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B R Y N M A W R

November 2003

Dear Alumnae and Alumni,

In the 2001 Newsletter, we revealed that each year, we try to finish the Newsletter before the *College Finding List* makes its appearance. Well, it looks like we lost again – although, we can claim victory on a technicality. It's no longer called the *Finding List*. It's now the *Campus Directory*. Hereafter, we will always be ahead of the *Finding List*, which will appear nevermore.

We graduated 6 AB's last year and expect to graduate 7 this year. With only four juniors, next year will be a particularly small class, but we have 7 in the second year course and 15 freshman in P103 this year. We had six majors participate in research over the summer. Three did research on our campus; two did astronomy elsewhere -- one at Wellesley in the Keck program, and the other at Haverford; and another was at MIT. As has been the practice these past many years, all students doing summer research presented their work in the department's "Summer Research Talks" early this semester. Those who did work on campus also participated in a poster session highlighting science research done on campus over the summer.

Our graduate student population remains the same as last year at three full-time students and one part-time student. This fall, Bob Ekey in Liz McCormack's lab had his first peer-reviewed publication accepted. This paper describes his M.A. work and will appear in the *Journal of Chemical Physics Letters*. Last May Bob received the Doris Carland Prize for Teaching based on his work in the Introductory and Advanced Labs. Tom Carroll and Ahmed Rashed continue their work in Mike Noel's lab and Steve Hess continues to work part time with Al Albano. Bob and Tom presented the latest results of their work this fall in what is now an annual Graduate Student Research Symposium jointly sponsored by the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the Center for Science in Society.

This year, Michael Noel is on his junior leave, which he is spending on campus. Over the summer Mike launched a new Physics outreach program under the auspices of his NSF Career grant. He and a major, Flora Shepard, developed a Physics Demo Show designed for touring the local grade schools in the area. This past summer they constructed and tested a series of demos and to date they have given the show three times.

This semester Peter Beckmann is also on sabbatical leave, which he is spending both here and at the University of Delaware. Despite being on leave, Mike has two graduate students and Peter has two undergraduates doing research in their respective laboratories.

That leaves Liz McCormack, Al Albano, and Matthew Rice doing most of the teaching this semester. In addition, rejoining us this year as Laboratory Coordinator and Lecturer is Mark Matlin who is running the introductory laboratories. Mark did his undergraduate work at Swarthmore, got his Ph.D. in theoretical physics at Maryland and retooled himself as an experimental laser physicist working here with Neal Abraham (Ph.D. 1977, faculty 1980-1999) from 1992-1993. He taught in the department as an adjunct faculty member for a number of years, worked at Lockheed Martin for a while, and taught at Sarah Lawrence for four years before coming back to Bryn Mawr.

And, of course, Ann Daudert continues to keep the department running. Mary Scott still chairs the “Friends of the Library Committee” so we see her every now and then. More news and pictures are on the department webpage, <http://www.brynmawr.edu/Acads/Physics/>.

We are proud of all of you, the diversity and complexity of your lives and careers, and your continued interest in the College and the Physics Department. Please keep your emails, cards and letters coming and we will do our best to share messages and news in future letters. We look forward to your visits and hope to see many of you in the coming year.

We hope you will continue your financial support for the College’s programs. Support for the general funds of the College gives maximum flexibility to direct resources to buildings, faculty, financial aid or programs. However, if you wish to restrict your contributions to support programs in physics, we urge you to consider contributing to the endowment of the Marion Reilly Chair (the partially endowed professorial position held in turn by Walter Michels, Rosalie Hoyt, and Alfonso Albano), to the Helen Schaeffer Huff Fund which provides income to support a postdoctoral position that alternates between the physics and chemistry departments, to the Anna Pell Wheeler Fund which supports the department’s colloquium series, or to the Physics Mentoring Fund which was seeded by the mentoring award given the department by the White House in 1998.

Sincerely,

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We hear that ...

We apologize if any of the following is "old news" or if it has any inaccuracies. We try not to repeat information that appeared in previous newsletters. If corrections are needed, please let us know.

Spotted at reunion were Meg Carrington ('83), Emily Bell ('98), Chris Erwin ('98), Padmini Menu ('98), Marilyn Newhouse ('78) and Ann Wehrle ('78). There were rumors that Eun Mee Oh ('83) was also around, but she did not make an appearance at the Saturday morning coffee hour.

Abounadi, Jinane ('87) is teaching engineering at MIT, a fact discovered by **Mary Scott** (MA '87 and faculty member from 1988 to 1999) when Mary and Jinane bumped into each other at Dartmouth College last summer.

Aronson, Meigan ('80) is a full professor at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She and her group have been making nanoparticles lately in connection with her work on magnetism, particularly its stability in metals.

Belzer, Emily ('03) an Air Force officer, finished seven weeks of training in Alabama and will be entering intelligence training in Shreveport, LA.

Burbank, Kendra ('00) recently sent a note from Dresden, where she was attending a biophysics conference/vacation, to tell us that she just passed her orals (qualifying exams/prelims) and is now officially a Ph.D. candidate in the biophysics program at Harvard.

Choi, Yung Mi ('87) visited us last summer while her eight year old daughter attended a BMC Summer Music Program.

Claringbould, Katharine ('01) is working in the Quality Assurance Department of a medical device manufacturer in Melbourne.

Conn, Kathleen (Ph.D. '86) has been keeping very busy as the Science Supervisor in the West Chester (PA) School District. Last fall she taught "Curriculum and Peer Development" in the evening Graduate School of Education at Gwynedd Mercy College and this past spring she was an Adjunct at Widener School of Law, teaching Education Law.

Cooper, Nancy ('47) sent us a nice note saying "how impressed she is by the wide variety of professional work in which physics majors engage and how it confirms her belief that a liberal arts degree leads to many great things."

Costello, Laura ('98) has been admitted to a graduate program at Tufts University in Art History and Museum Studies. She started in Fall '03.

diGrazio, Jeanne (MA '92) works as a patent examiner at the US Patent Office in DC.

Ekey, Robert (M.A. '01), who is in the Ph.D. program working with Liz McCormack, received the Doris Carland Prize for Teaching in 2003. This is a great opportunity for the Department and the College to recognize his excellent work in the teaching laboratories and to thank him for his many contributions to the life of the department.

Elsing Galchus, Sarah ('89) is an ophthalmologist in Duluth, MN. She has just written her first mystery novel entitled, *Charleston Red*, Savage Press, 2003.

Engler, Emily ('01) started working for the AmeriCorps VISTA Habitat for Humanity Program in Montgomery County, PA.

Erwin, Christina ('98) has been working at Raytheon since graduation with a main focus on developing and improving submarine systems. She received her master's degree in Computer Science at Brown University in December 2002.

Erzan, Ayse ('70) is one of the five 2003 recipients of the "For Women in Science" awards given L'Oreal and UNESCO for lifetime achievements in condensed matter sciences. After Bryn Mawr, she went to SUNY Stony Brook for her Ph.D. She has since worked in Turkey, Switzerland, Portugal, Germany and the Netherlands. She is currently at Istanbul Technical University. Over the course of her career, she has studied phase transitions and scaling behavior in a wide variety of complex systems.

Gebbie, Katherine ('54) Director of the Physics Laboratory at NIST, received the 2002 Service to America Medal, "for career achievement." She was cited for being the founding director of the award-winning NIST Physics Laboratory, pioneering the practical application of emerging technologies, enhancing scientific career opportunities for women and minorities, and fostering a culture of excellence that has made NIST one of the world's preeminent research institutions.

She also received the Department of Commerce Gold Medal, "for leading NIST's Physics Laboratory and creating an atmosphere in which innovative scientific research flourishes in support of NIST's mission."

- Gershenson**, Anne ('91) is an assistant professor of Biophysical Chemistry at Brandeis University.
- Goodsell**, Anne ('02) is going to graduate school at Harvard.
- Halas**, Naomi (Ph.D. '86), Stanley C. Moore Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Professor of Chemistry at Rice University is busy organizing meetings and conferences for ACS, APS, MRS as well as her very own conference on Plasmonics (a new field!) for SPIE.
- Hess**, Steve who is in our Ph.D. program working with Al Albano has received the "Outstanding Paper Award" from the "Space Technology and Applications International Forum." His paper "Electrostatic Switched Radiator for Space Based Thermal Control" co-authored with Sung Oh was selected as the outstanding paper for a Conference on Thermophysics in Microgravity.
- Herd**, Maria ('02) is going to physics graduate program at the University of Wisconsin.
- Ing**, Eliesa ('02) is going to the University of Vermont College of Medicine, Burlington.
- Kruger**, Ellen ('02) is living in Philly and teaching middle school science at an all-girls school in Chestnut Hill.
- Kuranz**, Carolyn ('02) is in the applied physics program at the University of Michigan. She has started doing plasma physics, and is involved with inertial confinement fusion experiments with the Omega laser at the University of Rochester. She did another Omega experiment this summer at Lawrence Livermore Laboratories.
- Kutteruf**, Mary ('03) is starting the Ph.D. program in physics at the University of Virginia.
- Larese-Nixon** Sandy ('96) is the Assistant Director, University of Virginia, Office of Minority Programs (School of Engineering & Applied Science) and a full-time graduate student working toward a Masters of Teaching Degree in Secondary Science Education in Physics. She has been active in exposing girls/women (K-UG) to technical careers and educational paths necessary for these pursuits.
- Levy**, Carla ('93) has recently graduated from NYU Law School and is practicing patent law in Boston.
- Liu-Stenger**, Su-Nin ('83) is the Operations/ Project Manager at Telcordia Technologies, Inc. After graduation from BMC she earned her M.S. in Physics at Drexel University in 1985 and M.T.M. (Masters in Technology Management) at Steven Institute of Technology in 1997.
- Mehrmanesh**, Laura ('01). Since graduation she worked for AmeriCorps, was a preschool teacher in Connecticut and took a 6-week cross-country road trip! She is currently a research assistant enrolled in the Ph.D. program in Electrical Sciences and Computer Engineering at Brown University.
- Menu**, Padmini ('98) graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law this past May and plans to take the patent bar this fall.
- Moore**, Lindsay ('00) received her M. Phil from Stanford. She is enrolled in the Ph.D. Program studying Mesoscopics and working on spin interaction in 2-D electron gasses.
- O'Neill**, Ann ('83) is working at Ford trying to figure out how to build a better catalyst (among other things).
- Oey**, Sally ('86) is an Assistant Astronomer at the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, AZ. She received her Ph.D. in Astronomy at the University of Arizona in 1995. She was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge University 1995-1998 and a STScI Institute Fellow as the Space Telescope Science Institute 1998-2001. She also recently received a 3-year NSF Career grant on "Diagnostic Signatures of Radiative Feedback from Massive Stars".
- Ohashi**, Kyoko ('95) finished her M.S. in Meteorology at Rutgers in October '97 and just received her Ph.D. last May in Marine Sciences at SUNY Stony Brook.
- Paty**, Carol ('01) writes that she "is plugging along" with her research and classes in Earth and Space Sciences at the University of Washington. She passed her candidacy examinations last year.
- Ramond**, Tanya ('94) is currently an NRC Postdoctoral Fellow at NIST in Boulder. She "literally moved down the street" after finishing her Ph.D. at the University of Colorado in May 2001. Her current research involves working with femtosecond lasers with the ultimate goal of improving the atomic clocks which comprise the time standard for the US.

- Ross**, Becky ('80) is working for NOAA in DC modeling climate change. Her other interests include pottery making and mountain music. She and her husband, Bill Mitchell, have just released a CD entitled, *On the Brink, Peat & Barley*, she plays the fiddle and he plays the dulcimer. Tracks include reels, Celtic jigs, airs and a waltz.
- Sekaric**, Lidija ('97) received her Ph.D. from Cornell in June. In July, she started working at IBM in Yorktown Heights where **Patricia Mooney** (Ph.D. '72) is a Senior Scientist.
- Sheridan** Eng, Julie ('88) has relocated to Silicon Valley in Northern California. She has taken a position with Finisar doing research in optoelectronics.
- Sivitz**, Laura ('96) joined the staff of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies in Washington, D.C., as a Research Associate in July 2002. She is assisting in a study on transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (fatal neurodegenerative diseases that include mad cow disease). She combines her background in science (BMC) and journalism (Northwestern University, MSJ '01) to work as a co-writer and editor of the just-released interim report of the study, "Advancing Prion Science".
- Slonaker**, Erin ('99) an editor at Quirk Books in Philadelphia, she wrote a book for kids about three years ago, "The Vampire Hunter's Handbook." It is a pocket-sized guide that readers can "carry around while on 'missions,'" Slonaker says, "but it is comprehensive enough that the readers have learned about these paranormal oddities even if they never find one."
- Solheim**, Karla ('99) has started graduate school at MIT this Fall in the Department of Urban Planning.
- Stellman**, Emma ('97) returned to Bryn Mawr last March to give a colloquium entitled, "The Impact of School Reform on High School Physics: A Look at Curriculum, Assessment, and Pedagogy." After graduating BMC Physics in 1997 Emma taught high school physics in California. After surviving her first year of teaching she attended Stanford where she received a Masters of Education. She moved to Massachusetts in 1999 and became a physics teacher at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, a large urban public school. She is currently at CRLS where she has been developing and implementing a *Physics First!* curriculum as well as mentoring new physics teachers, giving seminars on Portfolio Assessment, and being an advocate for school reform.
- Terrell**, April ('01) is teaching 2d to 7th grade physical sciences classes and algebra to 2-8th graders at the Maret School in DC, where **Mita Gupta-Forsyth** ('78) has been teaching for a number of years.
- Walters** Costa, Michele ('84) received a B.S. in Engineering and Applied Sciences at Cal Tech in 1985 and worked at IBM for seven years. She is now returning to the workforce as a substitute teacher at her local school district in Germantown, MD.
- Weber**, Tracy ('97) received an MPH from Columbia University in May 2001 and is currently working in New York City's Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence as a Project Director.
- White**, Heather ('97) is working as a technical writer in Germany.
- Wyeth- Peterson**, Cynthia ('54) continues to teach physics at UConn where she is Full Professor. She gives astronomy lectures and workshops for CT schools and libraries and is active in recruiting and supporting women in physics careers. Her current research interests are in NMR solution structure of metalloproteins, condensed matter properties of biomaterials and planetary surfaces, and thermoluminescent dating of archaeological artifacts and thermally shocked rocks.
- Youngblood**, Abby ('01) after a year of travel in Kenya, India, and Russia on her Watson Scholarship, is working for the Food Stamp Enrollment Campaign in Philadelphia and is pursuing her interests in environmental issues..
- Zurick-Oran**, Elaine ('67) has been elected to the National Academy of Engineering. She notes "that it is interesting that the subjects they chose to cite, and the work that led to this award, are based on what I studied at BMC, and not what I did in graduate school at Yale."

Everyone mentioned in the Newsletter has expressed 'a great big hello to all.' If you want to get in touch with anyone please contact the Physics Department or the Alumnae/i Office.

PHYSICS ALUMNAE/I DATA UP-DATE FORM**SEND TO:****BY MAIL:**

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BY EMAIL: (adaudert@brynmawr.edu), **OR BY FAX:** (610/526-7469)**NAME** _____ **CLASS YEAR** _____**CURRENT ADDRESS** _____**CURRENT JOB TITLE** _____**CURRENT EMPLOYER** _____**HOME PHONE** _____ **WORK PHONE** _____ **FAX** _____**EMAIL** _____ **WEBPAGE** _____**EDUCATION AFTER GRADUATION AT BRYN MAWR****CAREER PATH** _____**LATEST ACTIVITIES** _____

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