Stony Brook University

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Dear Alumnae, Alumni, and Friends:

Greetings from the Chemistry Department at Stony Brook University! As we wrap up the calendar year, I'd like to share with you some big changes as we announce the retirements of two long-time faculty members, and welcome two new faculty.

Frank W. Fowler, Professor**,** retired May 2014. He developed thermal rearrangement and cycloaddition reactions for the synthesis of heterocycles, and diacetylene chemistry utilized in topochemically controlled polymerization. He brought active learning into the organic chemistry curriculum and recently established the LJ Altman Undergraduate Teaching Fellow Endowment to encourage the use of peer education in organic chemistry. The first Fellow was **Peter Giattini**, BS '14.

David M. Hanson, Distinguished Service Professor, retired December 2014. He pioneered studies of excitons and energy transfer in solids, and their molecular dynamics. He served as Dept Chair, and is a founder of POGIL, an NSF-supported chemical education consortium focused on guided inquiry.

With 90+ years of service between them, both Profs Fowler and Hanson have contributed to the life of the Chemistry Department in too many ways to fully enumerate here. We thank them and look forward to continued collaborations with them in our undergraduate courses as they provide ancillary support to undergraduate learning!

Melanie Chiu, Assistant Professor, joined us in September. She is undertaking polymer synthesis for applications in materials science. She is investigating how to incorporate monomers in a sequence-specific fashion, and how these sequences affect the polymers' physical and material properties, from their elasticity to their ability to function in solar cells.

Chris Johnson, Assistant Professor, also joined us in September. He is addressing challenges in atmospheric chemistry and climate change. Specifically, he is exploring how delicate balance of small forces between molecules leads to changes in the behavior of large objects such as atmospheric particles and rain drops or catalysts used for industrial-scale energy production.

Stony Brook under the lead of **Prof Esther Takeuchi** received DOE funding for an Energy Frontier Research Center to develop higher performing energy storage systems; **Prof Scott Laughlin** received an NSF Brain EAGER award for his work tracing neural circuitry with chemical probes. **Prof Iwao Ojima** was elected to the National Academy of Inventors and will be inducted in March 2015. Two faculty were named Associate Editors: **Prof Stanislaus Wong**, *ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces*, & **Prof Peter J. Tonge**, *ACS Infectious Disease*. As you can see, SBUChem has major strengths in materials chemistry and chemical biology

In closing, Stony Brook Chemistry had a strong presence at the first **ACS Shanghai-sponsored conference** in Jiangyin, Jiangsu province, China organized in part by SBUChem alumni Dr. Jiaquan Wu PhD '02 and Mr. Guoping (Charlie) Xiao MS '01. Profs Tonge, Ojima, SBUChem alum Dr. John Piwinski BS '76, and myself presented. As part of our visit, we had a small alumni reunion with others in the area. It was wonderful to see our alumni thriving in new ventures in Asia, and I hope that there are more such opportunities to meet or reconnect with you in the future. We look forward to hearing of your activities and the opportunity to "meet up" wherever you may be. Please join our alumni group on LinkedIn: SBUChemistry Alumni so that we can stay connected.

All the best for happiness and success in 2015!

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