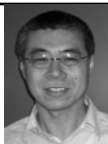


# Aquinas College Chemistry Department

## Alumni Newsletter 2004

Hello! We started this annual newsletter to keep in touch with all our alumni, especially those of you who have not been back to campus lately. The chemistry department currently occupies the second floor of Albertus Hall. Whenever you are in the neighborhood, please stop in to see us!

### Li-Heng Chen, Ph.D.



#### Professor

I got my B.S. from National Taiwan University. After two years of obligatory military service, I came to the State University of New York at Stony Brook and got an M.S. I did my Ph.D. work at Texas A&M, finishing in 1983. I came to Aquinas as Richard McCormack retired. Physical chemistry is my major teaching responsibility. (Did you remember to "honk" after you passed this class?) After Dr. Poje retired, I started teaching Organic Chemistry. Then I decided to concentrate on the first semester of Organic. During twenty years at Aquinas, I have also taught General Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry, Chemistry and Society, and Preliminary Chemistry.

### Rima Puodziunas, B.S.



#### Lab Manager

I joined the department in the summer of 2001. I received my B.S. in Biology and Chemistry from Calvin College. I possess a vast amount of business and lab experience ranging from owning a Rockford coffeehouse to 11 years in the Quality Assurance Chemistry Dept. of Alticor Corporation. I coordinate the wide range of chemistry labs offered at Aquinas. I especially enjoy seeing the personal and professional growth of students. I have lived in the wonderful State of Michigan my entire life and take full advantage of the natural beauty that it possesses. My hobbies include gardening, mushroom hunting, nature hikes, and camping.

### Elizabeth Jensen, Ph.D.



#### Assistant Professor

This was my first year at Aquinas, in the position vacated when Michael Blomme retired. I earned a B.A. in chemistry and biology from Luther College (Decorah, IA) and a Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from Iowa State University (Ames, IA). Last year I taught at Hampden-Sydney College (Virginia). I primarily teach the analytical and advanced inorganic chemistry courses. I am interested in studying the properties of new materials, especially those on the interface between chemistry and biology. Outside of school, I enjoy traveling, reading, and modern board games. I have a husband, Bruce, and a pet python, Cody, at home.

### Katrina Hartman, O.P., Ph.D.



#### Associate Professor

Hello, I am Sister Katrina Hartman, a Dominican Sister. Some of you may have attended class when I did, others may have been students in classes I taught. After AQ I taught secondary school in various places around Michigan ending up at Catholic Central in Grand Rapids. I completed the advanced degrees needed and was asked to come to Aquinas to teach full time. Biochemistry has always been my main interest in study and in research. I would welcome any input into the curriculum so that our future graduates may be as prepared as possible. Hope to hear from you soon.

## This Year's Big News: Equipment Donation by Pfizer!

Pfizer Inc closed its Holland, Michigan, R&D lab in Fall 2003. Aquinas was one of eight Michigan colleges invited to participate in an equipment giveaway last November. We acquired three High-Performance Liquid Chromatographs (HPLC), a Gas Chromatograph (GC), a Leica digital microscope, two water purifiers, two gas generators (H<sub>2</sub> and zero air), several smaller instruments, and assorted glassware. The gift was valued at \$175,900. Students were able to use most of the items in various classes this spring.

## Congratulations to our 2003-2004 Graduates!

John Zintsmaster	(Chemistry) – graduate school, Univ. of Notre Dame
Dorene Zerfas	(Chemistry) – medical school, Wayne State Univ.
Jerome Waldron	(Chemistry) – Michigan State Police, Northville
Holli Charbonneau	(Chemistry) – Van Andel Institute
Rachel Hackett	(Environmental Science)

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*Parents: Please forward this letter to your son/daughter if necessary.*

## The Aquinas College Science Initiative

Aquinas College started this two-part Initiative in 2003. One part is concerned with increasing financial support for the science departments. The other part focuses on improvements to the science curriculum. We would appreciate input from our alumni, based on your experiences after graduation. How did your Aquinas education help you pursue your career goals? What were the strengths and weaknesses of your education?

Has your address changed? Did you change jobs, get married, have children, or retire? Do you know someone who should be added to our mailing list? Send your news and comments to Katrina Hartman, 1607 Robinson Rd. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506!

Visit us on the Web!  
<http://www.aquinas.edu/departments/chemistry>