Welcome back. I hope the summer was enjoyable, interesting, and restorative for each of you. On behalf of the chemistry faculty and staff, I welcome you back for the new academic year. We had a productive and fun research-filled summer and are looking forward to another exciting year with you all.

Important dates. We will be hosting a special research seminar by Professor Laurie Butler of the University of Chicago on Friday, September 13. Prof. Butler is a physical chemist whose research investigates the fundamental inter- and intramolecular forces that drive chemical reactions using experiment (molecular beam reactive scattering and laser spectroscopy) and computational methods. She will spend the day at Barnard meeting with faculty and students. Her talk will be at 2:00 PM in 805 Altschul: “From Quantum Mechanics to Atmospheric Chemistry: Probing Radical Intermediates of Bimolecular Reactions.” We hope you can join us for the talk and meet with Prof. Butler.

On Sunday, October 6, we will celebrate Mrs. Olympia Jebejian and her 43(!)-year career at Barnard. The celebration will take place at 3:00-5:00 PM in Sulzberger Parlor (3rd floor Barnard Hall). Olympia has specifically requested the presence of as many students as possible! We therefore look forward to seeing you on October 6. For more details on this and other events, please see the department website: chemistry.barnard.edu.

Returning faculty. Returning to the department this fall is Dr. Kristina Harris Petersen. As in 2008-10, Dr. Harris Petersen will teach Biochemistry lab in the fall and Biochemistry lecture in the spring. (Prof. Mary Sever is on leave in 2013-14.) In addition to Kristina’s background in microbial biochemistry, she also is currently the co-director of Academic Support and Counseling at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Kristina is excited to return to Barnard and meet you all. We are similarly enthusiastic about her return: welcome back!

New faculty search. The Chemistry Department will conduct a faculty search for a new assistant professor in biochemistry this fall. The new faculty member will team with Prof. Sever in the coming years to create additional research and course opportunities in biochemistry. A critical part of every faculty search is involvement of current students. Therefore, we will ask for your very important input when the candidates visit campus on their interviews. You not only will have the opportunity to hear the candidates’ seminars, but we will arrange time for you all to meet in a small group with each candidate (without any faculty around). For example, Prof. Marisa Buzzeo (BC ’01) was a senior when I interviewed at Barnard; she and her fellow majors met with me during my interview. Because I was hired, I assume the meeting went well! Anyhow, stay tuned for notice of the candidates’ visits later in the fall semester – late October into November.

Fall luncheon. Our fall luncheon will be on Friday, November 8, 12–2 p.m., in Sulzberger Parlor (3rd floor Barnard Hall). The department luncheon is a good opportunity for majors and prospective majors (and other chemophiles) to mingle with faculty and each other. Our speaker will be Professor Bill Wuest of Temple University. The Wuest group works at the intersection of
synthetic organic chemistry and chemical biology to inhibit biofilm processes. Bacterial biofilms are increasingly resistant to antibiotic treatment and develop persistent infections within the human body. To combat this, Prof. Wuest’s group synthesizes compounds that target biofilm inhibitors, signaling molecules, and protein-protein interactions. Barnard Chemistry alumna Renee Harris ’10 is currently a 2nd-year Ph.D. student in the Wuest group.

Seminar/study room. Room 806 is available as a study room. Although it is often reserved for classes, office hours, and help sessions, there are free times during the week when it can be used by individual students and/or groups of students. A weekly schedule for the room is posted on the door. If you would like to reserve 806 Altschul, consult the weekly schedule and contact Department Administrator Sarah Meadows (smeadows@barnard.edu, Altschul 608).

Computer room. 603 Altschul is your stop for computer work. We have many workstations, including several Macs. In terms of priority, sometimes several or all computers may be reserved for a course. Additionally, students working on chemistry-related projects take precedence. However, when available, you are welcome to use the computers for other work. Remember that the health of these computers depends on the vigilance of the users: never open attachments unless you know them to be legitimate. Please save files in a folder with your name in the “Student Documents” folder. Files left elsewhere will be deleted. It’s always a good idea to back up your work. Remember also that food and drink are expressly prohibited in this room. Anyone who violates this policy will be denied access. If a computer or printer is not working properly, please tell Sarah Meadows in 608 Altschul. Please do not print lengthy documents unrelated to chemistry. Leave your workspace clean and tidy when you leave. When you are finished, shut down the computer.

Bulletin boards. Notices for seminars, graduate schools, and job opportunities (summer and permanent) are posted on the bulletin boards in the department. Seminar notices and notices for full- and part-time jobs and summer opportunities are posted on the 8th floor. The 7th-floor boards display selected graduate and professional school posters. In addition, other notices of interest to majors may also be posted on the chemistry department board in Altschul lobby opposite the elevators. Also check the department web page chemistry.barnard.edu.

Graduate and professional school. Fall is the season for applying to graduate schools. Many posters for graduate and professional programs are posted on the 7th floor. Perhaps even more useful for comparing graduate programs and finding information on individual faculty is the American Chemical Society’s Directory of Graduate Research: http://dgr.rints.com/. External fellowship and scholarship opportunities for students applying to graduate school can be found on the department website: http://chemistry.barnard.edu/scholarships.

Summer internships for 2014. It is not too early to start thinking about Summer 2014 opportunities, at Barnard and elsewhere. Many colleges and universities have REU (Research Experiences for Undergraduates) programs, sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF). We maintain a list of summer internship programs on the department website: https://chemistry.barnard.edu/scholarships. Barnard’s Howard Hughes program also keeps a database of web pages listing summer opportunities: http://hspp.barnard.edu/. Also check the chemistry department bulletin board on the 8th floor. Notices start to arrive in the fall and continue to arrive throughout the year. Application deadlines vary, so check the websites and bulletin board frequently. The Barnard chemistry summer research program will announce opportunities early in the spring semester.

Jobs. Please speak with me if you have a work-study or Barnard job grant and are looking for placement, as there may be some job opportunities in the department. If you have been hired to work in the department, you will first need to fill out I-9 and W-4 forms with the Office of Career Development (OCD) if you have not done so previously. After that, please give our Department
Assistant, Molly Gill (mgill@barnard.edu, Altschul 504A), the following information: your name, the job position, your primary supervisor, and the approximate number of hours/week that you will be working (not to exceed 15 hours/week).

**Student contact information.** We pride ourselves on keeping in touch with our 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 to have photos of majors on the 8th floor bulletin board. If yours is missing (or if you’re dissatisfied with the current one), please see Molly Gill in 504A Altschul or e-mail her a new photo.

**Tutors.** I occasionally receive requests from parents in search of chemistry tutors for their high school children. Additionally, General Chemistry and Organic Chemistry students often request tutors. Tutoring can be both very rewarding and a good review … and also a decent source of income. Please let me know if you would like me to refer your name.

**Last but not least.** We, the chemistry faculty, are happy to help you if you have any questions or problems. Although we cannot always solve every problem, we will do our best. Particularly as department chair, I am here to hear about any concerns you may have. I am available to meet privately; please do not hesitate to make an appointment with me. We all are proud of our department – faculty, staff, and students – and look forward to a successful and enjoyable year together.