Over the past year, several members of the Department were honoured in different ways, and we extend our warm congratulations to them all. We are delighted with the election of Professor John Brown to Fellowship of the Royal Society. Professor David Clary was elected to Honorary Membership of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, as well as being elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In addition, he was elected to the Council of the Royal Society, and was awarded the Polanyi Medal of the Gas Kinetics Discussion Group of the Royal Society of Chemistry. Professor Richard Compton was nominated visiting Professor at the University of São Paulo in Brazil over the last summer. Professor Jacob Klein was awarded the Prize Lecture of the Colloid and Interface Division of the Japanese Chemical Society, while Professor Paul Madden was awarded the Statistical Mechanics and Simulation Industrial Award of the Royal Society of Chemistry sponsored by Unilever. Professor Richard Wayne was honoured by being chosen as the Hauptvortrag speaker at the 10th Fachbereichstag at the University of Wuppertal. Of our junior members, we note with pleasure that Jay Wadhawan, a 3rd year D.Phil. in Richard Compton’s group, was awarded a two-year Study Abroad Studentship by the Leverhulme Trust, while Susan Perkin, working in Jacob Klein’s group, was elected to a Jowett Senior Scholarship at Balliol.

We were sorry to mark the death in September 2002 of Dr. Alastair Dean. Alastair Dean did his D.Phil. with Cyril Hinshelwood in the late 40s and early 50s, and was a Senior Research Officer (later Lecturer) in the Department from 1955, as well as a Fellow of St. Cross College. He retired in 1986. He was one of Professor Hinshelwood’s right-hand men: They co-authored books together and were leaders in the field of kinetics of bacterial cell growth. We are also sorry to note the death of Winnie Nelson in January 2003. She joined the Department in 1973 as Secretary to the then Head of Department, and was John Rowlinson’s Secretary from early 1974 to 1986.

The retirement of Professor Keith McLauchlan, after 37 years in the Department, was marked with a memorable dinner held in Corpus Christie in October 2002. Some forty members of the Department joined Keith and his wife that evening, including several former Heads of Department from Sir Rex Richards onwards.

This year saw a large number of welcome new appointments. Professor David Clary and his research group joined the Department from UCL on his appointment as Head of the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Division. We congratulate our two new Royal Society University Research Fellows, Dr. Carmen Domene, who comes to us from Biochemistry and is joining the Theoretical group, and Dr. Simon Titmuss in Professor Jacob Klein’s group. They join our other three Royal Society URFs appointed last year. Dr. Rebecca Jockusch, who joined Professor John Simon’s group as a Royal Society USA Research Fellow, was awarded a Junior Research Fellowship at Linacre College, while Dr. Lavina Snoek was appointed Research Fellow at Corpus Christie College and Dr. Claire Vallance was appointed to Tutorial Fellowship at Hertford College from October 2003.

Mr. Allan Whittow, who stood in as administrator while Mr. Nigel Mogg was away, has now left us, and we wish him well in his new role as Financial Officer of the Department of Chemistry as a whole. We welcome Nigel back to full-time ‘administering’ from his year as High Sheriff of Oxfordshire. Professor Graham Richard was reappointed for a further four-year term as Chairman of the Chemistry Department.

Members of the Department were involved in organising several international conferences and workshops. Dr. Peter Grout organised a successful Summer School in Molecular
Physics and Quantum Chemistry in August 2002. Professor Madden organised the Royal Society of Chemistry 19th EUCHEM Molten Salts Conference at St. John’s College in September 2002, and Professor David Logan was a co-organiser of an International Workshop on Modern Aspects of Quantum Impurity Physics held at Dresden in the spring of 2003. In addition, a half-day symposium for the Royal Society of Chemistry on Liquid Crystals and Nanostructured Materials was held in the Department, incorporating the RSC Tilden Lecture by Professor Goodby and the RACI Rennie Lecture by Dr. Frank Caruso. A new seminar series on Biophysical Chemistry was convened this year by Dr. Lavina Snoek, and has already attracted several distinguished speakers from within and from out of Oxford. This brings to four the number of regular seminar series taking place in the Department during term, including, in addition to Biophysical Chemistry and the general Monday Departmental Seminar, also the Theoretical Chemistry and the Soft Matter, Biomaterials, and Interfaces series.

We hosted several distinguished visitors and notable lecturers over the past year. In particular, we should note the Hinshelwood Lectures delivered this year by Professor Steven Chu (Stanford University). His spectacular series, entitled Looking at how individual molecules go about their business, covered a very wide range of topics from Polymer Physics through Molecular Biology to Laser Cooling of Atoms, the subject for which he received the Nobel Prize in 1997, and attracted increasingly large audiences with each lecture. We look forward to welcoming Professor Graham Fleming (Berkeley) who will be giving the 2004 Hinshelwood lectures. This year we initiated a new scheme, generously funded by Schlumberger, the Schlumberger Visiting Professorships, which enables distinguished academics from abroad to visit us for periods of a month or more. Our first two Schlumberger Visiting Professors this year were Professor Eugenia Kumacheva (University of Toronto) and Professor Michael Klein (University of Pennsylvania), an old friend of the Department (who was also this year elected FRS). We look forward to welcoming two more old friends, Professor David Chandler (Berkeley) and Professor Richard Zare (Stanford), as Schlumberger Visiting Professors in the coming year.

We were happy to host many other visitors. In addition to our ‘regulars’, Professor Ian Beattie (University of Southampton) and Professor Itamar Burak (University of Tel Aviv), we welcomed Professor Martina Havlinith (University of Bochum), Professor Trevor Letcher (University of Natal, South Africa), Dr. Adelio Matamala (University of Concepcion, Chile), Professor Merckt (ETH Zurich), and Dr. Pandurangappa (University of Bangalore). Joining them also was Dr. Abdollah Salimi (Kurdistan, Iran), Professor Schaefer (Ilmenau), Professor Andre Stolyarov (University of Moscow), Dr. Irina Svir (University of Kharkov, Ukraine), Professor Varberg (McAlaster College) in Minnesota and Professor Kechen Wu (Fujian, China).

Research activity has continued strongly. We note that Professors Gus Hancock and Tim Softley are part of the Oxford-Bristol Chemistry Partnership which received one of the new five-year Portfolio Awards from the EPSRC, one of only eight such awards countrywide. Overall level of research funding has remained strong at a lab total of close to £3M, while the number of publications appearing in this report has stayed close to the record levels of previous years. We welcome 26 new graduate students, bringing to over 80 the number of graduates admitted over the past 3 years. We note, in particular, that half of this year’s intake is from outside the UK.

I end by noting that strong pressure on space in the Department has continued in the past year while the move to the new Chemistry Research Laboratories is delayed to early 2004. By the time this report comes out next year, however, we should be well settled with our new arrangements. We will have relocated the groups currently in the Central Chemistry Laboratory, so that (with one exception) all of Physical and Theoretical Chemistry will by then be housed either in the main Physical Chemistry building or across the road in the new Chemistry Research Laboratory.
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R.G. Compton


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G.H. Grant


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F. Schreiber


J.P. Simons


**J.P. Simons and L.C. Snoek**


**T.P. Softley**


**R.K. Thomas**


**C. Vallance**


**R.P. Wayne**


