
Memories & Well Wishes

Retirees & New Department Members

★ John has been a model scientist, family participant, and educator for me. As a scientist, he is relentlessly curious, willing and able to rewrite his understanding of scientific phenomena, and patient in the face of setbacks. As a member of his family, he is invested, present, and ready to welcome those who pass through his life (e.g. his grad students). As an educator, he is interested in testing new ideas in constant pursuit of an improved student experience and improved learning. I count myself blessed to have been influenced by him, and I hope to carry the inspiration of those characteristics and choices with me for my entire life. **John Wright**

- ★ Kendall has always been a welcoming presence in the sometimes intimidating shop environment. I won't forget working with Kendall as a first year graduate student, he was quietly bemused by my incompetence but also patient and engaged. Congratulations on your retirement! **Kendall Schneider**
- ★ Jim was my 563 lab director, then my chair. He is quick with a joke and just about the most intelligent man I ever met. I gave him more stress than he deserved. He is not the only one who I could say that about. I hope he can forgive me. Best Wishes for the future. **Jim Weisshaar**

- ★ Kendall was always very helpful with quick metal/plastic projects that I needed help with to keep my glass projects moving forward. Kendall was also the source for some badass accordion music. Thank you for all of your help over the years and happy travels in retirement. **Kendal Schneider**
- ★ I don't think I ever understood NMR until I happened to talk with John during orientation this year. Brilliant scientist, but also excellent at explaining difficult concepts with people outside of his field. **John Wright**

★ My very first act as an assistant professor was to attend a nighttime summer lecture by Bassam addressed to high school teachers. It was a review of the Harvard study on student understanding of the seasons. I will never forget how Bassam led us through inquiries in science. You've been an inspiration to me ever since about connecting with students and demonstrating again and again - what else - that Science is Fun. Your Demonstration books have a prominent place on my bookshelf and have guided me, with Jim Maynard's help, in every general chemistry class that I teach. Thank you. **Bassam Shakhashiri**

★ It was a great privilege to share an office with Betty and John during the start of my time in the department. Betty was an incredible guide to all things department-related and I always learned something from our conversations. Thanks, Betty for your insight and for your unceasing encouragement. I wish we were still office-mates! **Betty Moore**

★ John is an absolutely outstanding teacher, always pushing to enhance the educational effectiveness of the department at all levels. He made a strong impression on me for his creative approach to teaching, and for his effective application of research methods to improving our courses. I will never forget the insight that I gained from John in the course of one experiment in the analytical laboratory course, where he demonstrated the value of structured active learning. I was one of the interviewers for the analysis component of his project, in which I conducted structured interviews to probe student understanding of a complex (though short) scientific paper. I will confess that going into those interviews I was skeptical that any student in an undergraduate analytical lab course would be able to understand the paper. To my surprise, some of the students that I interviewed were adept in their interpretation. I gained enormous insight into the teaching and learning process from the research team's analysis of their findings (*J. Chem. Educ.* 1998, 75, 8, 986), which greatly influenced my own approach to teaching. John was an outstanding department leader and role model and I am grateful to be his colleague. **John Wright**

★ Kendall has been a skillful and helpful part of the machine shop for many years. He taught me how to work with instrumentation gear, demo equipment and machining, not to mention the last minute issues for the needs of the annual christmas lecture. He is a kind and personable man whom I will miss. Take care and enjoy your new life. **Kendall Schneider**

★ We got to say our share in the booklet that Silvia put together. But I can't help saying thank you once again for leading us as Chair and as "chief challenger" of the status quo. And then you handed over your last job to me (Gil)...All is forgiven! **Jim Weisshaar**

- ★ For many years Kendall has been a friendly and helpful guide to students, staff, and faculty, as they constructed whatever was needed to advance their research. He approached everything with humor and good nature and his daily presence will be missed. Best wishes for retirement! **Kendall Schneider**
- ★ John is simply one of the most talented and kind people I have ever met. His presence in the department is like a moral compass or a lodestone of compassion. His work is of surpassing excellence and only eclipsed by his passion for doing it. It is hard to consider his pivot to research as retirement. **John Wright**

- ★ I am so grateful for your collaboration, insights, and expertise in our curriculum projects over the years, John. I most appreciate your selflessness and humor that you bring to everything: you teach me that none of this can be taken too seriously or we stop enjoying the process. I can't imagine many of these projects without you. Thankfully, you've misunderstood the point of retirement and plan to continue to participate as a hobby...I'll take it. **John Moore**
- ★ Thank you, Betty, for always being a warm, welcoming presence whenever I run into you. I have appreciated our short chats and brief hellos over the years! **Betty Moore**



Kendall has been a constant source of advice and expertise since he arrived in the machine shop. My students would often ask if they could spend more time in the shop - Kendall and Rick are there! Please let me make something just so that I can learn more. Thanks Kendall for enriching the lives of my students and my own and making our research the best it can be. **Kendall Schneider**



John, you have taught so much to so many. Beyond the theory and the technical details, you taught myself and many others how to be empowered, creative, independent scientific thinkers. The “feisty” culture you foster in your teaching and research communities has truly shaped this department and the careers of so many around the world. I’m watching with interest as you focus on research. **John Wright**

★ Jim was great at managing the stockroom. He handled things efficiently and was very dedicated to keeping the stockroom open. He is a wonderful and interesting person. I enjoyed our brief, friendly chats in the stockroom and our longer discussions at department social events. I miss him and his wife Sue Martin-Zernicke, who also retired recently from the Chemistry Department.

Jim Zernicke

★ John is an expert laser spectroscopist who took on the mantle of teaching the subject in its infancy. Thank you for providing your knowledge to us chemistry students and exhibiting the patience necessary in training us for this exciting field.

John Wright

★ Jim was an early influence on my department experience because he generously introduced me and my 5-month-old son to the excellent in-home daycare that his daughters, and later Mark Ediger's son, attended. That was my most urgent need upon arrival in Madison as an assistant professor, and will always be grateful for his thoughtful assistance. What gave me enormous respect for Jim was his choice, aided by the newly rejuvenated sabbatical program, to reconfigure his entire research program from gas-phase physical chemistry to biophysics. It was an absolute delight to have Jim join the team of biologically oriented chemists. He was an outstanding leader, first of the Biophysics training program and then the department, and I was exceptionally fortunate for his partnership in the first stage of department reorganization, during which time he served as the inaugural Associate Chair for Research. His advice to me over many years was always wise and thoughtful, and I really appreciated his input. **Jim Weisshaar**

- ★ I have enjoyed working with you over the years. Thank you for all the help and guidance over the years. We will both miss taking care of Larry. I hope you enjoy your retirement. **Betty Moore**
- ★ Thanks for being such a lively and active member of the departmental community for so many years! **Betty Moore**
- ★ Betty, thank you for being so welcoming to me and my family when we moved here a few years ago. It was very much appreciated. Hopefully we will still be able to see you around at dept functions now and then, but I hope you really enjoy retirement!
Betty Moore

★ Wait a minute - did John really retire? It seems like a second order phase transition. I still go to John for advice and insights, and I hope it never ends. You still have so much to teach all of us! **John Wright**

★ Jim Zernicke did a great job in the stockroom. He showed up and did the work, unglamorous but vital. He is a really nice man with a deep and interesting background. We had a few good talks about life, duty, and the department. I miss him as much for his advice as I do for his service to the department. Enjoy your time off, and take care. **Jim Zernicke**

★ I really appreciate the artistic aesthetic that Betty brought to our department. She did amazing work designing and laying out issues of J. Chem. Ed. and selecting the cover art, bringing a keen sense of the visual that truly enhanced a chemistry-focused publication. She greatly improved the visual environment of our department, bringing art in chemistry into our physical spaces in our prior and current remodeling projects. In these initiatives she teamed with John to fuse the science with the art in a manner that enhances the experience of everyone who traverses our hallways or meets in room 9341. I am grateful for her effort to enhance the chair's office art, and I am hoping that we can get pieces she selected properly installed in room 1129 and in hallways around the older buildings, in the not-distant future. **Betty Moore**



Steve Burke is not only a great chemist, but he is also a dedicated educator as well. He experimented with the newest learning platforms he could use. He cares as much about student success as he does synthesis. He is excellent at both. He has a unique sense of humor that comes out during conversation and lecture. He is a great mentor, and he has a real personal side. He is not afraid to share with colleagues and students alike. In my time working with him you could see him throw himself into the task of making new chemists. He really cares. **Steve Burke**



Nothing brought more excitement to my son and his friends than the annual announcement of Once Upon A Christmas Cheery in the Lab of Shakhashiri. I was never so popular with the junior crowd as when I had tickets to this annual event. For 50 years, Bassam brought joy and enthusiasm for science to audiences himself, and he made it possible for others to bring live chemistry into their classrooms through his five volumes of Chemical Demonstrations. **Bassam Shakhashiri**

★ What do you say about a legend? I got to see it all first hand. What an honor. **Bassam Shakhashiri**

★ I think Betty played a huge role in taking JCE to the next level. Her work both in volume and in quality is staggering. Betty also led many a happy gathering at home and away. I miss her energy every day. **Betty Moore**

★ I cannot emphasize how inspiring John is! When my son was very young, his class from Marquette Elementary School decided to take a field trip to one of the museums on UW-Madison's campus. My plan was to act as one of the chaperones and then break off from the group after we visited the physics museum. Sebastian and I would say hi to Jim and head home. I'm not sure why the class decided to follow us to the chemistry building, but we ended up in John's office. As busy as he was, John stopped to talk with the children. Listening to him, I was struck by how much he loved chemistry and how much he loved sharing knowledge about the relationship between science and humankind. I wouldn't be surprised if somewhere there is a young man or woman who remembered that day as one which shaped his or her decision to pursue a science career. **John Moore**

★ I was lucky to work with Bassam building some glassware for his Christmas Cheery shows. He was always easy to work with and was appreciative of the work. As luck would have it - one of those interactions also happened to be the funniest moment I've ever had working here in the department. Priceless - thank you Bassam and Rodney ! **Bassam Shakhashiri**

★ I am both waiting for and not in a rush for him to actually retire. He brings perspective and fresh insights to every teaching team conversation, curriculum decision, or student experience plan I've witnessed him participate in. **John Moore**

- ★ It has been extraordinary to get to know you over so many years. I absolutely agree with Judith - your artistic aesthetic has brought grace and beauty to our department. And as Jim Maynard said before, your deep insights and sensibilities and imagination and dedication have made the Journal of Chemical Education the very best in the world. You have a vitality and care of others that inspires us all, and just makes us feel better, each and every day. Thank you. **Betty Moore**
- ★ John is an incredible mentor and has profoundly impacted teaching and learning in our department. I always look forward to discussing anything education-related with John and have benefited enormously from his wisdom. I look forward to continuing these conversations in the years to come! **John Moore**



Thank you very much for being the kind and thoughtful person that you are. I appreciate all that you've done for the department, for science, for myself and for everyone in general. Your love of helping others see that science is fun and that you are more than happy to show them, shows what a great person you are. Thanks for including me in your shows, Playing Santa was always fun and I might not even need all that padding now .. lol .. Thank you Bassam for being my friend, stay safe and have fun my friend. **Bassam Shakhashiri**

★ Thank you for all you did for chemistry and for me. I really appreciated the talks we had when I lost my parents and for being there for me in a time of despair. You're a thoughtful, kind and wonderful person, who helped me get through a low point. I always enjoyed our talks about work that you needed and your insight into the printing world. Enjoy your retirement and I'll be joining you soon. Take care, stay safe and have fun my friend. **Betty Moore**

★ John Moore is a scholar, a mentor, a professor, a colleague, and dare I say, a friend. What a long strange trip it has been. Hopefully we can tarry a bit longer on this journey. **John Moore**

- ★ I have enjoyed our friendship and working with you. I was glad to be part of your last show, 50 years is a lot of shows. Enjoy your retirement. **Bassam Shakhashiri**
- ★ I enjoyed all of our chemical and musical collaborations, from the rhodium rainbow to concerts at chemistry. You are the impresario par excellence! **Bassam Shakhashiri**
- ★ A favorite family memory for me is bringing my kids to Bassam's holiday show! Irreplaceable! **Bassam Shakhashiri**
- ★ Bassam, although I am a more recent addition to the dept, it was a real thrill to have a couple nice conversations with you and to get to see the famous Christmas shows with my children. They were just as great as I had hoped they would be. All the best. **Bassam Shakhashiri**

- ★ Steve was a superb supervisor and mentor to me during his time as path chair. I am so grateful for his careful guidance, unswerving support, and dark humor as we navigated some unprecedented situations. **Steve Burke**
- ★ Thanks for your always taking time to help me with any instructional needs I had as well as helping with the ICE outreach efforts over the many years we worked together. **Tom Ladell**



One of the oddest sensations going from a student to an employee is changing how to behave around former instructors. In this case, going from “Professor Moore” to “John” was something I wasn’t sure how to handle. Fortunately, it was among the easiest transitions I could have asked for. John has been nothing if not a friendly, supportive collaborator ever since I have known him. He carries an aura of approachability, and has always had helpful insights whenever we have collaborated together. His contributions to the department, especially in regards with the upcoming building, genuinely cannot be overstated. The only regrets I could have is that I didn’t work for longer with John and that I only witnessed him in his halloween wizard outfit once. **John Moore**

- ★ I will forever benefit from having you as a colleague, your inspiring chemistry, your service to younger colleagues (including, but not limited to me) and the department, and friendship. Lavell and I will perennially look forward to our fishing excursions in the north woods. Wishing you (and Sue) a wonderful retirement! **Steve Burke**
- ★ Tom Ladell did an absolutely staggering amount of work for the department. His professionalism and dedication to the labs may never be surpassed. I cannot count how many times I leaned on his knowledge or his help. I will never forget him. I try to live up to his standards in my own professional life, although unsuccessfully. Best wishes for your future. **Tom Ladell**

★ I am enormously grateful to have had John as a colleague, and to have had the opportunity to work closely with him in the redesign of Chem 109 and the design of Chem 311. I came into the world of learning management systems at an early stage, because John was an early adopter and was using WebCT for his general chemistry classes. John was game to try my learning objective driven choice test strategy. We merged our approaches in the new Chem 109, and taught the class collaboratively until Mahesh arrived and took over my role. We reconvened not long afterwards to become the primary instructors in Chem 311, where we worked together to implement the UCLA calibrated peer review system for laboratory report writing and John developed problem-guided exercises to implement in the newly available active learning classrooms. Much of my own approach to teaching draws on lessons learned from John. I want to be sure to call out John's contributions to our entire general chemistry program, from his years of leadership as General Chemistry Division chair, his financial support for development of computer-based laboratory instructional materials, to his creativity in leadership navigating the enormous growth of our student population. And more recently, John has been the key player in the instructional design for our new building, bringing together everyone who teaches within our enormous undergraduate program to develop the plans, which we truly hope to be able to implement in our new spaces in the coming semester. **John Moore**

★ Bruce has been with the Chemistry Department for as long as I have. In that time, he has become a person that everyone depended on for one of the most important functions in the Department - getting their copies prepared correctly and on time. Bruce won numerous awards for his service with the Department. I found out just how hard it is to get everything right when Bruce had surgery in January of 2017. Quite a few of us took over to get manuals prepared before the start of Spring classes; I know some of my work was, shall we say, functional but not stellar during that time. One little-known fact about my relationship with Bruce is that my wife and I worked with him and Cathy when they were preparing to get married. (Linda and I worked with the Marriage Prep program in the Catholic church at the time.) I'm very pleased to say that Bruce and Cathy have raised two wonderful daughters, and have had a strong relationship over the years. We will miss you, Bruce! **Bruce Goldade**



What an influence you have had on my career, from advice on teaching at every stage to your exquisitely logical and imaginative discussions in Teacher's Tea to your writing of our gen chem textbook to your extraordinary leadership in the construction of the new building. You have guided us in general chemistry education so thoroughly and for so many years. I've cherished every moment under your tutelage, even including measuring the distance from the chalkboard to see how large the letters must be to be legible. It's hard - okay impossible - to imagine the department without you. I think that we will be seeking your advice for many years. Thank you for all that you have done. **John Moore**

★ CONGRATS on your retirement. Hoping that you and Betty have a wonderful time in retirement and enjoy the outdoors. Thanks for all your hard dedication for the new building. Having you stop by to get all the different changes to what was going on meant that you were going above and beyond to make sure that everything would and could happen when it could. Take care, stay safe and have fun my friend. **John Moore**

★ Thanks for all your help over the years with ICE and other activities I have been involved in. It was always a pleasure to work with you. **Mike Bradley**

- ★ Bruce is the GOAT. He always delivers the highest quality work, always on time and with superb organization. He has bailed me out of many last-second, handout-based situations with a smile, despite my promises to never be so late again! Not only a star performer, Bruce is a wonderful and generous human, with a knack for a fun story or observation. A pillar of the department is leaving us, and it won't be the same. Wishing you a long and happy retirement! Take it easy, buddy. **Bruce Goldade**
- ★ The exotic molecules of interstellar space still await their discovery at your hands! And we still love to listen to your stories of science and scientists past and present. I have learned so much from you about quantum mechanics and thermodynamics and analytical chemistry, and how to think through complex problems. Your lectures in white shirts and rolled up sleeves, with no notes in site, are the stuff of legend. I look forward to learning much more from you when we return to Daniels and our labs. **Claude Woods**

- ★ Hey Bruce! Good on ya! You have been a stalwart support for the department since I was a student here. Thanks for your contributions to the good of the department. Go have some fun! **Bruce Goldade**
- ★ Jerry is a careful and dedicated scientist, educator, and scholar in his own right. He has been an integral part of the Wisconsin Institute for Science Literacy for many years. I have had the opportunity to learn from Professor Bell about real life chemistry issues, like climate change, radiation and science education. He is a consummate professional and his steady presence at WISL will be missed. Congratulations and best wishes wishes for the future! **Jerry Bell**
- ★ It is hard to imagine how we will continue without you, Bruce! Best wishes for whatever comes next! **Bruce Goldade**

- ★ It has been an honor to be your colleague for many years. I have learned a great deal about the way the world works at many levels. Our collaborative research has been extremely rewarding for me. Best wishes! I look forward to being your friend as the next phase of your life develops. **Jim Weisshaar**
- ★ Thank you for your help over the years. I have enjoyed working with you. I hope you enjoy your retirement. **Bruce Goldade**
- ★ I have enjoyed working with you over the years. I hope you enjoy your retirement. **Jerry Bell**

★ Jim, although our overlap was short, I found our conversations and your comments any number of topics to be extremely valuable. I hope you really enjoy retirement!

Jim Weisshaar

★ Thank you Bruce for your amazing work in the copy shop. Your enterprise was a critical link in the growth of our undergraduate program, and you built it into a top notch facility that supports us and many others in their work. Thank you especially for your efforts in supporting our enormous general chemistry classes. You made sure that we got the materials we needed in time for class or exam, no matter what the circumstances. It's hard to imagine the department without you! **Bruce Goldade**

- ★ I have enjoyed working with you and being next door neighbors on the 5th floor. I miss seeing you at work and outside of work. I hope you are enjoying your retirement. **Jim Zernicke**
- ★ I very much appreciate your tireless efforts in the copy shop and your cheerfulness. I could always count on you for fast copies and brightening my day. **Bruce Goldade**
- ★ I have enjoyed working with you over the years. You were my first boss along with Gery in chemistry. I hope you enjoy your retirement. **John Moore**



I get to say this one more time: Gil here, Bruce there! I have been saying that every time I ask you for one of my many favors to get me out of a jam - the last minute exam for 30 or even (gulp) the last minute syllabus for 350. I am just amazed at how calm you can be in emergency requests, smiling all the way through making magic happen. The “Bruce Goldade Copy Center” has a nice ring to it...I hope that you will come back to visit often. **Bruce Goldade**

★ It has been wonderful to be your colleague for around three decades! You have contributed to the department in many important ways. Best wishes! **John Moore**

- ★ John, it was wonderful talking with you every time - be it social or on topics of import to the department. Your knowledge and good humor really set, for me, the tone that I should strive for in teaching. I hope you really enjoy retirement, but maybe come back and give at least one lecture in your wonderful new building! **John Moore**
- ★ Bruce has been an absolutely essential part of our operation throughout my time in the department. His ability to provide support under any circumstances has been deeply appreciated. **Bruce Goldade**

- ★ I have enjoyed working with you over the years. It was nice to have the connection of Dawna too. I hope you enjoy your retirement. **John Wright**
- ★ Bruce is amazing at his job! Whenever I needed copies, I was amazed at how responsive, organized, and fast he was in getting the work done. He will be greatly missed. I will also miss his very clear and effective emails with updates on the copy center, always ending with “Thanks and stay safe and have fun my friends”. Best of luck in retirement. **Bruce Goldade**
- ★ Congratulations on your career! I have really enjoyed working with you. You have helped build a better model for path coordinators into the future. I remember your attention to detail, your pleasant demeanor and your professional commitment. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the department. I hope the future for you is just what you want it to be. Best wishes now and in the future. **Karen Stephens**

- ★ Bruce, I will miss our conversations and your amazing command of your shop. Coming from another University, I KNOW how spoiled we have been to have you here! All the best in retirement. **Bruce Goldade**
- ★ I have enjoyed being your colleague throughout my time in the department. Best wishes! **John Wright**
- ★ It has been a pleasure to work with you over the past few years. I am glad we have stayed in contact with each other and look forward to our next cooking experience at the press house. Keep enjoying your retirement. **Karen Stephens**

- ★ I'm so grateful for how welcoming John was to me as a new faculty member in the department! John took extra time to talk with me and tell me about the department and UW-Madison overall. It made a big difference in making me feel comfortable as I got started; I really appreciated his kindness. **John Wright**
- ★ It is impossible to thank you adequately for the many, many, many ways you made our program better during your time in the department. Your commitment to the work and especially to our students made a lasting impact on many lives. Your sterling soul is a gift to everyone who has the good fortune to be your colleague (and, even better, your friend). Thanks for sharing that soul with us! **Karen Stephens**

★ Mike was the rock that anchored the Chemistry loading dock. Shipping & receiving ran as smooth as glass and anytime something came up, Mike was all it and made sure that everything was taken care of and sent to the right place or cleaned up. Mike was the go to man for many things when we were between building managers and he single handedly made sure that all of those duties were done and everyone was taken care of. Mike was the absolute go to man if you had a question about anything to do with University policies and procedures. Mike was a hard man to replace and I miss his great banter and wit and he joyfully helped any and all who asked him for help. Enjoy your retirement Mike and I'll see ya soon. **Mike Bradley**

- ★ What a joy it was to work with Karen! A consummate professional, Karen went above and beyond to make sure that the students in the department were supported throughout their time here, and to anticipate the needs of the faculty and staff in the organic path before we knew we had them. I hope you are enjoying your retirement, and that you'll stop in every now and again to keep in touch with all of us. **Karen Stephens**
- ★ Kendall has been a constant source of advice and expertise since he arrived in the machine shop. My students would often ask if they could spend more time in the shop - Kendall and Rick are there! Please let me make something just so that I can learn more. Thanks Kendall for enriching the lives of my students and my own and making our research the best it can be. **Kendal Schneider**

- ★ We already miss Karen so much! She was great at her job and always so pleasant to interact with. Here are some comments I wrote about her work in a previous nomination:
 - “Karen Stephens is outstanding. She serves as the "organic path coordinator" within the chemistry department. This means that Karen is tasked with providing support for an especially large portion of our faculty. As a brand new professor who is unfamiliar with department procedures, I had many questions when I first arrived. Whenever I went to Karen with a question, I reliably and promptly got a clear response, and my problem was either solved by Karen, or she put me in touch with the correct person. Her responsibilities are diverse, including organization of seminars, travel reimbursements, coordinating visits of prospective new faculty, coordination of admissions efforts and organization of recruiting weekends for prospective students, and much more. As far as I have observed, Karen has never dropped the ball. She has always excelled in completing whatever task was at hand. This is especially admirable during the high-stress spring period when faculty recruitment and new graduate student recruitment are happening. Everyone is very stressed during this time, and Karen was asked to work far beyond a normal 40-hour work week. We are very lucky Karen Stephens is in our department, and I'm fortunate to get to work with her." **Karen Stephens**

- ★ Karen, Thank you for making me (and my students) feel so welcomed in our new home and for helping me out whenever I asked (and I asked a lot). Besides being amazing at managing the organic path's (and department's) many needs, I think I most appreciated your care for our graduate students. It was clear you cared for them as family and it made their time in graduate school better. You are well remembered by so many current and former students and faculty! We were lucky to have you work with us. **Karen Stephens**
- ★ I will forever benefit from having you as a colleague, your inspiring chemistry, your service to younger colleagues (including, but not limited to me) and the department, and friendship. Lavell and I will perennially look forward to our fishing excursions in the north woods. Wishing you (and Sue) a wonderful retirement! **Steve Burke**



I first met Steve as a 3rd-year grad student when he visited MSU to give a seminar. I was so inspired by his synthetic skills, creativity and enthusiasm that the opportunity to interact with him as a colleague was one of many reasons I chose to come to Wisconsin. He was an important mentor throughout my early years and listened to SO MUCH assistant professor complaining! I will be forever grateful for his patience and excellent advice. His joy and passion for teaching organic chemistry was infectious; many of our successful alums mention Steve's classes inspired them to pursue careers in organic chemistry. In addition to his help with my professional career, I also thank Steve for his sense of humor and for introducing me to fishing so that I have another hobby to take up when I retire! Steve- wishing you and Sue all the best in the future! **Steve Burke**



Mike Bradley, the CEO of CEOs, as his student workers would call themselves. What I will remember most about Mike is how comfortable he was in his job, and how much fun he could make working with him. Mike's cheerful personality and unquestionable skills made it seem like no matter what crisis was faced, it was little more than a small ripple in the day's workflow. Be it for business or just to chat, it was always a treat to stop by the loading dock when Mike was around. **Mike Bradley**

★ Hope your enjoying your retirement and are getting out to enjoy the outdoors, biking and fishing when the weather is good. Will miss our talks about Wisconsin sports, all the good and bad about it .. lol ..Take care, stay safe and have funny friend. **Steve Burke**

★ Mike was a HUGE help when we moved to Wisconsin. Friendly, knowledgeable, and ready to help. **Mike Bradley**



Tom is a model of steady and dependable service. One always knew that labs, outreach groups, and training teams would be well-equipped for every activity. Tom's organization and preparation extended to how he prepared the rest of the team for his times away. Over the few years I worked with him, I found increasing value in seeking his opinion regarding a wide variety of other lab procedure, safety, and logistics plans. The absence of his years of experience and their associated insights are and will be missed. **Tom Ladell**

- ★ I sure miss seeing Mike around the building! He always had a way of brightening the day, and he was always so quick to help out and answer questions. **Mike Bradley**
- ★ I have worked with Claude for my whole career. He is an amazing lecturer. He taught entire courses in both Analytical and Physical chemistry from memory. He is a perfect gentleman, even when things go wrong. His calm demeanor and willingness to spend extra time with his students was and is notable. **Claude Woods**

★ Tom was the embodiment of a rock-solid foundation in our time working together. His incredible depth of knowledge about labs and preparation skills always meant that he was prepared for any kind of crisis, be it one of the students or one of his fresh-faced, inexperienced coworker's creation. To this day, there are still hundreds and hundreds of things he knows that I still don't. Replacing so many years of experience on the team is a daunting task, but one I know he would have been able to handle with that classic stoic poise. **Tom Ladell**

- ★ Mike is an amazing guy and was always willing to help out in any way he could! My group and I especially appreciated his efforts during COVID to ensure research was kept running smoothly, despite all the logistical and other challenges. His kindness and down-to-earth attitude were a breath of fresh air in the department! **Mike Bradley**
- ★ Mike is a great guy who put up with a demanding schedule, demanding duties and he did it all with grace and talent. He is missed already. **Mike Bradley**
- ★ Mike was always patient with my mailing questions. He was one of my go-to people for advice about questions or work issues that I had no answers for. His experience was so valuable to the department. He made it look easy. **Mike Bradley**
- ★ thank you Mike for all of the years that you helped make my group run and answered all of our crazy questions. I knew that my day would be good when Mike gave me that morning hello.
Mike Bradley



Tom kept the General Chemistry laboratory program running smoothly for generations of students. He willingly stepped up to keep pace as we grew the program and changed the laboratory curriculum, updating experiments and bringing in new instruments. Whenever I (the not-entirely-prepared faculty member) showed up at the stockroom window to borrow a pair of lab goggles so that I could check up on my students, he would hand one over, while reminding me that I had my very own pair that I was supposed to remember to bring to class! **Tom Ladell**

It was wonderful getting to work with Mike! As a new professor who had a lot of equipment being delivered, Mike was instrumental in helping us get set up. He always made sure things got delivered to the right areas of the right rooms, without damage or disruption. He was always friendly, upbeat, professional, and reliable. He went above and beyond in helping us to receive complicated furniture deliveries while there were major obstacles (such as the loading dock being blocked due to construction). I really miss seeing Mike in the hallways and saying a friendly hello. I hope retirement is going well, Mike! **Mike Bradley**

- ★ I have enjoyed working with you over the years. I really enjoyed working with you on grad recruiting, you would make me laugh over the stories you shared. I miss seeing you in town too. I hope you enjoy your retirement. I hope to still see you around. **Steve Burke**
- ★ Over the years I've worked in the department, Steve has been a mentor, my co-teacher, the chair of my path, and a leader in the modernization of the graduate program. His retirement leaves a hole in the department that became painfully obvious to all of us when the many leadership and service roles he played were re-assigned to his colleagues. Steve, I don't know how we are going to do this without you, but if anyone has earned a fantastic retirement, it is you. Thank you for being an outstanding colleague, mentor, leader, and friend. **Steve Burke**

- ★ Hoping retirement is going well for you and your family is doing well. Our families have known each other for around 50 +years and I'm happy to have known you all. I'll be joining the retired ranks soon and hope that you're enjoying yourself. You were always a great worker, and someone that I could count on when I needed help and you're a great friend myself and to people you worked with. Take care, stay safe and have fun my friend. **Tom Ladell**
- ★ Claude uses the sweetest glassware in the entire department. His entire high vacuum glassware system is in-situ, which is a glassblowers dream. And it means that when things break I get to go up and fix it - in place. Whenever he would show up in the glass shop I knew it was not going to be good news, but I knew that it was going to be challenging and that I would learn something. Over the years Claude has taught me a lot about high vacuum systems, and his patience is inspiring. **Claude Woods**

- ★ You and I joined the UW Chemistry faculty on almost exactly the same day, and it has been great to walk down this road together. I have learned a great deal from you, as have my students. Our faculty is not the same without you. Best wishes! **Steve Burke**
- ★ Steve, I was lucky to have you as a colleague when I joined the department (you even hosted our family visit to UW before we joined). In our few years as colleagues, I learned a lot from you about teaching, research, UW-Madison, and how to keep an even keel in uneven times. As others have said, you did such an amazing job in so many different areas in the department. It takes two or three faculty members now to take care of what you did solo. You deserve the best in retirement, but, selfishly, I miss our conversations. All the best. **Steve Burke**

- ★ Professor Huang- Welcome to Madison! I was glad to hear you accepted and made the choice to come to the University of Wisconsin. I have very much enjoyed our brief conversations both before and after the pandemic. I wish you the best of new beginnings! **Xuhui Huang**
- ★ Dear Professor Widicus-Weaver- Welcome to Madison! I loved my astronomy courses at UW Madison, and I am glad you agreed to come to our department. I enjoyed your Halloween costume, and your enthusiasm for your new colleagues. **Susanna Widicus Weaver**

- ★ I am delighted that you chose to join us here in Madison. I am awed at how quickly and effectively you took on the mantle of leadership in the Origins cluster, as we were all working in a virtual world. I look forward to working with you in the coming years. **Susanna Widicus Weaver**
- ★ Welcome to Madison! I wish that the circumstances of the department on your arrival had been a bit less complicated. I hope that we will soon be back in our building and able to work together in person. **Xuhui Huang**

★ In the short few months Erin has been with us, she has become an expert on finding rooms across campus! Rooms have been especially challenging this semester, due to the Chemistry building delays. Erin and Sarina Strnad together have capably solved the many problems that arose meet our needs. **Erin Grunewald**

★ Josef truly has thrown himself into the program with the intent to see it successful. He's grasped the reins of the general chemistry labs over in MSC during these turbulent times and ridden all the bucks and kicks the program has to offer with poise and confidence. As much as I look forward to all the changes that general chemistry will be undergoing in the next few years, I am even more so looking forward to how he responds to and refines the changes we will make. It is always a pleasure with Josef on the team. **Josef Wilkinson**

- ★ Erin is the expert in finding space! **Erin Grunewald**
- ★ Arianna you never cease to amaze with your brilliant ideas, calm demeanor and readiness for anything that comes your way. We are so lucky to have you on our team! **Arianna Imperl**
- ★ From the start, Irena impressed us with her level of skill and professionalism. I love her team-oriented approach and fearlessness. **Irena Garic**
- ★ Emily has been very helpful with Aestiva, I greatly appreciate all of her support. **Emily Bennin**

- ★ Working with you has been such a pleasure. Thank you for your dedication and positivity and for being such an inspiration to our team. **Arianna Imperl**
- ★ You are a great team player. Your eagerness to help others and to learn as much as you can are truly inspiring. We are so lucky to have you on our team! **Irena Garic**
- ★ Emily is always so kind and willing to help with all my purchasing and Aestiva-related questions. Thank you, Emily, for all the help and support!
Emily Bennin



Do you know the archetype of the cool uncle who is always working on some awesome construction project, like a dock for a boat or something, and promises to take you out fishing once the dock is done? That's sort of what it feels like working with Aaron. I'm incredibly impressed with how quickly he has picked up the mantle of Lord of the Loading Dock, especially in consideration of the construction and other circumstances in the building and on campus. His policy of excellence in what he can control, and adapting to what he cannot control, all while maintaining a very real and human air about him, lead me to believe our packages and building as a whole are in very good hands. We definitely made the right choice bringing Aaron in. **Aaron Smith**

- ★ I admire Aaron's great attitude and willingness to help out. He is always ready to provide solutions and respond to any request to support our events. Thank you, Aaron! We really appreciate you. **Aaron Smith**
- ★ It has been great working with Taylor on Grad Recruiting and Orientation. She has a great attitude, is super organized and has great ideas! Thank you, Taylor, for being a great team player and colleague. **Taylor Mathewson**
- ★ Alisa is a team player and always willing to help. It is a pleasure to work with her and I am lucky to be part of this admin team. **Alisa Gradney**



If asked to summarize what it's like working with Tristan so far, the best word I could come up with is "cool." Tristan is a very cool person to work with. Exchanges with him feel as casual as talking with any of my friends from undergrad, but vastly more productive. Tristan also has been very cool with all of the changing circumstances around the department. He's been cool working in the awkward, semi-remote situation we find ourselves in, still fulfilling the needs of the department in a calm and efficient manner, and I fully expect him to remain cool in the face of all the new challenges that will be had in the coming years. **Tristan Rhol**

- ★ Tristan has been able to quickly adapt to a challenging job during a crazy period of time! He has made due with a wide variety of challenges with good humor, good ideas, and hard work. We are so happy to have you on our side! **Tristan Rholl**
- ★ Alisa and I started as organic path-chair and path-coordinator together and I am thankful that she joined our team. It has been wonderful working with Alisa! I'm not sure where the Organic path would be without her! **Alisa Gradney**
- ★ Thank you so much for all of your help. I really appreciate it and enjoy working with you. I am glad you joined the department. **Aaron Smith**

★ Cristina walked into a kitchen in flames (metaphorically....) and proved that it wasn't too hot for her. She joined us at the start of August to be greeted with the news that the organic lab program was suddenly homeless (despite Nick insisting that we would definitely be in the new palace!). Undaunted, Cristina dived in and has been heavily involved with the migration of the CHEM 346 and 311 lab courses to temporary digs in ChemEngineering. She has also proved to be a master navigator of ShopUW+ and a wrangler of dry ice. Her excellent chemistry knowledge and unparalleled organizational skills have made the 346 and 311 courses run more smoothly than I could ever have hoped, and I am very grateful for her good humor and patience! Cristina is a superb addition to the organic lab team, and we are highly fortunate to have her on board. **Cristina Bahaveolos**

- ★ Tristan has been a great help handling a few 'crisis' situations that have arisen during these challenging times due to solvent and other shortages! He responds immediately with a way forward to solve the problem- much appreciated by myself and the group! Welcome to the department! **Tristan Rholi**
- ★ Alisa is the best thing to happen to Wisconsin since cheese curds were invented.
Alisa Gradney
- ★ Talk about a trial by fire! You joined the department in the midst of multiple complex building-related challenges, and you adeptly developed strategies to keep research materials flowing to labs wherever they might be. Thank you for your amazing effort.
Aaron Smith

- ★ Tristan has been extremely helpful to me during his short time here in the department. His transition into the stockroom position has appeared seamless, and I have appreciated all of the help during these crazy times. **Tristan Rhol**
- ★ I appreciate the unique perspective Alisa brings to our team. Her talent and dedication to our projects amaze me all the time. **Alisa Gradney**
- ★ Thank you Aaron for helping to make our building run so well during these challenging times. **Aaron Smith**



Jackie joined several projects in the middle of several simultaneous crises. She joined us in the middle of online instruction, but after expectations for a certain level of experience quality were high. She joined us in the middle of curriculum rearrangement, but before sizeable portions of nuts-and-bolts work had been completed. She joined us when building plans were on schedule and scrambled with us to revise plans accordingly. Her introduction to the program has been a multi-month trial by fire, and she has been a dependable colleague and program asset for that duration. I look forward to *some* dust settling so that Jackie can have a chance to shine in the program. She has already brought her expertise to our conversations, but it will be great when her/our attention can shift away from putting out fires. **Jackie Trate**

- ★ Alisa is wonderful! She has always gone out of her way to ask if there is anything she can do to help out the group! Her service to the organic path is much appreciated and we're lucky to work with her. **Alisa Gradney**
- ★ Dear Dr. Weaver-welcome to Madison-albeit a bit late! I was amazed at how well and how quickly you became indispensable to the undergraduate program. From going through all the slides to carrying a full load of teaching you do it all like you have been here a decade. It is truly amazing. Thank you for all you do. **Jeremy Weaver**
- ★ I appreciate all of your help throughout the years. It has been great getting to know Emily better since she started in a staff position! **Emily Bennin**

★ Jackie has been a fantastic addition to multiple aspects of the undergrad program, including Gen Chem coordination and assessment design and implementation expertise. She is calm, incredibly capable and dependable, and interested in soaking up everything she can about her “new” job: Indeed, we’ve given her quite a run this past year by asking her to participate in change after change after change. She’s taken it on with grace, self-possessiveness, empathy, and a good amount of humor. She has been an ideal collaborator and leader. Thank you for everything you bring to the team. **Jackie Trate**

- ★ I'm pleased to introduce Amber Bartz, a new employee working in the electronics shop with a focus on appliance repair. Amber has a background in electromechanical systems and industrial maintenance---we are very excited to have her join the team. Despite being here only a short time during a difficult period, Amber has shown great enthusiasm and has already made significant contributions to the electronics shop and our famously long list of jobs. Welcome! **Amber Bartz**
- ★ Jackie, it has been great getting to know you. While we do not work together day-to-day, I have enjoyed learning about your perspective on teaching, learning, and curriculum development. It is wonderful to have a new teammate. I look forward to future collaborations. **Jackie Trate**

★ Amber has been very helpful in getting the glass shop lathe operational in its new art department location during our building shutdown. Thank you and welcome to the department! **Amber Bartz**

★ Amanda has joined the instructional team as the Associate Lab Director for the analytical path. Amanda, a fellow Badger, graduated from the Li group in 2017 and served the Medical College of Wisconsin in a post-doc position and then as assistant faculty. The classroom called her back to Madison in 2020, and when a permanent opportunity opened in August, she signed on. She's a passionate and enthusiastic educator and we are lucky to have her. **Amanda Buchberger**

- ★ Thank you so much for your work supporting me while I was chair. It was an absolute delight to work with you. Your contributions to the design and implementation of the faculty services team are greatly appreciated. **Arianna Imperl**
- ★ So glad you decided to join our business office team! Looking forward to working with you as you start your UW-Madison career. **Luke Carroll**
- ★ We are very excited for you to join the Chemistry Team! Your wealth of knowledge and experience will be an incredible asset to the faculty admin and business office team. We are lucky to have you! **Alicia Walker**
- ★ Welcome Jackie. I haven't yet had a chance to work with you, but I look forward to rejoining the Chem 104 instructional team next year. **Jackie Trate**

★ Jeremy, you have been a wonderful addition to the undergrad program and an asset to the Gen Chem team: I appreciate the collaboration, calm demeanor, and patience that you bring to teaching and coordinating Gen Chem. You are empathetic and innovative in problem-solving student issues and thoughtful about the student (and fellow colleague) experience. You bring great ideas and new ways of thinking so that we are always keeping the student perspective in mind. Thanks for everything you bring to the team. **Jeremy Weaver**



Jackie jumped onboard during a challenging time as the on-sequence Gen Chem course ran remotely during a pandemic with 2000 students and more than 70 exhausted TAs/lead instructors. Jackie brought a calm demeanor and worked to keep her team focused on learning. Through the lens of assessment, Jackie is spearheading curriculum revisions that will improve students' learning and simplify the experience for students and instructors. You inspired me to devote ten Tuesday nights to talking about my privilege and how I benefit from systemic racism, and I look forward to continuing these conversations with you as we work to make our curriculum more equitable and inclusive. You are an ideal team-member, Jackie: you are kind and seek harmony with others; you are a good listener and quietly ask insightful follow-up questions; you work well in advance of a deadline and bring a lot of value to projects; you give and receive constructive feedback to build a better final product together. **Jackie Trate**

- ★ Alisa brings a professionalism and dedication to her work that is just amazing - we thank you every day. **Alisa Gradney**
- ★ Your patient insight into new ways of looking at and improving our processes is so helpful. Glad you joined our department, and I look forward to continued collaborations! **Jim Leu**
- ★ Arianna has been extremely helpful during my training stage. She is very team oriented and we are lucky to have her on our admin team. **Arianna Imperl**
- ★ I am so happy that we were able to bring you to Madison. It was a double win for the department. I look forward to your future contributions to our undergraduate program.
Jeremy Weaver

★ Jeremy is a wonderful addition to our instructional team! We've worked closely together through five truly unique semesters, and you are the ideal collaborator. You are patient and open to discussing all the options to solve a given problem, and you are willing to compromise to reach a shared decision. However, you are also willing to stand up for what you believe in. You like to work well in advance of a deadline, leaving a lot of time for revision, which makes collaboration easy. You do a great job of offering your students empathy and compassion, but you also hold them to high standards. Watching you work through the 80+ cases of academic misconduct last spring inspired me to hold my students to the appropriate standards, too.

Jeremy Weaver

★ I am glad you joined our team. I really enjoy working with you and look forward to the new adventures. Thanks for all your help too. **Alisa Grandey**

- ★ Thank you for all your hard work as we reorganized the department. You joined the graduate program at a moment of intense change, and you have been a key contributor to the success of the new systems. Your clear communication about the graduate program expectations are really appreciated. **Taylor Mathewson**
- ★ Erin has been super helpful in finding alternative spaces across campus this semester. Thank you for working so hard to negotiate these for us, and we're lucky to have you as part of the team! **Erin Grunewald**
- ★ Arianna, I appreciate your responsiveness, calm, and ability to handle a multitude of situations quickly and tactfully. Thank you! **Arianna Imperl**

★ Thank you so much for joining our team. I have really enjoyed getting to know you. I love your sense of humor too. I look forward to working on the different projects with you.

Irena Garic

★ One month into a highly-disrupted semester, and Josef has already become a crucial part of general chemistry operations. His work with student worker on-boarding, lab maintenance and setup, TA support, and safety training have already been appreciated. I look forward to working with him for a long time to come! **Josef Wilkinson**

★ It has been a pleasure working with you on Orientation, and I look forward to working with you on many more projects. **Taylor Mathewson**

- ★ Erin has been super helpful in finding alternative spaces across campus this semester. Thank you for working so hard to negotiate these for us, and we're lucky to have you as part of the team! **Erin Grunewald**
- ★ Amanda is the most thorough, on-top-of-it, and detail-oriented person of all time! Her attention to detail mixed with willingness to collaborate and be open to new ideas (and bring new ideas!) is rare and much appreciated. Amanda jumped right into curriculum innovation pre-pandemic and then just rode the wave of all the changes and unknowns through the pandemic with grace. I can't imagine the Analytical curriculum project without her and her expertise, enthusiasm, and partnership. Luckily, we don't have to!
Amanda Buchberger