The Villanova Chemist
“Christmas 2006” Edition

From the Chairman
Greetings from the Chemistry Department, and Happy 2007! It has been another eventful year at Villanova, and I’m excited to tell you about some of the many things that have happened.

Thanks largely to the efforts of Joe Bausch and Bob Giuliano, the Chemistry Department has begun to offer a B.S. degree in Biochemistry. The program was instituted in early 2006, and already more than thirty majors have signed on to the new degree. Also, the Department has continued its success in getting funds for new instrumentation. Thanks to a grant from the National Science Foundation to Anthony Lagalante and Amanda Grannas, installation of two new LC/MS units will occur next week. The instruments will support ongoing analytical and environmental chemistry research, synthetic research, and instrumental chemistry instruction. We’ve added a new research lab (with a promise of more in the next few years). Mendel Hall has been made totally wireless if you ignore the missing wireless router in the Chemistry office. All of the classrooms have Powerpoint projectors now, and Villanova has recently been named the #1 “wired” campus in America by PC Magazine. Sweet!

Faculty and Staff News – This year, we were saddened by the sudden passing of Dr. Robert Grob in October. Bob taught in the Chemistry Department for many years until his retirement in 1992. Dr. John Wójcik retired in August after 40 years of teaching in the Chemistry Department, and is enjoying bird watching and catching up on a number of homeowner projects.

Two new tenure-track Biochemists have joined the Chemistry Department this year. Dr. Jennifer Palenchar does research on transcriptional processes in trypanosomes, while Dr. Christine Martey-Ochola studies the inflammation of lung cells in culture resulting from exposure to cigarette smoke. Dr. John Buzby (Ph.D. class of 1987), who has taught in our evening program for many years, was hired as a full time organic faculty member. Dr. Carol Bessel remains on a leave of absence from Villanova to serve at the National Science Foundation.

Finally, congratulations to our younger faculty whose families grew in the past year. Ian Casillas, Elise Zubris Barbay, and Madeline Ohta joined the Villanova family during the past year.

Students - We are extremely proud of the Villanova Chemistry Class of 2006. Their names and affiliations follow:

BS Graduates: Ethan Aldan Danforth (Ph.D. program, Johns Hopkins University), Michele Beaton (plans to work in industry), Jill Betters (Internship at Eckert Seamans Law firm), Tiffany Cheung (GlaxoSmithKline), Karen Chiang (Ph.D. program, University of Rochester, Joseph Davis (Ph.D. program, University of Delaware), Doreen Dulay (preparing for medical school), Nicholas Fry, Christopher Gallo (M.S. program in forensics at John Jay University), Michael Giuliano (Ph.D. program, University of Wisconsin), Jaime González, Margaret Grow (Ph.D. program, University of Maryland Baltimore County), Lauren Kershner (Chanel, Inc.), Cynthia Kozar (Ph.D. program, Nova Southeastern School of Optometry), Emily Ma (Ravgen, Inc.), Kendell Mahanna (Ph.D. program in food science, University of Illinois), Anita Patel (preparing for dental school), Jeffrey Schubert (M.S. program, Villanova University), Nicole Simonowicz (Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Research Services), Ryan Sowers (M.S. program, Villanova University), Bradley Stevens (M.D. program, University of Pittsburgh). Congratulations all!

MS Graduates: Ezenwa Onyema (Noramco, Inc.), Ronald Weber (GlaxoSmithKline), Jennifer Engle (Armed Forces Institute of Pathology), Christopher Jones (University of Pennsylvania), Touraj Rowahani (Arch Chemicals), Dina Dormer (Villanova University). Congrats to the successes of our MS students!

(Not so) Random Thoughts
Let me share with you a late summer trip that I experienced last August. Bob Giuliani and I have families of similar age, and our oldest children graduated from college in the spring of 2006. Mike Giuliani graduated from Villanova with a B.S. in Chemistry (Biochemistry option), while Rachel Selinsky graduated from Williams College with a double major of Chemistry and Studio Art. Coincidentally, both decided to pursue their Ph.D. degrees in Chemistry at the University of Wisconsin. So in a scene not too different from the Beverly Hillbillies in reverse, Bob and I loaded up the Penske truck with Mike and Rachel’s belongings and trekked out to Madison, Wisconsin, land of the two lakes, extreme winters, and cheese curds. For the past few months, Bob and I have been reliving our graduate experiences and trials through our children, including their struggles with roommates, teaching their first classes, and choosing research advisors. Both have been very successful in their first few months at graduate school, and I’m pleased to think that I played a role in both of their careers, either as parent or teacher. The most satisfying part of teaching at Villanova is sharing in the successes of my students. Thanks to many of you for giving me the opportunity to briefly enter your lives.

Barry Selinsky, Professor and Chair, Chemistry

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Alumni Notes

Oliver Ludwig ’57 Editor. Vol. 23, begun January 2006

Some observations from “The Source of Us All”, the Villanova Chemistry Department: Prof. John Wójcik’s retirement makes me the “oldest pedagogue” in the Chemistry Department. I was the least senior for almost 20 years, so what goes around, ... Our Department’s (and the University’s) Environment Chemist, Mike Tomcavage, got a call to dispose of what he thought they said was “oxides”. When the shipment arrived it was a jar of Ox Eyes!

Here are some of the things we have heard from you, our “Output”. Much of the following came in response to my asking people to help Prof Deanna Zubris in her organizing of our Professional Development Seminar (PDS), required of all undergraduate Chem majors. References to “helping out” and the like refer to speaking at the PDS. [Editorial comments passim in square brackets]

Jim Markham ’50 and Tom Wieckowski ’66 have turned into historians: they have written the history of their parish, St Luke the Evangelist in Glenside PA, to commemorate the parish’s centennial.

Joe Clark, Herb Rammrath, Hank Whalen, and your editor, all ’57 are involved in the planning for the celebrating of the 50th anniversary of our graduation from Villanova. It seems like just yesterday that we were almost permanent residents of the Senior Lab on the fourth floor of what is now Tolentine Hall, but was Mendel in Our Day. We’ll spend the weekend of 8-10 June 2007 in dorms on campus. [In the apartments – assuredly not in Sullivan Hall!]

Bill Hurley ’62 dropped by my office in late February. He’s retired and teaching part time in the Management Department in the Villanova School of Business [née C&F].

Don Pichler MS ’64 is CEO of Family Physicians of Albuquerque.

John Mras ’65, MS’66 emails: I left Villanova in the spring of 1966 to work for Sylvania in Towanda, PA. It was the only job I ever had. I retired from there, after 36 years, in November of 2001. I'm now living a bachelor's life in Sayre PA, and I'm in the "tall clover". John Mras, Retired Gentleman (on occasion).

Irving Ostrich MS ’69, PhD ’77 died on June 20, 2006. Pray for him; he was a Good Guy.

From Bob Hamburger ’69: I work for Novozymes as a Senior Account Manager, selling enzymes for 35+ years and happy to say that one of my best customers is Dr Marianne Wolfram Zappone ’88, Manager of Technology, Global Detergent Product Development, Colgate-Palmolive Company. I was the leader of one of these PDS seminars nine years ago and am willing to help again. If Dr Zubris is interested, I suggest a topic of “Technical Sales in the Biotech Industry”. The spirit of this will be on getting into the business side of the Chemical/Biotech Industry. I’ll reference Prof Joe Bausch on this, since he was at my last seminar. If he thought it was OK, you can have it again. If not, no problem. Go Villanova! Bob.

Gene Marino MS ’75 writes: after 11 years as an R&D bench chemist at Wyeth Pharmaceutical doing process development and scale-up to pilot plant, I moved into the pilot plant as a one-man process validation scientist. I then be-
came manager of parenteral manufacturing, which included sterile bulk chemical manufacturing, sterile formulation, filling, and warehouse operations. I moved on to site project manager where I lead numerous pharma compliance projects including pre-approval inspection teams, post-approval inspection teams, a product launch team, and numerous other special-focus teams relating to FDA consent decree remediation. I also served as head of the site procedures and policies department and project manager for the site technical services (validation) department. I finally served as a project lead on the site decommissioning team as the site was closed for operations. I currently work as a pharmaceutical compliance contract consultant. Please let me know if you have interest in sharing my experience for your students. Gene.

Mike Lamb ’75 MD writes: I would be willing to participate if so desired. My career has centered around internal medicine, a field that is probably the most “chemical” in the medical arena. I also have an interest in the philosophy and history of science. My most recently submitted paper deals with the chemical composition of ear wax and the resulting clinical implications. There are of course many other subjects that could be possible topics. Let me know if I can help. [Mike has endowed a lectureship at Villanova on “Augustine and Modern Science”.]

Sr Joan Riethmiller MS’75: emails: I recently went to the Science and Religion Seminar at VU, the one sponsored by the Lamb family. It was quite fine. My own update is that I am now the co-director of the SSJ Spirituality Center in Chestnut Hill (on the grounds of Chestnut Hill College and the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse). I am involved in spiritual direction, days of prayer and retreat work. If anyone is interested in any of our services, they can call our secretary at 215-248-7222. Can you think of anything more removed from those Chemistry labs? Yet, there is a strong move to integrate the science and spirituality!

Kevin Gosselin ’82 wrote: Hi Oliver! Thanks for your note about PDS. Attached is my c.v. Let me know if I would be considered. I did use my Chemistry degree while serving in the US Navy on a nuclear submarine and also later as a mechanical engineer. Unfortunately, I don’t use it much any more as I’m doing finance and legal services now. Nonetheless, the foundation that my Chemistry degree provided has helped me immensely over the years with problem solving and complex thinking. Kevin.

Joe Perno ’82 visited us in October, then wrote: I completed my MA and PhD studies in physical inorganic chemistry at Princeton University. My thesis involved UV Raman spectroscopy of nucleic acids and their metal ion complexes, and I was the TA for quantum chemistry. My medical studies were completed at Duke University. I am a board certified radiologist, doing interventional radiology. [I hope to see both Kevin (above) and Joe this June, at their 25th graduation anniversary, along with others who graduated in years ending with a 2 or a 7.]

From Ece Bulak Ogunc MS ’85 writes: I have been living in Germany since 2002. I am at the University of Stuttgart. I wish you and the Chem department a happy new year. With my best wishes. Ece. [She has a Dr Rerum Nat. degree and is Lecturer in inorganic chem.]

Tom Hagan ’85 writes: Oliver- I hope all is well with you. I think of you often when impressing upon my students the importance of being meticulous when solving chemical-related problems. Back in freshman chemistry when we had our gas laws test, you had a question about supplying astronauts in space with LiO2 as a source of oxygen. I think something like 95% of the students (myself included) killed the astronaut because we did not convert the temperature of the gas to 37°C! These days I find myself quite busy. I have now been the biochemistry professor at Elizabethtown College for 14 years. In addition to teaching the biochemistry sequence of courses, I also teach a variety of biochemistry-related courses to the non-science population. One of my favorite courses is the Chemistry and Politics of Cancer and AIDS which evaluates if the public policies concerning these diseases reflect the biochemistry that is currently known about them. It’s an exciting class. We have some rather intense discussions. My time has gotten even more precious as I recently became the assistant Dean for the First-Year Program at the College. So, as some of my colleagues have pointed out, I have turned to the Dark (aka, administrative) Side.

On the home front, things are just as hectic. We have five kids ranging from 14 to six, the youngest being a set of twins! Daily schedules frequently border on the hysterical: my wife is one of the few remaining OB/Gyn’s who still does de-
liversies in the state of Pennsylvania. We live in Hershey, so if anyone is ever up to Hershey Park, please feel free to stop in; we are only four blocks from the Park. Continued best wishes, Tom.

I saw Bill Hurley & Janice Derivan, both ’86 at VU’s June Alumni Reunion. Bill got his PhD in Materials and now is with E-inks, which produces displays using electrophoresis. This method requires much less power than LCDs, and is non-volatile. He mentions that the segue from his Chem degree into Materials was very smooth.

From Joan Dorley Ellis ’88: I am just now reading the latest edition of The Villanova Chemist and am noticing (again) that there are no alumni notes from the members of my class (BS 1988). Since I have never sent any in myself, perhaps I can get the ball rolling.

I have been working at Merck for 17+ years as a bioanalytical chemist in the drug metabolism department. Over the years my job has evolved, but I have settled into doing bioanalysis/pharmacokinetics of drug discovery compounds using LC-MS/MS. The pace is quick and there are day-to-day changes and challenges since I work early in the drug-development process. But I like it lots and can’t picture myself working outside of the lab. By the way, Joe Pawluczyk ’89 works a few doors down from me.

My spare time is spent dealing with my kids’ school and sports activities. I have a daughter who is ten and a son who is eight and they are involved in too many things! As a result, I can add to my resume the following: soccer coach, softball coach, Girl Scout leader, cookie mom, Boy Scout leader, Home and School Association secretary, science fair judge, chauffeur, organizer, scheduler, ... It keeps me on my toes! Joan.

From Mike Byrnes ’89: I recently was assigned full time as a Senior Team leader for the New York FBI Evidence Response Team (Crime Scene team), so that is all I do now, though I currently have a few little projects going on here as well. I am working with [Villanova] Prof Heljena McKenney to come in February to put on a crime scene investigations lab for her Criminalistics course. That being said, if you guys are stuck for an open slot in PDS I would be happy to come in and talk. I think I did this two years ago or so. Let me know if you need a body. [I hope that Mike is not being literal here!] I should be able to pull up a few stories and photos from some crime scenes and deployments. I can also tailor any talk to a specific topic if that is what you are looking for there. Hope things are going well for you there. I’m looking forward to catching up with you when I help out in February, as well as with Prof Giuliani, who I saw was featured in the most recent “Villanova Magazine”. Sincerely, Mike.

Ricardo Alvarado MS’90, PhD’92 continue as Nicaragua’s Ambassador to Denmark. He recently sent an email describing how a young woman in Denmark (in the 1930’s) who won a Millionaire-for-a-Day contest chose, as her prize, spending a day with Prof Einstein! Just think how things have changed! Nowadays, Brad Pitt?

From Michael Ott ’91: Greetings Oliver and Villanova Chemists. After graduating from Villanova, I moved west and received my PhD from UC Santa Barbara in Organic Chemistry. We then moved up to San Francisco where we’ve been ever since. My wife (Sabina) and I have two kids (Julia-7, Sam-5) and are enjoying parenthood. We continue to enjoy the Bay Area and its culture, big trees, and National Parks. I continue to work at The Clorox Company in the San Francisco area. It’s been almost 10 years now and I’m still enjoying it. I manage the R&D Division for Clorox’s Home Care Products. I find the chemistry interesting and challenging – dealing with surfactants, biocides, polymers, and other cleaning-type components that we use in our homes every day. Together with the people and the strategies, there is never a dull moment. Michael.

Gary Speier MS’91 JD writes to Prof Deanna Zubris: I would be happy to give a seminar to the Chem majors. I am a chemical/pharmaceutical patent attorney. While I practice in the Twin Cities (Minnesota), I do make it back to the northeast a few times a year to meet with clients. For the seminar that I already have prepared, "Patents 101 for Chemists and Biologists", I have given it several times to medical students, chemistry undergraduate students, as well as chemistry graduate students. If this sounds suitable to you, please let me know. Otherwise, good luck in your endeavors. Best regards, Gary.

From Jean Zabin ’96 JD: I was viewing a Villanova Chemistry webpage and saw that I am listed among the "missing Villanova chemistry contacts". I am currently practicing law in Atlanta. I was at a firm for the last few years and re-
James Scull PhD ’02 sends a press release: “Pharmalytica Services, LLC of Newton, CT is pleased to announce the hiring of Kurt Moyer, PhD ’99 to the position of Director, Analytical and Bioanalysis. Dr Moyer has more than 15 years of pharmaceutical development experience spanning all areas from discovery support to Phase III clinical trials. Kurt’s primary responsibility will be to apply his depth and breadth of technical expertise to guide the daily operations of our laboratories. As part of this critical leadership role, Kurt will also provide Pharmalytica Services’ clients with project management that is designed to accelerate the development process.”

“Dr Moyer’s primary expertise is in the areas of GLP/GMP compliance, metabolism and pharmacokinetics, biochemistry, and chromatography. He is also an expert in the evaluation of anticoagulant and cardiovascular therapies. Dr Moyer has given numerous presentations at international meetings and has many publications in the area of separation science. He is also a member of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists and the American Chemical Society. Prior to joining Pharmalytica Services, Dr Moyer served as a Senior Research Investigator for Sanofi Aventis and a Research Scientist for the DuPont Pharmaceutical Company. Dr Moyer holds a PhD in Biochemistry from Villanova University and a BS in Biochemistry from Millersville State University.”

From Brian Scull ’97 MD: Hello Dr. Ludwig, I would be more than honored to speak at the PDS. Unfortunately, I am currently serving as a physician in Iraq. Also, I am stationed in San Diego. I was planning on coming to Villanova around June for my 10-year reunion, but I know classes will be out by then. Either way, please put me on your list for possible speakers and I will definitely let you know when I will be in town. Take care and thanks for the invite, Brian. [Stay safe, Brian!]

Chris Radano MS ’98 PhD via Prof Carol Bessel: Hey Carol, The new job [at Degussa] is cool – synthetic polymer chemistry (polymethacrylates). I’m still learning a lot, since I started in February. I was informed that I will soon be leading the synthetic group here (4-5 people) at RohMax once I am up to speed. Interesting thing is that due to some recent restructur-

ing, I will have the opportunity to do more innovative chemistry (i.e. new chemistry) than I originally thought. Chris.

From Pat Dougherty ’00: Hi Dr Ludwig. I enjoyed reading the last issue of the Villanova Chemist – it is great to hear what so many fellow alums are up to. Just wanted to let you know that I would be happy to be included in the alumni directory on the website. I will be graduating from Wharton with my MBA in May. I am pursuing a double concentration in finance and healthcare management. I have also recently accepted a position at L.E.K. Consulting in Boston and will begin work there in September. They have a large biotech consulting practice, so I will continue to use my chemistry background! All the best, Patrick

Jill Nunez ’02 updates us: Hi Nancy [Proud]. I’d like to update the chemistry department with my new position and e-mail address. I left Wyeth in August to work for Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research in Cambridge, MA. I am working in the same department as Erin Pusateri ’01 who started two weeks before I did (small world!!!) after finishing her PhD at Yale. Jill.

Nancy Ata ’03 is Associate Director of Villanova’s Campus Ministry.

Valerie Valentin Hoesch ’04 writes to Prof Barry Selinsky: It has been quite the busy two years since Villanova for sure. I know Jim Woods ’88 has contacted you about internship opportunities at Astra Zenica in Wilmington, DE in the past. I am contacting you now, to ask you to encourage undergrads who have had organic to submit their résumés as soon as possible. In the years past Villanova has given a good response to this program. Their résumés and any questions they may have about the program can be forwarded directly to me. On another more personal note, I do have some exciting news to share! My husband and I welcomed our son, Benjamin Robert, into the world on June 1st. Thanks and Take care, Valerie

Russ Wolff MS ’04 is taking education courses at Villanova to make a career change from working at Johnson & Johnson to school teacher. He has had to give up his volunteer firefighting. [But it’s nice to have a chemist who can fight fires!]

Bradley Stephens ’06 writes: Hello Dr. Selinsky. I am pleased to let you know that I am
enjoying my first year of medical school here at U. of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. We have just finished up our Medical Anatomy course. On top of the written information, we are required to know and identify the structures in lab as well. Let me tell you, I’ve found a new definition for hard work and effort. I will tell you that I am representing Villanova quite well, seeing that I am considered to be one of the top students in my class and have already acquired the title of “Gunner”. I am happy to have earned it because I love the material so much. Thanks again and I do miss the life at ‘Nova... Tell the Chem seniors I said hello as well. Bradley

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I hope you enjoyed learning of the exploits of our fellow alumni and alumnae and will let us know of good things happening in your own lives that we may pass them on in next year’s traditional [since 1957 at least] “Christmas Newsletter”.

Chemical alumnially, Ol Ludwig, ’57

P.S. Emails sent to Peter Simms, Safiye Sag, and Mike and Laura Adam have been returned as undeliverable. Please let us know if you have heard from them.

P.P.S.: Our Departmental web site is chemistry.villanova.edu, and our alumni page is www.villanova.edu/artsci/chemistry/societies/alumni.htm. Many of you have given permitted us to put your email addresses here. If yours has changed, or you are willing to have yours here, please let us know.