread around from the West coast to the East, and one in the service to the Middle East.

Tom ('69) and Anne Hutton are in Jefferson City, MO. Their two girls are working and Anne teaches at Lincoln U. Tom keeps busy collecting wild bird samples for avian flu testing.

January 6, 2007

I had thought John Waller ('59) had told me he had retired, but he now tells me he has represented the USA at international conferences in China and Switzerland. Otherwise, he and Claudia live in Alexandria, VA, when they are not visiting children, etc., from Hawaii to the east coast.

Dan Theesfeld ('82) is still practicing medicine in Nacodoches, TX. Dan got his MD from the Chicago Medical College.

Kim (Schmidt) and Mike Twyman (both '98) live in Beaufort, SC. Mike is head of the Internal Medicine Department at the Naval Hospital, which he enjoys, except for the paperwork, etc. Kim says he has learned to sail so that they both stay in the boat. Kim spent some time working in a rural clinic in Belize, and now is enjoying a fellowship in developmental behavioral pediatrics at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

Karen Moore ('74) retired from Bayer (after 25 years) here in KC in 2003 and moved with her husband (Darren Warren) and children to the Seattle area (Mukilteo, WA). Her email address is below.

Jarett ('93) and Cathleen (Thomas) ('92) Kolthoff live in Des Peres, MO. Jarett does computer security work, and Cathy keeps track of four young ones (ages 12 to 3), and is expecting another next summer.

Bob (post-bacc '96) and Lisa Kanard and their two young ones (age 4 and >1) are now in Silver Spring, MD. Bob has a two-year fellowship in pediatric surgery at Children's National Medical Center in DC.

I got a bit of an update on Rich and Barb Kramer. Rich has definitely taken to distance bike riding, He has logged over 2000 miles this year, and is considering a trip across Minnesota or Iowa.

George ('65) and Janet Fague have been touring the country and the Mediterranean, visiting their sons and families and just sightseeing.

Glen ('86) and Chanda Martin are in Jacksonville, FL, with

their three young ones, (10, 8 and 5). Glen is in his eighth year of private practice anesthesiology.

Jen Doll ('90) is Research Asst. Prof. at the Northwestern Department of Pathology. She is also teaching part time at Loyola U. (General Biology).

January 8, 2007

I got a couple of notes in today's mail. The first was quite a letter from Dave ('69) and Kristina Parrack in Phoenix (Glendale), AZ. Dave is now full time head of surgery at Midwestern Medical School. They are certainly enjoying their children and grandchildren.

Another note came from Remi Miljavac ('05) in St. Joseph, MO. She works part time for EyeMasters, and and full time as a nanny in Leawood, KS. She will begin optometry school at UMSL next August. Her email address is below.

This evening, I got a call from Mike Leins ('02) in Phoenix (Glendale), AZ. Mike and Darla are all moved into their apartment and both are doing a rotation this month in psychiatry. His email address is below.

January 16, 2007

We start the second semester tomorrow, so I think I should get this on its way. Before I do, I should mention that I have seen Zac O'Neill and Brian Odum (both '05) here in the quiet of Rockhurst studying. They are both second year students at KCUMB. And both are thinking of becoming pathologists.

January 18, 2007

This is a sad note on which to end this edition, but I was just informed a few minutes ago that Kathy Owen ('99) has recently passed away. She was previously enrolled in medical school.

And a more pleasant end this evening came with an email from Ben Fangman (post bacc '05). Ben is finishing his second year at Kirksville, MO, Osteopathic Medical School. He will doing his clinical rotations starting next summer in Largo, FL. With all our ice and snow, it is certainly nice to look forward to that kind of weather. His email is below.

January 22, 2007

And one final note: Fr. Jules M. Brady, S. J., who I am sure many of you remember, passed away quietly yesterday afternoon in St. Louis. He was 87. He has been at our Pavilion retirement center at St. Louis U. since 2000.

You might want to check your email address below. Some of them I have had a number of years, and I suspect some are definitely outdated. Let me know, and I will fix it for you for the next issue. Remember, the email addresses appear here in the printed edition, but not in the web edition (www.Rockhurst.edu).

One more point is that there are several other folks less connected with the chemistry department and the science division who have asked to be included in this mailing list. So you may see a few of them mentioned from time to time. They are all good friends and Rockhurst alums.

I encourage you to let me know what goes on with you, and I'll pass the word along. And if you know of anyone who does not get this newsletter and would like to, let me know. Either send it by regular mail, or by email. My email address is James.Wheeler@Rockhurst.edu and below and on the web site if you are reading this on the Rockhurst web site. So,

God Bless you all.



James D. Wheeler, S. J.



The Kansas City chapter of the American Chemical Society recently honored Fr. Wheeler with an award for his 50+ years of teaching. A few of the Rockhurst alumni who were in attendance were (l-r) Richard Koch, Ph.D. ('66), Tom Barket, Ph.D. ('65) and Paul (Buck) Haney, Ph.D. ('92), as well as Tom's wife, Kathy.



Keep Fr. Wheeler and your classmates up to date. If you'd like to change your address or share your news, please return this form to: Rockhurst University Chemistry Department, attn: Fr. Wheeler, 1100 Rockhurst Road, Kansas City, MO 64110.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Business Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Employer & Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Family, Friends, Comments, etc. _____
