Welcome Back. As you have probably heard—hopefully not too loudly—the 6th floor renovation project is underway.

6th Floor Renovation Project. Starting around the middle of December, the chemistry department began moving out of the 6th floor in preparation for our National Science Foundation-funded renovation project (look for a write up of the project in the upcoming issue of the Barnard Magazine). Ms. Suqing Liu coordinated the huge task of packing up the biochemistry/physical chemistry teaching laboratory, stockroom, and equipment. With help from students and from Ms. Sarah Meadows, our new Departmental Administrator, Ms. Liu packed over 100 boxes and either gave away or threw out an impressive quantity of antiquated equipment and supplies. Profs. John Magyar and Mary Sever were also instrumental in the move-out operation, as were staff from Barnard Facilities, especially Mr. Tom Zwicke. On the 8th floor, Dr. Jacob Alexander and Mrs. Olympia Jebejian reorganized lab and storage areas to accommodate items moved from the 6th floor. Thank you all!

We have relocated the functions of the former 6th floor to various parts of Altschul. The student computer room is now in 812A. Some crucial department instruments, including the UV-Vis, Raman, and IR spectrometers, are now in 813A. Ms. Liu’s and the Department’s offices have been moved to Altschul 806 for the duration of the renovation project. Unfortunately, we are without a departmental conference room this semester, but have been able to schedule office hours thanks to the Physics Department (Altschul 514) and the Biological Sciences Department (Altschul 1207).

Prof. Magyar’s laboratory is now in Altschul 1202 and his office is Altschul 1309. Prof. Sever’s lab is in Altschul 1315 and her office is in a new space on the 4th floor, Altschul 401B. The Chemistry Department is extremely grateful to the Biological Sciences Department and the Environmental Science Department for making this lab and office space available. Special thanks to Profs. Brian Morton, Paul Hertz, Jen Mansfield, Krista McGuire, John Glendinning, and Elizabeth Bauer in Biology and to Prof. Martin Stute in Environmental Science. We could not have made things work out without their assistance.

So far, a great deal of the demolition has been completed on the 6th floor. Next comes the carefully monitored removal of asbestos tile, followed by the second phase of demolition. At that point, the construction part of the project can begin. The renovation will continue through the spring semester and the summer, and the floor will re-open in all its upgraded glory for Fall 2011. Thank you for putting up with the inconvenience of the project this semester; the result will be a beautiful new space for teaching and research.

New Departmental Administrator. She started at Barnard last semester, so you may have already met her, but Ms. Sarah Meadows is our new Departmental Administrator. Ms. Meadows is really one of us, with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from the University of Delaware. Her office during the 6th floor renovation is in Altschul 806. Please join me in welcoming her to the department.
New Majors. Spring is the traditional time to declare a major if you are a sophomore. We are hoping that those of you who have been prospective majors thus far will decide to join the department. If you have any questions about majoring in chemistry or biochemistry, please feel free to ask any member of the department.

Summer Research. The season for making summer research plans is here. There are summer research opportunities for undergraduates at Barnard, at Columbia, and at just about every university in the country. At Barnard, faculty will give brief talks on their research on Friday, February 4, at 2:00 PM in Altschul 805 (refreshments will be served). Interested students can then apply to do summer research here. Look for further information in announcements to be posted soon around the department and on the department website. The department website also has links to some of the many, many summer undergraduate research programs available throughout the United States and even abroad (http://www.barnard.edu/chem/Links_2.htm). Another web resource is http://www.barnard.edu/hspp/Internship%20website/science_internships.dwt, a site maintained through Barnard’s Howard Hughes Science Pipeline Project. If you are interested in summer research, cast your net broadly, because, unfortunately, we are not always able to accommodate all students who want to do summer research at Barnard. Note that application deadlines come up fast (late January and early February even), and programs often require letters of recommendation. Summer research programs typically offer a decent stipend (around $4,000 for a ten-week program), and housing and travel expenses are often covered.

Spring Luncheon. Please mark your calendars for the chemistry department spring program planning meeting and luncheon, Friday April 15, from 12–2 in Sulzberger Parlor on the 3rd floor of Barnard Hall. The after-lunch speaker will be Prof. Linda Peteanu (BC ’82) of Carnegie Mellon University, whose research interests are in biophysical spectroscopy, including studies at the single-molecule level. For students considering a biochemistry or chemistry major, the luncheon is also an excellent opportunity to meet current majors in the department and to ask questions of fellow students and faculty.

Seminar/Study Room. Altschul 806 is no longer available since it is being used as an office this semester, but the Physics Lounge (Altschul 514) is available as study space when not otherwise reserved. There is also a Biology study room (Altschul 1207), scheduled through Ms. Maria Minino Giunta (mminino@barnard.edu, 1203 Altschul). Finally, the Altschul Atrium is open as a study space if you have qualms about ever leaving our beloved building!

Computer Room. Computer room users, you should have received a memo from Dr. Alexander outlining procedures and policies for use of the temporary computer room space in Altschul 812A. There are some changes in policies from when the computer room was on the 6th floor because the room is now contained within a larger laboratory. If you did not receive the computer room memorandum and would like to use the computer room this semester, please contact Dr. Alexander for more information.

Graduate and Professional School. We receive many posters and pamphlets about graduate and professional study. Many are posted around the department. The American Chemical Society’s Directory of Graduate Research (available online at http://dgr.rints.com/) is very useful for comparing graduate programs and finding information on individual faculty. Barnard chemistry faculty are also happy to speak with you and offer advice on your graduate school plans.

Jobs. If you have a work-study or Barnard job grant and are looking for placement, please speak to me or to other faculty and staff in the department; we may have job opportunities available. If you have been hired to work in the department, be sure to fill out the proper paperwork with the Office of Career Development. The forms are now filled in online. Chemistry Administrative Assistant Ms. Molly Gill (mgil@barnard.edu, 504A Altschul) can help answer questions about hiring logistics.
**Information.** We like to be able to keep in touch with you. Chemistry and biochemistry majors, please e-mail Molly Gill (mgill@barnard.edu) or stop by her office (504A Altschul) to check that we have your correct (1) student mailbox number, (2) phone number, and (3) e-mail address. This is especially important if you are not listed in Barnard’s on-line directory.

**Pictures.** We like having pictures of majors for our 8th floor bulletin board. If yours is missing (or if you want a new one), please stop by Molly Gill’s office (504A Altschul) or e-mail her a new photo.

**Tutors.** Sometimes we receive phone calls and e-mail from parents seeking chemistry tutors for their high school children. Students in general chemistry and organic chemistry also often request tutors. Tutoring can be an interesting challenge and excellent review, not to mention a good source of income. If you would like me to refer your name, please let me know.

**Final Notes.** As always, we value your comments and advice. We are also here to try to answer your questions about classes, the major, and summer research. Please feel free to come to me or anyone else in the department. We look forward to a successful spring semester.