Welcome to our Newsletter & revamped facilities. After Fr. Garanzini’s arrival, the Quinlan Life Sciences Education and Research Building (LSERB) was planned; funded (many chemists contributed.); built immediately East of, and attached to, Flanner Hall; and then opened in January 2005. The organic chemistry lab on the first floor has 24 hoods for 48 students, a central presentation and writing area, and, a separate instrument room across the hall. Two of those instruments were generously donated to the Department. A 300 MHz Varian Gemini C/H NMR, came from DeCode Genetics with the encouragement of Dr. Henry’s former postdoctoral Kyaw Htin (Dr. Zaw). A Thermoelectron FT-IR came from the former G.D. Searle now Pfizer. The 3.5 year Flanner Hall renovation was completed just before the LSERB opened.

New faculty hires include: Computational Chemist, Jan Florian-2002; Medicinal Organic Chemist, Daniel Becker-2004; and Biochemist, Miguel Ballicora-2005. Mary Baude assists in the General Chemistry labs. Carole Szpunar is an Organic lecturer. Patrick Daubenmire is shared between Chemistry and the Center for Math and Science Education. You will see more about them below. Analytical Chemist, Martina Schmeling, has been promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure. Several faculty have moved: Mary Boyd to Georgia Southern University; Leslie Fung to UIC; and Derek Nelson to Abbott. Pat Henry and Steve Pavkovic retired in December 2004 after many years of productive chemistry. Emeriti Jaselskis and Moore continue to inspire us all. Alanah Fitch just completed a very successful NSF funded Discovery Fellowship that involved establishing continuing collaborative research with chemists in Kenya using Internet based instrument operation. Jan Florian’s computational chemistry research is funded as part of a large collaborative NIH program project through USC. The Department has had 9 years of GAANN funding from DOEd supporting additional graduate students and 9 years of NSF-REU funding that brought in 9 undergraduates per year who are anticipating a career in chemical research. Duarte Freitas was PI on the NSF grant that brought in a new 300 MHz multinuclear NMR equipped with gradients.

The Department has hosted a number of events in the past two years: the Chicago Area NMR Discussion Group in November 04; the Midwest Enzyme Conference in October 05; the ACS Chicago Section in November 05; the ACS Chemistry Olympiad exams in March 04 and 05; and the ACS section scholarship exam in April 05. The Departmental Holiday Party was held in the renovated Piper Hall. Various events will be scheduled for the next year. Please stop in and see us.
New Tenure-Track Faculty

Several new faculty members have recently joined the ranks of the Loyola University Chicago chemistry department. New members of the department include Dr. Miguel Ballicora, Dr. Daniel Becker, and Dr. Jan Florian.

Dr. Ballicora, Biochemistry, joined the department in the Fall semester of 2005 after serving as a Research Assistant Professor at Michigan State University. He received his PharmD and PhD from University of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Dr. Jan Florian, Physical, joined the department in 2002 after serving as a Postdoctoral Fellow and Research Assistant Professor at the University of Southern Californian. He received his PhD from Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic.

Dr. Daniel Becker, Organic, joined the department in 2004 after working in the pharmaceutical industry (Pharmacia, Searle) for 16 years. He received his PhD from Prof. Philip D. Magnus at Indiana University in 1986.

Promotions, Tenure and Service

Dr. Martina Schmeling, Analytical, was promoted to Associate Professor.

Dr. Stephen Pavkovic, Inorganic, and Dr. Pat Henry, Inorganic, became Emeritus professors.

Dr. Alanah Fitch, Analytical, became a National Councilor for the American Chemical Society.

Dr. Pavkovic

Dr. Moore

Dr. Fitch

Chemistry Education Faculty

Dr. Patrick Daubenmire joined the department in the fall of 2005 as a joint appointment between the chemistry department and the newly-created Center for Science and Math Education. He earned his PhD in Chemical Education from the Catholic University of America in May of 2004. Dr. Daubenmire also served as the Chairperson of the Science Department of Loyola Blakefield High School in Towson, Maryland prior to moving to Loyola.

Dr. Carole Szpunar was hired as a Lecturer in Organic Chemistry. She has a PhD in Physical Organic Chemistry (Prof. Joe Lambert) from Northwestern and she worked for an extended period of time at Argonne National Lab. Two of her daughters also graduated from LUC and have gone on to medical school.

Ms. Mary Baude, MS, was hired as a Teaching Associate to assist in the teaching of General Chemistry Labs. She earned her Masters degree at Loyola University Chicago in 2005.

Dr. Babler (see next page)
LUC Chemistry is growing!

There has been a great deal of construction on Loyola University Chicago’s lakeshore campus and around the chemistry department in recent years. Chemistry-related construction includes an extensive, multi-year renovation of Flanner Hall and the addition of an organic chemistry teaching laboratory in Loyola’s new Quinlan Life Sciences Education and Research building, which sits adjacent to Flanner Hall.

The construction in Flanner Hall began with a complete renovation of the main auditorium in Flanner Hall in 2001. New seats, projection equipment and blackboards were installed.

During Winter Break of 2001 the general chemistry teaching labs on the third floor of Flanner Hall were also remodeled. Several walls were removed to create a larger teaching space. New hoods and laboratory benches were also installed—along with improved Internet access and electronic classroom gear.

In the following year, the organic chemistry laboratory teaching space on the second floor of Flanner Hall was also renovated. Because of existing constraints, however, additional hoods could not be added. (This eventually led to the organic teaching lab moving to the new building.) An improved instrument room and better Internet access were added. During the renovation of the second floor, a new faculty space was also created out of space that had previously been a common area.

During the final phase of the project, a computer lab and cell culture lab were created in the basement.

In January of 2005, the new Michael R. and Marilyn Quinlan Life Sciences Education and Research Center opened adjacent to Flanner Hall. It is the new home of the Biology Department but also includes a state-of-the-art organic chemistry teaching laboratory with a great deal of hood space.

Gifts and Funding

Professor Alanah Fitch received an NSF Fellowship.

Dr. Jan Florian received a collaborative NIH research grant to complete work with Dr. Myron Goodman of USC.

Dr. Patrick Henry received a PRF grant.

Dr. Kyaw Htin of deCODE Genetics arranged for the donation of a 300 MHz NMR spectrometer.

Dr. Babler was given a grant to be used as a partial scholarship for an undergraduate student doing research in his lab. This generous donation was made by Ken Spina, an alumnus of our department.

Dr. Babler would also like to extend a belated ‘thank you’ to Prof. Harvey Posvic, one of Loyola’s retired chemistry professors, for a generous gift to support Dr. Babler’s ongoing research entitled “New Methods, in Synthetic Organic Chemistry.”

All the members of the department would also like to thank Dr. Carl Moore for his many contributions—both financial and otherwise.
Departures

Dr. Mary Boyd, Organic, left the department at the end of 2004-05 academic year to become the Chairperson of the Chemistry Department at Georgia Southern University.

Dr. Leslie Fung, Biochemistry, moved her research group to UIC at the end of the 2003-04 academic year.

Dr. Derek Nelson, Organic, accepted a position at Abbott Laboratories and left the department in 2002.

Dr. Jonathon Zerkowski, Organic, left the department and moved on to a government lab in 2001.

Upcoming Events

March 17, 2006
8:30 AM, Flanner Hall
Loyola University
Local Chemistry Olympiad

According to American Chemical Society website, “The U.S. National Olympiad (USNCO) is a multi-tiered competition designed to stimulate and promote achievement in high school chemistry. For more information, see the website of the Chicago ACS section (http://membership.acs.org/Chicago/home.html)

April 21, 2006
8:30 AM, Flanner Hall
Loyola University
Regional Chemistry Olympiad

For more information about the Chemistry Olympiad, visit chemistry.org

May, 2006
Loyola University
ACS Chemistry Scholarship Exam

More information about this event will be posted on the LUC chemistry department web site when it becomes available.