I write with spring / summer greetings to all friends of the Clemson chemistry department. We are at the end of one of our busiest academic years ever, with an all-time high in the number of students taught and the number of chemistry majors registered in our programs. Chemistry is as important to a Clemson education as it has ever been and more students than ever are seeing the value of academic study in chemistry. We have much to be happy about.

First off I congratulate all of our new graduates! At the spring 2011 graduation we had 12 BS, 4 BA, 2 Masters, and 3 PhD graduates receive their degrees. Congratulations and best wishes to all of these students, as they embark on their post-Clemson plans. See inside for a list of our graduates and photos from Honors and Awards Day.

This newsletter includes items of interest across many generations of Clemson chemistry. We welcome several new faces including both faculty and staff. Dr. Daniel Whitehead will be joining us this fall as Assistant Professor of Chemistry, specializing in organic synthetic methodology. Dr. Whitehead already has a page posted on our department web site which describes his research interests in more depth. He is moving here with his wife Kristi and their young child. Dr. Whitehead will join Dr. Joe Thrasher, a senior hire, in starting at Clemson this fall. We also welcome two new staff members; Ms. Heather Shelton and Ms. Trish Negro, both of whom will work as Student Service Program Coordinators. Of course, with new arrivals come departures. This past spring we said goodbye to Mr. Dave Matthews and Ms. Deanna Burns, both Student Services Program Coordinators, as they left for other positions. We also say goodbye to Dr. Marvin Doerr, who has taught organic chemistry as a Lecturer at Clemson since December, 1997, and to one of our most senior and decorated tenured professors, Professor Darryl DesMarceau, who officially entered retired status in February 2011. We do however expect to see much of Darryl as he remains active in research, and as mentor / senior colleague to us all.

This spring also witnessed the passing of a longtime Clemson faculty member, Dr. George Savitsky. George was a Clemson faculty member from the late 1960s to the late 1980s in the area of physical chemistry. His contributions are well remembered and he will be missed.

The newsletter includes several other articles on awards won by our faculty and students, and on happenings with our student groups. Our summer is as active as ever, with summer undergraduate students coming for our annual SURP program, and a new group of beginning graduate students expected in fall.

I close with some thoughts on the future. Clemson is in the midst of a strategic planning exercise the end result of which will be out next ten-year plan, taking us to 2021. Chemistry is likely to figure prominently in this plan in many areas including the technical areas of advanced materials, energy, transportation, health, and the environments, as well as in foundational education areas including Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) education. I know I represent the faculty in extending my heartfelt thanks for the support of our friends of alumni, and I look forward to staying engaged with you as we work to build the Clemson of the future.
**MELANIE COOPER EARNs CLASS OF 1939 AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE**

Chemistry Professor and interim chair of engineering and science education, Melanie Cooper, has been recognized by her peers and the Class of 1939 as one the University's very best. She received the Class of 1939 Award for Excellence, which recognizes faculty for highest achievement in service to students, the University and the community. Dr. Cooper received a $5,000 stipend and became an honorary member of the class of 1939. Her name was inscribed on the Class of 1939 bell monument in the Carillon garden. The Class of 1939 has recognized an outstanding faculty member each year for the past 22 years. An excellent teacher and adviser, Cooper is the principal investigator on four current NSF grants and co-principal investigator on two more. All focus on the development and assessment of new teaching and learning materials.
**HONORS AND AWARDS DAY, APRIL 2, 2011**

The Department of Chemistry Honors and Awards Day Luncheon was held on April 2, 2011 at the Clemson University Outdoor Lab-Kresge Hall. The following awards were presented at that time:

- **Senior Research Award** - Timothy Thorne & Patrick Morgan
- **Chemistry Faculty Award** - Caleb Hilley
- **American Chemical Society Award** - Vincent Kassel
- **American Institute of Chemists Award** - Patrick Kellish
- **Merck Index Award** - Tyler Duniho
- **Houghton Mifflin/ICUC First Year Chemistry Award** - Shane Williams
- **Chemical Rubber Company Award** - Earl Thomas Ritchie
- **Outstanding Student in General Chemistry** - Michael Brady
- **Outstanding Student in Introductory Chemistry** - Timothy D. Kanuer
- **Outstanding Student in Organic Chemistry** - Samantha Elhomsi
- **Outstanding Sophomore Chemical Major** - Meredith McSwain & Megan Sibley
- **Undergraduate Award in Analytical Chemistry** - David Longfield
- **Western Carolinas Section ACS Award** for Outstanding Chemistry Senior - Jared Stritzinger
- **Graduate Teaching Assistant Award** - Duminda Sanjeeva & Palmer West
- **Outstanding Graduate Research Award** - Palmer West
- **Mark Bernhard Hardin Prize in Chemistry** - Jared Stritzinger
- **Warwick Chemical Foundation Prize in Chemistry** - Keith Johnson

**DECEMBER, 2010**

**PhD**
- Wenjin Deng
- John C. Heckel
- Angy Lorena Ortiz Hernandez
- Julio Roberto Pinzon Joya
- Xin Wang
- Alberg Eugene Willis III

**Masters**
- Christopher Cole Underwood

**MAY, 2011**

**PhD**
- Charles M. Kimani
- Charles Derrick Quarles, Jr.
- Matthew Scott Williams

**Masters**
- Alma O. Gonzales
- Thora Rebecca Maltais

**BA**
- Jessica Nicole Aldred
- Heather Marie Brinson
- Kelly Marie Stafford
- Angelica Akia Williams

**GrADUATIONS**

**PhD**
- Nicole Kristen Aversa
- Ashley Nicole Lawrence
- David Bryant Elton Watts

**Graduate Teaching Assistant Award** - Duminda Sanjeeva & Palmer West

**Outstanding Graduate Research Award** - Palmer West

**Mark Bernhard Hardin Prize in Chemistry** - Jared Stritzinger

**Warwick Chemical Foundation Prize in Chemistry** - Keith Johnson

**Staff News**

**Welcome TRISH NIGRO**

Trish joined the department on May 20 as the new Undergraduate Student Service Coordinator. Trish comes from the Clemson University History Department where she served as an Administrative Specialist. Trish lives in Clemson with her husband, Chris and their two children. In her spare time Trish enjoys gardening and watching football with her family.

**Welcome HEATHER SHELTON**

Heather also joined the department on May 20 as the new Graduate Student Services Coordinator. Heather comes from Southern Wesleyan’s Greenville Campus where she was student coordinator. She lives in Taylors with her husband and loves to travel.

**Fairwell to DEANNA BURNS and DAVE MATTHEWS**

The Chemistry Department bids a sad farewell to former Graduate Student Coordinator, Deanna Burns. Deanna left the department in May for a new position as Director of Admissions at the Clemson University MBA Program in Greenville.

Dave Matthews left the Chemistry Department in February for a position with Records and Registrations, located in Sikes Hall.

Best wishes to Deanna and Dave with their new positions.

**CGSO News**

The Chemistry Graduate Student Organization (CGSO) celebrated the conclusion of another wonderful year at a local sushi bar, where we raffled away large prizes and enjoyed drinks to the sound of our peers and professors singing karaoke. The CGSO also provided a source to receive funding via Personal Enrichment Grants (PEGs). This year five students were awarded PEGs to travel to conferences to present their research and to network with other students and colleges in their field. Newly elected officers for 2011-2012 are Chris Underwood, President; Matt Zimmerman, Vice-President; Abby Schadock-Hewitt, Secretary; and Leah Corley, Treasurer.
GEORGE SAVITSKY (1925-2011)

George Savitsky had a remarkable life and was admired by many, especially by those faculty, staff, and students that were associated with him in the Clemson University Department of Chemistry. His early life was definitely one of adventure and excitement. George’s parents escaped from the Soviet Union to China during the early days of the Russian Revolution and that was where George was born on 10 March 1925 and where he received his early education. He graduated in chemical engineering with a Diplôme d’Ingenieur from L’université l’Aurore in Shanghai in 1942 at the age of 17. After World War II the Savitsky family and other Russian families escaped to the Philippines when China was taken over by the communists. The family was held in an internment camp for some time until Dr. Savitsky was able to gain employment in Honduras with the United Fruit Company as a soil chemist. It was in this Philippine internment camp that his and Lucy’s first child was born. It was also there that he wrote his first publication (Anal. Chem. 28 367 – 369 (1956)). While in Honduras he applied and was accepted to the chemistry graduate program at the University of Florida where he received his Ph.D. in the late 1950s. After graduation he began work in the Chemistry Department at the University of California – Davis. While at Florida he became well-acquainted with Garth Spencer who was also in the physical chemistry program there. Garth also graduated in the late 1950’s and had taken a position in the Clemson Chemistry Department. In the late 1960’s a position in the Department became open, Garth got George to apply for it and he was hired.

George had an extensive career at Clemson, teaching undergraduate and graduate physical chemistry and freshman chemistry classes. He always had a small group of graduate students working with him on a variety of nmr problems and they all seemed to enjoy working with George. He retired in the late 1980’s and continued to carry out some research projects for several years. During his later retirement years he enjoyed writing poetry. Just before he passed away he had completed a book entitled “Poetry, Essays and Parables”. It dealt with his experiences with science, chemistry, and life in general. George moved to the Asheville area around 2005 to be closer to some of his family and he passed away there on 18 March 2011. George’s wife Lucy was the first Russian instructor at Clemson and taught for many years before retiring. She passed away about two years before George.