From The Chair

My warmest wishes to you and yours as we begin 2010! While the economy and its effects on day-to-day life remain at the forefront of many discussions and decisions, I am happy to report that both the Department and University are not facing imminent cutbacks or job losses. In fact, we expect to reopen faculty searches in the Department this fall; these searches were suspended in the fall of 2008 at the height of the financial crisis. We remain optimistic as the numbers of both chemistry and biochemistry majors continue to increase.

You are likely not aware of proposed changes to the College’s core curriculum. The review process began three years ago as several faculty focus groups were formed to examine two questions: (1) What must we as a College do to offer our students a premier liberal arts college experience within the context of Christian humanism and the Augustinian tradition? and (2) What would an ideal liberal arts experience at Villanova look like, and what would it take for the College to become a premier liberal arts college? A direct product of these focus groups was the creation of task forces to review specific aspects of the core curriculum. While far from complete, the new core will have fewer required courses and will provide all students with greater opportunities to explore across the disciplines. The proposed changes are especially significant to chemistry and biochemistry majors who generally have few options when it comes to elective courses.

In context with the construction of a new college core curriculum and the new ACS-CPT Guidelines for certifying chemistry degrees, the Department is undertaking a comprehensive curriculum review of its own. Our current curriculum was adopted in 2000 and has proven to serve our students well as our graduates have been very successful after graduation. While an overhaul is not expected, the timing is appropriate and a review may lead to exciting opportunities to both our students and faculty that were either not available or feasible in 2000.

I am pleased to announce the Dr Ron Magolda Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program in Chemistry at Villanova University. Dr Ronald Magolda ’76, Vice President for Medicinal Chemistry at Wyeth Research, Villanova alumnus and College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Medallion recipient, and 2007 Silvestri Lecturer, passed away tragically on June 1, 2008, as a result of an unfortunate bike accident at the age of 54. Ron’s dedication to excellence in drug discovery and leadership in medicinal chemistry has inspired many scientists throughout the community from both academia and industry. It is proposed that two undergraduate research students would be supported annually with the expectation that more could be supported in the future as funding allowed. Dr Ron Magolda Undergraduate Research Fellows will be selected from the pool of applicants the Department receives each spring and an acknowledgement to the program will appear on all work disseminated. Additional information is available on the Departmental website (http://chemistry.villanova.edu).

On Tuesday, September 29th, 2009, Dr Barbara J. Finlayson-Pitts from the Department of Chemistry at the University of California, Irvine presented The Anthony J. and Heand Johns Silvestri Lecture “From Combustion to Climate: Chemical Challenges for a Changing World.” Dr Finlayson-Pitts delivered a thought provoking lecture that was both well attended and received. She spent the day on campus meeting with both students and faculty and was genuinely impressed with the quality work that is being done in the Department. The Silvestri Lecture continues to provide our students and faculty access to preeminent scholars across the disciplines of chemistry. We thank the Silvestris [Tony, Class of ‘58] for their generous contributions over the years. We will be announcing the 2010 Silvestri Lecturer in the coming months.

A Few Noteworthy Achievements:

While our students and faculty continue to
excel both in and out of the classrooms and research labs, there are a few additional achievements of note. I am very pleased to announce that Dr Deanna Zubris was granted tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Chemistry. Congratulations to Deanna! Drs Jennifer Palenchar and Christine Martey-Ochola successfully navigated their interim reviews and each was granted a semester sabbatical. Congratulations to both! Dr Jennifer Palenchar was also awarded an AREA R15 Grant by the National Institutes of Health. This is a tremendous accomplishment and deserves special mention.

Dr Amanda Grannas and her students spent last spring and part of the summer in Barrow, Alaska carrying out fieldwork. Highlights can be found at villasnowva.blogspot.com. Dr Robert Giuliano recently completed work on what many consider the standard organic textbook, the 8th Edition of *Organic Chemistry* by Francis Carey and Robert Giuliano. Congratulations to Bob for his hard work and dedication to the project!

The Department conducted another successful Summer Undergraduate Research Program supported by funds from extramurally awarded grants, and donations from alumni and local industry. Students conducted research under the supervision of Chemistry faculty mentors over a 9-week period. Students presented their results at our annual Summer Research Poster session on October 6th, 2009 in the Villanova Room of the Connelly Center. This was the first year of a University-wide undergraduate research showcase that included research from across the College of Arts & Science and from the College of Engineering. We will continue to highlight the excellent research being done in both the Department of Chemistry and across the University.

Alexandra (Ali) Bausch (‘09, Chemistry/Honors) was awarded a Fulbright Grant, a nationally competitive program that provides the opportunity to study, teach, and conduct research abroad. Ali was selected on the basis of her academic achievement and her leadership potential. Her considerable research experience with Dr Amanda Grannas on organic pollutants in liquid and frozen media certainly helped her application stand out. Ali is conducting research in environmental chemistry at the University of Stavanger in Norway. She was also the recipient of a Goldwater Scholarship in 2008!

**Students:**

We are extremely proud of our graduates! I am happy to present the Chemistry class of 2009!

**BS Graduates:** Pablo Aran Terol (CHM – PhD Program – University of Cambridge, England), Alexandra Bausch (CHM – Fulbright Scholarship – University of Stavanger, Norway), Laura Beierschmitt (CHM – NMS Labs, Willow Grove, PA), David Boyce (CHM – PhD Program - University of Minnesota), Michael Buxhoeveden (CHM), Veronica Colon (CHM – Plans to work in Industry – Graduate School in Future), Daniel Drahus (CHM), Anna Dwyer (CHM), Kristina Grauer (CHM – BS/MS Chemistry Program – Villanova University), Laura Hallisey (CHM – BS/MS Chemistry Program – Villanova University), Meghan Hickey (CHM – BS/MS Chemistry Program – Villanova University), Joseph Jaeger (CHM – U.S. Navy & Nuclear Power Program – Surface Warfare Office), Monica Murphy (CHM – Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Medical Research), Priya Narahari (CHM – BS/MS Program – Villanova University), Jaelyn Olsen (CHM – Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine), Alexandra Polihirom (CHM – Centocor Clinical Pharmacology Sciences), Erin Ruane (CHM – MS Education Program – Villanova University), Julie Tersigni (CHM – Widener University Law School), Raymond Vlacancich (CHM – New York College of Osteopathic Medicine), Christine Walsh (CHM – Temple University School of Pharmacy), Natalie Barrera (BIOC – Texas Petrochemicals – Research Chemist), Michael Barresi (BIOC – plans to attend Law School), Kyle Doolan (BIOC – PhD Program – University of Delaware – Chemical Engineering), Kristen Koller (BIOC – Vanderbilt University - MS Nursing Program), Gregory Papachristos (BIOC – MS Molecular Biochemistry Program - Sacred Heart University), Ryan Spears (BIOC – plans to work in
MS Graduates: Julianna Cebollero Venegas (AstraZeneca, Sales Rep.), Margaret Kennedy (Chemistry Instructor, United States Coast Guard), Jason Wagner (Cephalon, Inc.), Mary Ellen Dukart (Dept. of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Villanova University), Max Detwiler (Gelest, Inc.), Ryan Bass (Centocor, Inc.), Brandy Voytko (McNeil Consumer & Specialty Pharmaceutical), Michael Ryan (Supervisor, Lyondell Basell Industries), Ryan Sowers (IsoSciences LLC).

One last thing...

We continue to provide news and information about the Department and our programs online at http://chemistry.villanova.edu as well as wildcatchchemistry.blogspot.com and Facebook! If you have news or something would like to share online, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will see that it is posted.

Scott Kassel, Associate Professor and Chair
scott.kassel@villanova.edu

Alumni Notes
Oliver Ludwig '57 editor
Volume 29 started Mar 09

Jim Markham '50 called to my attention the obituary of John G Brodnyan '52 and I read in the Villanova Magazine of the death of Tom Schmucker '72 on 20 August 07. Also, Sirirat Ho-Ampawanwong Kokpol PhD '79 lost her husband recently. Pray for them and their families.

We had quite a “get” of 50 year ACS members this year: William Ambs '52, Marshall Fixman MS '61, Jerry Siuda '59, and Hank Whelan '57. (Your editor made it last year.) Retired Prof Tom Doyne writes in May: Last August I returned to Japan for the International X-ray meeting being held at Osaka. I arrived at Osaka Kansai Airport exactly 55 years to the day when I arrived at JNR train station as a student.

• Herb Rammrath '57 is spending his retirement from GE with skiing in Colorado all winter and boating (50 ft) in Mediterranean the rest of the year. He no longer sails across the Atlantic. • Don Pichler MS '64 has been selected as the top Family Physician in New Mexico for 2009 by the NM Academy of Family Physicians. • Frank Keim '64 has retired. He’s Managing Director (Emeritus), American Stelmi Corporation. • Paul Zimmer MS '66 dropped by in July to say Hi.

Ed Rekas '69 writes: I'm writing to update you on my last career change – to retirement effective April 24, 2010. Since graduating from Villanova in 1969, I've taken a unique career path that might be of interest to students and other grads: • 1969-71: Chemist, DuPont; • 1971-73: Chemist, Glidden-Durkee; • 1973-86: Sales Rep., Davison Chemical Div, W.R. Grace, Business Dev't Mgr, Product Manager, Silica Products; • 1977: MBA, Finance, Loyola College, Baltimore; • 1987-96: Various positions, American Chemical Society; • 1997-03: Dir. of Publications, then CFO, Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, Bethesda, MD; • 2004-present: Deputy Executive Director & CFO, American Society for Microbiology, Washington, DC. So I've taken the path from industrial chemist to sales and marketing, then a major career shift to non-profit management for the past 20+ years. I can recommend this transition as it has allowed me to grow professionally while it provided a broad range of unique challenges.

We are currently building our retirement home at the Santa Rosa Golf and Beach Club in the Florida Panhandle, and hope to move there sometime in June. I remain an active supporter of Villanova sports, having enjoyed the football team's recent success and look forward to another Final Four!

This past June we attended our 45th Reunion on campus and visited with the Class of '69 chemistry grads Bob Hamburger, Rosie Grayson, Charlie Bartish, George DeTitta and Bill Saybolt. I also had lunch with Al Censullo in DC while he attended the Spring ACS meeting. Best regards to the Villanova Community! Ed.

From George DeTitta '69: Dear Oliver, You won’t believe it but I was thinking of you last night as
my brother Dennis (Class of 1971) and I (Class of 1969) were discussing some of the finer points of VU basketball. Well, Dennis was discussing; I was casting back to days in Mendel and thinking of the lost languages I learned at Villanova: Latin, Greek, FORTRAN (taught to me by a young quantum chemist who would end up having "legs" at the institution).

Some news: After essentially ten years in the driver's seat as CEO at my home research institution and as founding chairman of the Department of Structural Biology at my academic institution [SUNY Buffalo] I stepped back up to a life of science about a year ago. The decision included a plan to get back into lab work, and I am succeeding to do so on a short sabbatical here in Nancy, in the Lorraine of France, at Université Henri Poincaré. Doing real wet work, adapting some experiments in the isopiestic method pioneered by Bousfield in 1917 for proteins, and brushing off my Fortran to modify a 3000 line program to perform analytical absorption corrections I wrote as a youth. Mostly, however, Adele and I are learning what it's like to live a different life - and that's been very rewarding. George

Bob Hamburger '69 writes: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. News from the class of '69 is that a real effort was made to bring back as many class members to our 40th reunion as possible. The six of us [see Rekas note above] went to Friday night's reunion mixer and had our own dinner Saturday night. Rosemarie returns yearly to the annual alumni Women's basketball game, this year to be played on January 16th before the Marquette game. She was one of two seniors on the original Villanova Women's basketball team. Bob Hamburger is a high school basketball official and will be officiating the alumni game. No fouls to be called on Rosemarie. Bob.

Jim Riehl '70 writes: I always look forward to reading the Alumni newsletter. Nothing much has changed relative to my position. I am still Dean of the Swenson College of Science and Engineering here at the University of Minnesota Duluth. This is my tenth year as Dean. The one upcoming news item is that I have a book coming out in March published by Wiley entitled "Mirror-Image Asymmetry: An introduction to the origins and consequences of chirality". www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0470387599.html

Pat Hagan '70 tells us: In May, 2010, Maryann (Rosemont, Class of '70) and I will be celebrating, God willing, our 40th wedding anniversary. Also in May, our youngest child will have graduated from college - also cause for celebration. Out of five offspring, we have no VU grads and no chemists. Where did I go wrong? This past June, I completed 31 years as a chemical patent attorney with Dann, Dorfman, Herrell and Skillman in Philadelphia. One of these years, I hope to retire to a locale where I don't have to deal with sub-freezing temperatures anymore. Pat

Pat Vasichek '71 writes: I don't know how much you may know about me since I left Villanova. I spent a tour in Vietnam with the Navy until the end of the war in 1973, and then left Active duty in 1976, after five years active duty. Went to work as a Chemist for the Navy in Hawaii and went back to school (U of Hawaii) and after three years I received a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering. While I was transitioning into my engineering career, I published an article, which was based on my thesis, but had a more practical application of the thesis results - the lab supported all the Navy waste water treatment systems on Oahu. I ended up as the Navy Program Manager for Southwestern Pacific and Indian Ocean areas from 1982 - 1989. So, I lived about 18 years in Hawaii. Then moved to the Seattle area and took over the Superfund program for the Navy in the Northwest. My chemistry background was a big help in putting that program together - we basically had cleaned up all our 700 sites by the time I retired as the Environmental Director in 2001. I have been working for Architect/Engineering firms ever since - using my license a lot more than I wish I was - very busy. I was married in 1975 and my wife, Jeannette, and I have seven children and one grandchild (more on the way). We have six sons and one daughter: Joseph (married and works in Portland as a Mechanical Engineer), Teresa,
(married and works in Seattle as a Physician’s Assistant, John Paul, works in San Jose as an Electrical/Computer Engineer, Charles, attending Ave Maria Law School, Matthew, attending St. Martin’s University, Andrew, Attending University of Dallas, and Nicholas, Attending St Cecilia Catholic Elementary School (8th grade) on Bainbridge Island where we have lived for the last 21 years. I remained in the Navy reserve (surface warfare office) for almost 30 years and retired as a Captain this year. I wish I could get back & visit you sometime - if I win the job I am going after in New Jersey (Security gate project at Colts Neck), I might just have an opportunity to do that.

Pat.

Dan Michalak ’74, ’76 Biochem writes: I am an OB/GYN physician in N.C. and have four children and moved here in 1984. I want to tell you I enjoy reading your newsletter and that you are doing a fantastic job. We all remember you fondly and wish you all the best in the New Year. Sincerely, Dan.

From C&EN, 23 Mar 09: Mary Kaiser PhD ’76, Senior Research Fellow at DuPont’s Center for Analytical Sciences has won the 2009 Delaware Section Award for her work in GC & LC. She writes: I have been working on analytical, physical, and environmental measurements of fluorosurfactants to be used as fluoropolymer processing aids for stain-resist coatings, nonstick surfaces, and fluoroelastomers. I was able to coauthor four papers, two talks and two posters, and also co-teach a short course at two scientific conferences last year. My husband Cecil Dybowski is a Professor at the University of Delaware. Our daughter Marta is a law student at New York Law School. Mary.

Ken Horst MA ’83 continues to teach chemistry and physics at Goshen High School, Goshen, IN. • Chris Quigley ’86 is director of the Charles Street Family Chiropractic Clinic in Boston.

From Sue Zhu Franz PhD ’89: I am so glad to hear from you. It just has been too long for me not connecting with Villanova. I am very ashamed of it! However, I would like you to know that I have not forgotten about Villanova. I have been searching everything about Villanova in the past few years. I bet on our Basketball team to win all the way to the championship. Needless to say I was very sad that they lost to NC.

Losing connection with Villanova over these years has a lot to do the death of my Professor Peter Keliher. His premature departure shocked me so much that for a while connecting with Villanova almost meant a reminder of his death. I did not do it on purpose, but now looking back, I think I took the easy route of disconnecting with that part of memory to cope with the loss. I wish I had taken a different route. I wish I had kept in touch with Villanova and Peter’s family.

I am now glad that I am back and promise to keep in touch. When I left Villanova, I was a single and care free. Now I am a mother of 4 children. Two of them are biological children of me and my husband and two of them we adopted from China. My older son Tobias will be 18 years old in May. He will be studying biomedical engineering in the fall at University of Michigan. My second child Joshua is 16 and a computer geek. He wants to study computer science and engineering. Anna is 8. We adopted her when she was 20 months old. Our youngest one Jenny is 7. We just adopted her last year. Kids keep me busy and staying young.

After leaving Villanova, I had worked for a German company in Massachusetts for 8 years where I met my husband. We then moved to Michigan because of his job. Now he works for Leco Corporation as Spectrometer Service Manager. I work for Gentex Corporation as Director of Analytical Chemistry. We are an automotive supplier of Electrochromic Auto-dimming mirrors. We are suffering from the current economic situation as everyone else in the automotive industry. We hope things will get better soon.

I hope to get in touch more of Villanova professors and former students. I am hoping for a visit in the near future. If there is any reunion, please let me know. Meanwhile, feel free to check out my blog at www.franzthecrazybunch.blogspot.com., Sue Franz (formerly Sue Zhu or Feng Zhu)

Ann Bradley DeMasi MS ’89 is working for
Dow Chemical Company now in the Philadelphia Office at 6th & Market Streets. She and Dan have been married for 22 years and still live in South Philly. Their daughter, Rachel, will be attending college in the fall (Explorer or Hawk, yet to be determined). Bridget (daughter number 2) is a 15 year old sophomore at Neumann-Goretti. Anne can be reached at Annesciencemom@aol.com.

• Pat Grohar ’95 gave our Professional Development Seminar in April. He's finishing up a fellowship in pediatric oncology – he says that he's a pediatrician whom no one wants to meet, since his Hopkins research is in solid tumors in kids.

• A quick update from Pat Dougherty ’00: I left L.E.K. Consulting in Boston in October and joined GlaxoSmithKline as R&D Strategy Office Director at their Upper Merion site. I'm enjoying the role very much thus far. It is also great being back in Philadelphia and having an opportunity to catch up with friends and family here. I'll be looking forward (as always) to seeing the new edition of the newsletter!

From Jean Zabin ’96: I hope things are well for you and the department. I was writing to let you know that I would like to be included in the Online VU Chemistry Alumni Directory. [Done. If others would like to be included, see below. OGL.] I am still practicing law with offices in Florida and Georgia. Currently I am focusing on real estate and commercial litigation. For the last few years, for fun, I have been playing in some of the WSOP and WPO circuit poker tournament events. I have a few cashes, but have yet to win big at the poker tables. Take care. Jean.

Heidi Shimp Perez ’03 writes to Departmental Secretary Nancy Proud: I’m glad to hear that you are still at Villanova making sure that the chemistry department doesn’t fall apart. Tell Dr Kassel and Dr Casillas that I say hi (I still keep in touch with Dr Casillas who has tried to get me to call him “Ed” ever since graduation which I will never be able to do!). As you can probably tell from my email address, I am Heidi Shimp no longer. Despite my best attempts to avoid the science dorks, my husband is also a chemist – we worked in the same lab in grad school. I started working at Bristol-Myers Squibb in NJ a week after defending my PhD thesis in August last year and we were married a month later. As if the year wasn't busy enough, we managed to squeeze in buying a house right before Christmas last year and are still working on getting "settled in". We have tried to take it easy this year after all the excitement of 2008.

I still see quite a few of the chemistry crew from Villanova. Nancy Ata (now Lee) and I were bridesmaids in each other’s weddings and we’re still great friends. She's going to have a baby in March - yeah! Lauren Della Greca ’03 (now Duncan) also lives in Bryn Mawr, which is only 45 min from our house in NJ, and had her first baby in Aug. Maurice Marsini ’03 is also doing his post-doc at Princeton so we get to see him quite often. Chris DeFeo ’03 and I both attended grad school at Yale and lived right down the street from each other in New Haven. Justin Belardi ’04 and I worked side by side in Dr Casillas' lab and then Justin came to Yale and worked right next to me in the same lab for 5 more years. He now works at Merck in West Point. That may be more of an update that you were interested in, so I’ll stop there!

Heidi Oscar Miranda MS’05 writes from UMass: I would like to share a very productive year 2009. This fruitful year included meetings, papers and a wonderful award. The William E. McEwen Outstanding Graduate Student Award is given by the chemistry department every year to a graduate student who has made a high contribution to the science. So, I would like to share this wonderful news to everyone in Villanova, especially to everyone in the chemistry department. I am proud to be an alumnus from Villanova. So, I wish you to all Villanova community a Merry Christmas and a wonderful happy new year 2010. Oscar.

From Frank Calvosa ’07 MS’08: I transferred to Columbia Law this year so I am finishing out my education here. I also am in the process of deciding where I would like to work when I graduate in 2 years. I am really fortunate to have the science background in this rather bleak job market for lawyers. I
have 4 offers and have really narrowed it down to 2 firms at this point. One of them wants me to help represent generic pharmaceutical companies and the other wants me for the branded pharma market. I just need to figure out which would be the better option. Only time and research will tell! Frank. • Matthew Doroski ’07: writes of his life at Pfizer: Currently almost all of my time is devoted to the synthesis of molecules supporting an antibacterials project seeking to destroy gram negative infections. The days are long and hard but it is a pure joy being surrounded by brilliant minds. Besides that, still considering medical school I took the MCAT last year and got a 30, giving me a chance of getting in. Happy Holidays! Cheers, Matt. • Alex Reif ’08: writes: I was offered a position at the NIH in Maryland and one at GSK in Collegeville. I decide to choose GSK and just started, although I still contemplate my decision. Regards, Alex. Julianna Cebolero ’08 writes to Departmental Secretaries Nancy & Peggy: I am working as a pharmaceutical sales representative for AstraZeneca. I am required everyday to go out to doctor's offices that are assigned to me, give them a promotion of the products that I promote and leave samples. Its really fun because I am also supposed to bring lunch or coffee to those that are important. I am also working on planning a speaker program activity on the second week of Dec, where I need to coordinate with another doctor and reserve a restaurant where the activity will be held. My days are usually long (I leave home at around 8:30 am and get back after 6 pm). More via Nancy & Peggy: Ali Bausch ’09, on a Fulbright fellowship to study the environmental up North writes: Norway is really great so far! I'm just in the finals period now, and I have a few more to go. I will be done later in December, and then I plan to travel a little bit in Scandinavia, just for a couple days... Bergen, Norway and Stockholm. I will fly home a few days before Christmas. It's so nice to be here for the start of the Christmas season in Stavanger... people are starting to show the spirit already (even in November). Ali.