

Chemistry Newsletter No. 41

September 29, 2007

This has been Homecoming weekend, and so there have been quite a few old timers around.

October 5, 2007

In fact, I really didn't get very far with this new edition. So here goes for another try. Some 30 of the class of '57 showed up – quite a number with their spouses. I even remembered quite a few of them. I don't see how they can become such a bunch of old men! But all went well, at a dinner Thursday evening and then lunch on Friday. I can't mention all of them, but there were a number of science students among them, and some I remember who weren't in science.

Louis DeFeo came from Jefferson City, MO. He is a lawyer with the Catholic Diocese there.

And then on Saturday, there were several other class reunions. The first one of these people I saw was Shelley Wolf ('97) Ballentine and her husband, Scott. She got her MS from Ohio State and is now doing medicinal chemistry research with Johnson and Johnson in Lansdale, PA.

Then there were several from the class of '67. Joe Devine was there. Joe is with a medical lab testing company, Quest Diagnostics. Pete Redlich is with an insurance firm, and living in Mesa, AZ. Jim Heiman is with the Kansas City Public School System. Jack Salvato is a financial advisor with Edward Jones in Columbus, OH. There were a few others, but this ol' man's memory fails at times. Email addresses for these folks are below.

And this morning I got a long email from Joe Nguyen ('04). Joe has gotten his MPH from St. Louis U while he was also teaching at St. Louis U. High. He took a job with the New York City Health Department who put him through an internship and now offered him the position of Clinical Research Epidemiologist at the Hospital for Special Surgery (orthopedics and rheumatology). His email address is below.

October 27, 2007

Obviously, it is time I get back to sticking a few more ideas in here.

A week or so ago, I got an email from Sarah (Hund) Kohler ('01) in Milwaukee. She is teaching a couple of classes, one is Gen Chem for two hours one evening a week. Eric ('00) is

doing his MD/PhD work at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Sarah got her PhD (biochemistry) at Loyola Chicago Medical School last spring.

The other day, Liz (Rollheiser) and Brendan Mitchell ('86) wandered into my office with their eldest, Emily, in tow. They were having her look over Rockhurst with a view to her coming here next year. Brendan practices Ob/Gyn here in Kansas City.

I got a nice email from Sara (Wisch) Echelmeyer ('00). She has finished her residency at Mayo in Rochester, MN, and she and her husband, Dave (MPT '01), have moved back to St. Louis. She is busy with her medical practice and keeping up with their 2-year-old daughter. Dave is doing his PT thing with an outpatient sports med outfit.

And along with that, came an email from Josh Evans ('00). Josh and his wife, Nicole, are both in the last year of their residencies, Josh in medicine and Nicole in ophthalmology in Johns Island, SC. Josh will be starting a four-year GI fellowship so they will be in SC another four years. They have a 2-year-old son. Josh's email address is below.

And these were kind of started by an email from Chris Bauer ('00) from Oklahoma City, OK, where he is doing a cardiology fellowship. He definitely does not miss Minnesota winters – he was at Mayo for residency.

I hear from Srini Iyengar ('00) who is back here in KC doing his ophthalmology residency at KU Med. Yes, he spent a couple of weeks doing some medical things for the folks in Africa; Tanzania, I believe.


These folks were wondering how some other classmates were doing, specifically, Stephanie (Benson) Page and Steve Hunter. I can't bring anyone any recent news from them. And, what about Garry Gagnon? Garry I know is still in Dallas finishing up his residency in emergency medicine. And the last I heard, he is planning to stay in Texas or thereabouts.

I was over at KU Med for an advisor's conference the other day and I saw Curt McGeeney ('04) for a few minutes. More later.

And the other day I got word that Anacia Henleben ('74) has passed away. I understand she had been in failing health for some time.

October 28, 2007

Last night we had the annual Rockhurst Gala dinner. There were all kinds of folks there, of course. I didn't get to see



everyone I should have, but I did visit with some. I had a nice little visit with Gene ('74) and Kathy VandenBoom. Their daughter will graduate from RU this coming spring. Gene is an MD here in town.

Kerm Fendler ('68) was there and he reminded me that his son Tim, who did his post-bacc pre-med with us a couple of years ago, is now in second year at KU Med School. Kerm runs his own company dealing with medical type drugs and "tools" (I don't know what else to call it).

Tom Sack ('80) was there, too. Tom is one of the big shots (V.P., I think) at Midwest Research.

Dick and Daffy Shaw were there with their daughter Shannon (Shaw) Coleman. And Rich ('88) and Susan Shaw were there, too. Shannon reminded me that Sophia Kim got married last May.

And this morning, I got a nice email from Sophia. She had a little girl in August. She has quit her medical practice for the time being. Her husband is Paul Mermelstein who is a neuroscientist teaching at the University of Minnesota. They live in Minneapolis. Email addresses are below.

I visited with Mike and Jeanine ('75) Cindrich, Ray Sonnenberg ('69) and Tom and Virginia Coppinger ('58). Tom has retired from his medical practice. And another old time physician, Larry Rues ('68) and Jane were there. Larry is practicing at the Goppert center which is in the Research Rockhill location that we used to know as Baptist Hospital. And Jane teaches in the Occupational Therapy department here at Rockhurst, which she has been doing for a good many years.

October 29, 2007

Yesterday I got an email from Paul Winkeler ('97). Paul has been teaching chemistry at Rockhurst High since he graduated. He is also the swim coach and is looking to win his fourth state championship in a row. And this year he has become the swimming coach at Notre Dame de Sion High school as well, and Aquatics Director of Mission Hills Country Club. He and Margaret have a daughter and are expecting an addition to the family in a few months. He has also been nominated by the state of Missouri for National High School Coach of the Year.

October 31, 2007

Yesterday's mail brought a Halloween greetings from Clay ('00) and Sara ('01) (Weilert) Gillette. They are both lawyers, but with different firms in St. Louis. They have recently bought a new house in South St. Louis County, and also two new cars.

November 2, 2007

Yesterday we had the first of the "professionals" day with the Freshmen in Science course. I invited Curt McGeeney ('04) to tell the freshmen about medical school which he did very nicely. He is fourth year at KU Med. Onnie (Winblad), his wife, was supposed to come too, but she was doing rounds at Vetrans Hospital and could not get away (she is also 4th year at KU Med). Curt is planning to do emergency medicine, and Onnie is considering family medicine.

And this morning Steve Hagan ('76) dropped in for a nice visit. His daughter, Kelly, is a junior here at Rockhurst U. In fact she is a pre-med scholar for KCUMB and will transfer there at the end of this school year. These scholars count their first year medical school as their fourth year at Rockhurst, so she will graduate from here in May 2009. Steve is a physician in Wichita, KS.

I got a couple of emails today. The first one came from Steve Parke ('76) in Pueblo West, CO. He says he is retired, retooling and redirecting. As he has done for some years, he is mixing his history studies of Western Kansas immigrants with his song writing which include some of the history ideas, too.

The next email came from Ruben Lopez ('67) in Bridgeport, CT. He has been teaching high school chemistry and physical science in Stamford Catholic High (now Trinity Catholic), Stamford Public Schools and now back at the Catholic schools. He has had heart problems, but is now back functioning well with his defibrillator/pacemaker.

And then a short note came from Tom Hutton ('69) in Jefferson City, MO. Tom is a wildlife biologist with the USDA. I do love to hear from these folks from back a few years as well as some of the more recent grads. I will make sure all these email addresses are up to date below, and any updates I get.

November 6, 2007

This afternoon I got a nice email from Mike Weilert in California. He is a physician (pathologist) out there. He was here in July when his father died. His email address is below.

And yesterday I got an email from Tom Sarsfield ('63). The "Chief" is in Chicago. He has recently become a member of the National Board of Directors of Boys Hope Girls Hope, an organization that helps academically capable, motivated youngsters (high school age). It was started at St. Louis U. High a number of years ago and he says they now have homes in 16 US cities and three foreign countries. His email address is below, too.

I got a short note from Dan Simpson ('01) today. He is a lawyer in St. Louis, practicing patent law. His email address is below, too.



November 8, 2007

Last evening, I got a short note from Tracy Hornbeck's wife, Paula, to update his email address. This is listed below.

And today we had the second of our professionals day for the Freshmen in Science Seminar. Derek Williams ('83) came to speak about dentistry. Derek was in practice for a while here in KC and then joined the Navy. Since he left the service a half-dozen years or so ago, he has been teaching at the UMKC Dental School. His email address is below.

And Scott Koerber ('07) and Kelsey Lueger ('07) came to talk about osteopathic medicine. Kelsey is in first year, and Scott is in second year at KCUMB. Scott was one of our pre-med scholars, so he counted his first year of med school as his fourth year at Rockhurst.

November 11, 2007

A few days ago I got an email from Joe Molinaro ('64). Joe has retired from Northwest Air Lines. He has been flying routes covering Europe and the Middle East for some time. He has taken on a job providing technical support and customer mentoring and some financial doings. He sent a picture showing that he is still in very good health and quite active. He has a daughter in Nashville and a son in California. He and his wife, Arlene, live in New Jersey. His email address is below.

As I was about to leave after the chem literature seminar Friday afternoon Dave Thomas ('95) and Matt Braunel (also '95) stopped in for a nice visit. Dave is an anesthesiologist in Pawleys Island, SC. He had been out running, getting in shape for a mini-marathon in a couple of months. He and Keirilynn have three children. Matt is a lawyer with a firm in downtown St. Louis. The email addresses for both are below. Incidentally, they mentioned that they found some old email addresses in my list below. I know that, so if anyone has an old address, let me know and I will correct it for the next edition.

A couple of weeks ago I got an invitation from Subbu Sarma (also '95) to his wedding during Christmas week. It will be in Joliet, IL. I have been trying to see how I could go, but I don't see it now. Subbu is a psychiatrist here in Kansas City. His email address is below.

And Thursday evening, I saw Dr. Dick Wilson for a bit. Since he retired some years ago, he is working for a company in Lee's Summit that provides biology types of things, microscopes and the like, and some curricular materials to schools.

November 12, 2007

This morning I got an email from Dan Simpson ('01) which mentioned that in the last version of this newsletter, I made John Walsh, a partner in the law firm, a bit younger than he is.

John is a '67 Rockhurst graduate, not '01!

Last week the Midwest American Chemical Society meeting was here in Kansas City. Our faculty and students had eight separate poster presentations. All this research was done here in the last year. There are several other students who are doing research, but their projects were not far enough along to present this time. These posters now decorate the corridor outside our offices and labs. Stop by and see what our students have been doing.

November 14, 2007

I noticed in the morning paper that Frank Pishke ('58) has died of leukemia at KU Med Hospital. He got his MD from KU. He has been living in the south for some years, but recently returned to Kansas City.

November 16, 2007

I sometimes wonder whether I should stay in my office more. One of our seniors told me that yesterday afternoon, Paul Schmidt ('04) came by. He is doing a rotation at KU Med center. Paul is in fourth year at St. Louis U. Med School.

This afternoon, I came back to my office after a committee meeting interviewing a couple of pre-med students to find a note in my door from Winifred Thomas. She is the wife of Robert Thomas ('95). He got his DO from Oklahoma State in Tulsa. She says Robert is very busy with his Ob/Gyn practice in Grove, OK. They have four children from age 15 down to 10-year-old twins. Their email address is below.

November 21, 2007

Here it is the day before Thanksgiving and school is out for the weekend. And I got several nice emails yesterday and this morning. The first was a short note from Ed McKee ('67). He is sports publicity man for George Washington University in DC. He tells me that Dave Parrack ('69) in Phoenix, AZ, is still fighting cancer. Dave is a urologist and has had cancer for several years, including some serious surgery.

I got a nice long note from Denise (Millard, '77) Wikiera. Husband Rich ('77) teaches at Rockhurst High and Denise works at St. Luke's Hospital doing Molecular Diagnostics, lots of PCR testing, and developing lots of new assays. She also brought me up to date on their family. Son Rich ('02) is in his last year at KCUMB, but actually in St. Louis doing his rotations there, and looking forward to a surgery residency for next year. Three other sons are in and out of school, down to 6th grade. Their daughter has two children.

I saw Peg ('80) and Jim ('64, MBA '89)) Millard at Mass at noon, and they tell me that as of earlier this week, they are



now grandparents for the seventh time.

And then an email came from Billy Goodin ('89). He is in logistics at Sprint here in Kansas City. His current email address is below.

November 25, 2007

This afternoon, Sarah (Hund) ('01) and Eric Kohler ('00) along with Adam Alt ('01) stopped by and we had a real nice visit. Sarah is researching at Medical College of Wisconsin where Eric is an MD/PhD student, also doing research in the middle of his medical school education. Sarah is also teaching Chemistry at a local community college. Adam is doing contract painting around KC (mostly). Sarah and Eric came to KC on their way back from Thanksgiving with her family in Leavenworth.

November 30, 2007

I got a short email from Gene Mroz ('69) this morning giving me his new email address which is below. Gene is in Santa Fe, NM (Los Alamos).

December 6, 2007

I got a short note from Kevin Gratton ('63) yesterday. He says he is retiring from Johnson County Community College at the end of this year. He has been teaching there for about 35 years. He also mentioned that his brother Matt ('75) is retiring from the Navy. Matt is head of Emergency services at Truman Medical Center here in KC.

I got an email from Tim Herr ('87) this morning saying that he is moving from Yuma, AZ, to San Antonio, TX. He is practicing ENT (Otolaryngology – I had to copy that from his note to be sure I got it right!). He and Sigrid have a sixth grade daughter and an eighth grade son.

December 7, 2007

This morning I got an email note from Bob Yoksh ('69). He and Rosie have nine grandchildren. He is still (since '71) with Cramer Products in Gardner, KS. He started out as chemist and is now VP of Operations. His email address is below.

This evening, I got a short note from Chris Gaubatz ('98, MPT '01). He is in Belleville, IL. His email address is below.

December 29, 2007

I have gotten notes from a number of folks over the holidays. Here are a few in no particular order. Bill Dickenson ('65) lives in Ashville, NC, and is with Arkansas Eastman. He tells me that Al Poje ('65) has recently retired from Bayer.

Norm Bamber ('94) is about to finish his “education” (residency, fellowship, etc. at Loyola Chicago) and, with Jill and their two youngsters, will be coming back to Kansas City (St. Joe's Hospital) as a neurosurgeon next summer.

George ('65) and Janet Fague still live in Tustin, CA, and occupy themselves keeping up with their 5 sons and their families (grandchildren).

I got an email from Rick Weiler ('70) and his wife, Pam. He has quite a thriving dental practice way out on Cape Cod, MA, North Chatam. He had a serious bout with cancer several years ago, but has really recovered. He says he has a couple of surfing trips off the coast of Costa Rica planned. He talks about retiring, but it certainly doesn't sound like that. His email address is below.

Laura (Rowland '93) Moore is nearly through her commitment to the Air Force as a Pediatric Allergist. She and her husband, Sean Moore, are at Luke AFB in Arizona.

Jim ('62) and Judy Casey are in Columbus, OH. Jim is now part time with Chem Abstracts, as well as traveling around to see their children, and otherwise visiting the world.

Lisa (Meyer '91) and Mike Connor are here in Kansas City with their four little ones.

Bob ('70) and Deb Haake live in Belleville, IL. Bob is a critical care physician there.

Toni Malanaphy-Sorg ('77) and husband Mike are in St. Paul, MN. Toni has a consulting business.

Bob ('59) and Mary Kathryn Kanard are still in Cheyenne, WY. Bob is officially retired from practice, but is doing a good deal of volunteering work. Son Bob ('96) has about finished his residency and is now about to get a job as pediatric surgeon.

Rich ('87) and Renee Sullivan and son live in Mt. Lebanon, PA. He has a new email address which is below.

Jerry ('64) and Cathy Muehlberger are retired in Boerne, TX.


Jennie ('98) (Losapio) and Scott ('99) Iverson have moved into their new home in St. Louis. Jennie has her new job as an associate consultant with a pharmaceutical consulting firm. Their email addresses are below.

Chris and Monika Hiler and their four young ones (and expecting twins) live in Goodyear, AZ.

Steve ('61) and Mary Ziller live in Cincinnati where Steve is now retired from P&G. They do a lot of travelling around the country visiting family and friends.

I got a nice note from Rina Hiratsuka ('05) from Japan. She has to study for Japanese exams to apply to medical school there. Her email address is below.

Richard ('97) and Belinda Heck are in Sherwood, AR (near Little Rock), with their three little ones. Their email addresses are below.



Joe Devine ('67) sent a picture of his classmates who were here for the reunion earlier this fall. He also sent a QSL card for his ham radio station, NØEID. His email address is below.

Dan Strope ('70) and Jeanne are in Bartlesville, OK, where Dan is with ConocoPhillips as he has been for a good many years, that is, when the company has not sent him to all kinds of places around the world. He is planning to retire within the next year.

Rich ('76) and Barb (Weilert, '77) Kramer are in the Minneapolis area. Rich is with McKesson, and "biking like crazy." He actually rode 3,014 miles by November, including 3 MS rides (60, 150 and 300 mile rides)!

Ken ('68) Bechtold and Paula are in Springfield, MO. Ken is working on a project that will be part of a plant to convert natural gas into fuel in Nigeria. They are also to the stage of being grandparents now – two grandsons.

And by way of the Alumni office, I note that Steve Hodges ('92) is one of the team physicians for the Chicago Cubs. He also took part in the Ironman World Championships in Hawaii a couple of years ago. His regular job is as an emergency room physician in Chicago.

Jo Anne (Aquino) ('02) was married last summer to Christopher Cabantac. She lives in Little Rock, AR, and is an RN in Little Rock.

December 30, 2007

John ('59) and Claudia Waller are in the DC area (Alexandria, VA) (that is, when they are not travelling around visiting children and other relatives). John says he has talked about retirement but hasn't done it yet.

Sue (Lloyd) and Jim Long (both '74) live in Cary, SC. Jim is still working on his third million miles with American Airlines going to Japan, Italy and shorter trips around the USA. Sue is becoming a "professional volunteer" with the Boy Scouts, including teaching a course at Philmont in New Mexico.

Matt ('75) and Joanne Gratton are peacefully at home now that Matt has now retired from the Navy Reserve, except that he is the boss of Emergency Services at Truman Hospital.

Tom ('68) and Anne Hutton live in Jefferson City, MO. Tom is going around the country, especially north as well as around Missouri, trapping deer and other wild life and enjoying the scenery. He is a biologist with the Federal Wildlife service.

Mike ('82) and Julia (Gray, '84) Kressig have moved into a new house, still in Chesterfield, MO.

Tim ('95) and Jean Schmitt are settled in Charlottesville, VA, where Tim is now faculty at Virginia U. Medical School where he is professor of surgery and doing transplant surgery.

John ('76) and Debbie Kuhnlein live in Ankeny, IA (near Des Moines). John's practice has expanded to offices in Cedar Rapids and Boone as well as his main office in Des Moines.

Anne (Miller, '95) and Jason VanGarsse are in Lawrence, KS, where Anne is a pediatrician. They have a new daughter as of last month.

Tom ('84) and Lora (Bias, '85) Folz both have good practices in Jefferson City, MO with their four young ones, three boys and a girl.

Buck ('92) and Lisa Haney both work at MRI in different groups. They have a young girl and boy.

Jarrett ('93) and Cathy (Thomas, '92) Kolthoff are in St. Louis (Des Peres) with their 5 youngsters, ages 13 years to 5 months.

Jim ('84) and Janet Gorman and their three girls are in Fayetteville, AR. Jim does family practice medicine.

Tom ('65) and Kathy Barket live here in Kansas City. Tom teaches chemistry at Johnson County Community College. Their three girls are all out of college by now, except that one is working on a Ph.D.

January 2, 2008

This morning I got a nice email from Karen Moore ('74) and husband Darren Warren in Mukilteo, WA. She is retired and raising their three children, ages 12 to 20. Her email address is below.

And a nice letter came from Sara Oberhelman ('04). Sara is in her last year at Kansas U Med School. She is looking for a residency in family medicine. She did some of the usual rotations around Kansas, but in towns that I have never heard of before, Nicodemus and Plainville, and I thought I had heard of all the small towns in Kansas.

January 13, 2008

This morning at the 11 a.m. Mass at Guardian Angels Church we included the baptism of Daniel, the youngest son of Philip ('91) and Jeni (Bryant) ('98) Colombo. After the Mass Richard Koch ('66) came up for a nice few words. And then also I had a nice visit with Chris Rooney ('87) and his wife Lucia and daughter. Chris is an oral surgeon (implants) here in Kansas City.

And in the last couple of days I got a real nice letter from Dave ('69) and Kristina Parrack in Phoenix (Glendale), AZ. Dave is a urologist, and has been practicing there for many years. He has been fighting cancer for five years or so, but seems to be doing pretty well now.

I also heard from Bryan ('88) and Keri Schumacher in Rota, Spain. Bryan is a Navy physician and has been in Europe for several years. They adopted twin girls several years ago, who are now in second grade.

January 18, 2008

I got a nice note from Bob Kanard (the younger) ('96). He and Lisa have two children in Silver Spring, MD. He will be finished with his residency and fellowships in pediatric surgery and is now seeking a "job" in both academia and private practice.

I thought I should include the news of our pre-med scholars. There are two who will go to St. Louis U Med next fall. And there are six juniors who were accepted last summer.

And there were four sophomores who were accepted this past fall for the scholars program with KCUMB. They will start medical school in the summer of 2009.

And I got an email from David Jones ('03) this afternoon. He got his MD from Georgetown last summer and is doing an intern year at Georgetown Hospital. He is also the PI for a research project in functional MRI. Then next summer, he will move to the Mayo Clinic for his residency in neurology.

I saw Paul Campbell ('07) the other day. He is working for Primus Diagnostics. His main job is developing applications for some of their instruments, particularly HPLC now. Jeff Rotert ('97) also works there. Paul's email address is below, and also Jeff's is below.

February 1, 2008

Last Saturday, we had the 24th Annual Science Knowledge Bowl competition for high school students. There were some 40 schools represented and this meant over 85 teams (of 5 students and their coaches), or a total of more than 400 students.

I had a nice visit with Scott ('03) and Carla (Heitman, '02), and 10 month old son, the other evening. Scott is working on his Ph.D. in toxicology at KU Med Center, and Carla is teaching grade school.

February 9, 2008

I got a nice letter from Pat ('84) and Pam McCarville in Valley, NE (suburb of Omaha) today. Pat is in his 16th year of practice there in family practice. They spent a while in mid December enjoying a trip to Jamaica, but things are now back to normal with their three young ones (8th grade to age 3). Pat is in good shape, even coaching kids and training for triathlons.

February 14, 2008

I saw Joe Myers ('80) this morning. He is a urologist here in Kansas City. He has also taken up mountain bike riding in his spare time in the last couple of years, without too many in-juries (none serious).

You might also 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 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.