

# Alumni Notes

## Special Returnee

**Charles W. Myles** (BS '69) gave the 1997 Homecoming Colloquium in October on his research in *Molecular Dynamics: A Tool for Probing the Defect Properties of Semiconductors*.



**Charles W. Myles**

Following his undergraduate years at UMR, Charley went to graduate school at Washington University in St. Louis, where he received his PhD in physics in 1973. He has had a very distinguished career as a physicist. Before joining the faculty at Texas Tech University in 1978, he was a postdoctoral fellow at Battelle in Columbus, a researcher and instructor at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, and an assistant professor at the University of Illinois in Urbana. He is now Chair of the Physics Department at Texas Tech, and has been a recipient of the

President's Excellence in Teaching Award. It is particularly impressive that, despite the heavy demands associated with being a department chair, he has still managed to maintain an active research program in which he, his students, and collaborators have sixteen refereed publications in the past six years.

## We Also Hear That ...

- **Charles H. Church** (BS '50) retired from the U. S. Army Research office in Chapel Hill, NC on 30 March 1997. He was planning on moving to Savannah, GA.
- **Harry F. Dreste** (BS '51) of Kirkwood, MO writes "have been enjoying retirement for several years. Keep busy working around home and with hobbies, model railroads, and old Studebaker cars. Member of two old car clubs and volunteer worker at Veterans Hospital. Cancer treatment past few years going OK."
- **William P. Dixon** (BS '54, MS '57) of Tullahoma, TN, reports that he retired 3 years ago and is now in good health and spirits. We are sorry to hear that he lost his wife Leah near the time of his retirement.
- **John L. McDaniels** (BS '60) retired as Professor of Mathematics in June, 1996, from Lewis and Clark Community College, where he had taught mathematics and coordinated the engineering transfer program.
- **Robert C. Pickett** (BS '61, MS '68) spent 1996-1997 on sabbatical from Bemidji State University. During his sabbatical he worked on a computer instrumentation project.
- **Daniel N. Payton, III** (BS '62, MS '64, Ph.D '66) of Albuquerque, NM, writes "From being an independent technology management consultant, I took over as president and CEO of New Mexico Technet, a non-profit internet access/data provider and backbone network for the State of New Mexico."
- **Robert Hufft M.D.** (MS '64) of Rogersville, MO has completed 21 years of private practice in orthopedic surgery in Springfield, MO. He practices general orthopedics with an emphasis on joint replacement and spinal surgery.
- **Martin G. Seitz** (BS '66) of Silver Spring, MD, is currently working with the Department of Energy in Washington, DC.
- **Richard D. Thom** (BS '67) of Santa Barbara, CA, is a new Program Executive for Technology at Hughes Santa Barbara Research center, responsible for capture and management of contracts to develop advanced infrared systems components. Richard and his wife have made their home in Santa Barbara since 1972. Their daughter graduated from UC Davis and their son attends UC Santa Barbara – in fields far removed from physics!
- **Gary K. Woodward** (BS '69, MS '73) of Kokomo, IN, was recently promoted at General Motors Corporation to Advanced Project Engineer.
- **Hugh Holt** (BS '70) writes "my physics degree put me in a good position to work on airborne radar over the past twenty years or so. I've been involved in the design, development, and test (including flight test) of a number of radars during that time. One of the most familiar with the public has been the Joint STARS radar for the Air Force."
- **Charles R. Wickizer** (BS '72) lives in Cambridge, MA. He tells us "I sold my second startup software company to a small publicly held firm in Sunnyvale, CA. I am now in my third year at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA, studying to become an ordained priest. I won second prize in the Boston Theological Institute for an essay on Science and Religion. My wife, Joan and I have two daughters, ages 11 and 13, and a chocolate Labrador retriever."
- **Brian G. Millburn** (BS '75) retired as Lt. Col. from US Air force after 20 years of service. He moved to Colorado Springs where he enjoys working on challenging analytic projects for ANSER Corp. and raising 3 sons ages 17, 15, and 13.
- **Bradley A. Brown** (BS '80) of Hermann, MO, writes he "was laid off in 1990 and couldn't find a job and was forced into starting my own business -- analyzing utility bills for commercial and industrial companies. It was the best thing that could have happened! Currently I am my own boss and business is doing real well."
- **Larry Long** (MS '81, PhD '85) was on sabbatical research leave from Pittsburg State University for the 1996-1997 academic year. During his sabbatical, he conducted research on thin film batteries for Eagle Picher Technologies in Joplin, MO.
- **Mike Muehlemann** (BS '82, MS '85) of East Syracuse, NY, who is currently President of Illumination Technologies, tells us he would like to hear from Robert Cheney, Pat Garey, or Steve Yallaly. Mike can be reached at [it@ntcnet.com](mailto:it@ntcnet.com).
- **Suzanna Jo Edwards** (BS '90) lives with her husband Kevin in Chesterfield, MO. She says "I'm a mom to three wonderful daughters! Life is great!"
- **Jeffrey Paul Schroeder** (BS '95) lives in Aurora, CO. He tells us that he had a great time at UMR recruiting for Hughes at the 1997 spring Career Fair, and that his life is considerably more exciting since the birth of his son Alex on January 31, 1997.
- **Shawn Kathmann** (PhD '98) has accepted a post-doctoral position at Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratories. He left Rolla just a few weeks ago after receiving his doctorate for molecular modeling of sulphuric acid in water clusters.

If you wish to get in touch with any of these alumni, or any others, please contact the Physics Department at (573) 341-4781 or at [physics@umr.edu](mailto:physics@umr.edu). We can generally give you current phone numbers, along with postal and e-mail addresses. We would be grateful if you would take the time to fill out and return the alumni information form on both sides of the last page of this Newsletter.