Greetings Alumni and Friends! What a wonderful fall semester it has been at ISU! Some highlights: It has been so great to see so many of you, hear from you, and re-engage. In August, we enjoyed an alumni gathering in Washington, DC at the ACS meeting and visited NIST. I have been reaching out to alumni at local companies about internships and/or one-time visits for our students — please contact me if your company would be interested (ccmclau@ilstu.edu)! Redbird Rising: The Campaign for Illinois State has begun and we have already been fortunate to feel the generosity of fellow Redbirds — look for details on some of the impacts of those gifts in future issues. Our students continue to do amazing things in working with our faculty and staff, preparing themselves to impact the world beyond ISU. We’ve received several new and exciting grants, and our alumni continue to make us proud both inside and outside of the chemical enterprise. It is indeed a great time to be a Redbird. Thanks for reading.

Cheers, Craig C. McLauchlan, Professor & Chair

Faculty and Staff Updates

Kudos

Isabel Green and Michael Webb have joined the faculty as Assistant Professors. Look for profiles in future issues!

Chris Mulligan was recently included on the 2017 Power List by *Analytical Scientist* magazine. It was based off of peer nominations. This year, they did 10 different List[s] of Ten, highlighting leaders in certain fields and Chris was #9 on the Public Defenders List. Particularly gratifying was the mention that his research was conducted with undergraduate and masters students.

Jeremy Driskell, Jun-Hyun Kim, and Chris Mulligan were awarded a $298K grant from the National Institute of Justice for development of a portable instrument for evidence collection combining Raman and mass spectrometry, which begins January 1, 2018 and lasts two years.

Jun-Hyun Kim also received a grant for $70K to study self-assembly of short-chain amphiphilic polymers from the American Chemical Society-Petroleum Research Fund. That grant goes until August 2020.

Condolences

Emeritus faculty member Ronald L. Cook passed away on September 14 at the age of 96. Ron, a U.S. Coast Guard veteran, earned his B.S. and M.A. degrees at Western Illinois State Teachers College. Prior to coming to ISU in 1962 to teach chemistry, he taught and coached at several Illinois high schools. He retired in 1978. He leaves behind his wife Doris, daughters Ramona, Linda and Mary Ann, grandson Michael, and several nieces and nephews.
Thank you to everyone who came out for our Homecoming 2017 activities. ChemClub did their demos during the parade, entertaining guests of all ages. After enjoying the parade, which featured many of our students and several alumni, we tailgated in our own lot... behind SLB! We had over forty guests stop by to play games, and enjoy food and fellowship. We hope to see you at Homecoming in 2018 (which will be October 13th) if not sooner!

Jamie (Nizzia) Wolfe (M.S. ’13, Mulligan) was our guest for Alumni Day on October 20, 2017. Jamie is currently at AbbVie Pharmaceuticals, Inc. doing analytical method development. Her talk, entitled “Getting in Shape for a Career in the Science Industry,” was attended by students, faculty, staff, and friends during her visit. She shared her career path through internships, school, and her first employment stops. Jamie also visited other areas of campus as part of the Alumni Day festivities including a stop at the Old Main Bell on the Quad (pictured above with husband Ryan Wolfe).
Samantha Richdale (B.S. ‘06) was elected to the ISU Athletics Percy Family Hall of Fame Class of 2017 as part of the 2017 Homecoming activities. Samantha was a four-time All-Missouri Valley Conference selection and three-time MVC individual medalist during her time at ISU. She was the 2005-06 ISU Jill Hutchison Female Athlete of the Year and still holds the ISU single-season stroke average record. As a chemistry student, she was also a NGCA Academic All-American. She currently plays golf professionally. Samantha joins (at least!) Priscilla (Welch) DeLaere (B.S. ‘98, M.S.C.E. ‘15) as our alumni in the Hall of Fame.

Shari (Buniak) Keller (B.S. ‘83) retired July 31st from Shell Oil Company as Sr. Staff Environmental Specialist, Air Advocacy and Compliance, after 31 years of service. Shari and her husband Ronnie live in New Braunfels, TX.

Michael Crawford (B.S. ‘16, Peters) is a Ph.D. student in Chemistry at Oregon. He is the recipient of an ARCS Foundation Fellowship to help support his studies for his first three years there. Congratulations, Michael!

Paul DeJong (B.S. ‘15) was named National League Rookie of the Month for July 2017. He was called up in May 2017 to play for the St. Louis Cardinals and was named to the Baseball America All-Rookie team at the conclusion of the regular season and finished 2nd in MLB NL Rookie of the Year balloting.

Cassie Goodman (B.S. ‘12, M. S. ‘14, Hitchcock) is a research chemist at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, MD.

Dr. M. Walid Qoronfleh (M.S. ‘84, Wilkinson) stopped by SLB on his visit back to ISU for the Wilkinson retirement symposium. He and his wife Dr. Sawsan Mohammed, MD are pictured here with his M.S. thesis. He is currently the Director of Research and Policy for the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH) and Director of Biotechnology Development at the Qatar Biomedical Research Institute in Qatar.

Joan (Tirado) Berry (M.S. ‘11, Szczepura) is a Senior Chemist with Flinn Scientific. We caught up with her at the ACS meeting in DC where she shared: “I work in the Product Management department performing new product development (lab kits for high school and middle school), identify new equipment needed in the higher ed Flinn catalog (research and teaching equipment), and help with chemical regulations. In addition, I work trade shows nationwide where we feature our products.”
Next Chemistry Alumni Gathering — New Orleans, LA ACS 2018

In March 2018, chemists will be gathered in New Orleans, LA for the 255th National American Chemical Society Meeting. If you are attending the meeting, live in the area, or just want to road trip to come see us, we hope you’ll join us for an alumni gathering. Details are still in the works, but drop us a line, or check out our social media for further information — the details will appear in our next newsletter as well, but we want to be sure you are in the know!

Stay in Touch!

Alumni of the Department of Chemistry are an important component to the continued success of our program. By going forth and "Spreading the Red" and making us proud, our alumni represent the Department well around the city, state, country, and world. We are always excited to hear what our alumni are up to now and to keep them involved in the happenings in and around the Department. Drop a line to Chemistry@IllinoisState.edu or alumni liaison Dr. Greg Ferrence (ferrence@ilstu.edu).

Craig McLauchlan (back) gathers with (from left) Courtnay Brand, Greg Goodman, and Cassie Goodman during the 2017 Fall American Chemical Society National Meeting in Washington, D.C.