California State University, Chico Chico, California 95929



Department of Physics (916) 895-6259

August 18, 1977

Greetings to all:

Last year at this time I sent out a letter (enclosed) requesting information about Chico physics graduates. While we (the department members) have received a fair number of letters, phone calls and visits there are still large gaps in our information. We still lack addresses for many of our graduates. Any help you can give us will be appreciated.

Enclosed is an updated list of graduates and addresses and a list of Physics Department faculty. A brief summary of the highlights of information received during the last two years follows. I apologize in advance for any errors or omissions.

Dale Pillsbury was at Brookhaven National Laboratory this last year on leave from Oregon State University. Dale received his Ph.D. in Physical Oceanography from O.S.U. and has been working on an NSF sponsored study of the flow of heat, salt and mass through Drake's Passage. Dale states that he has won no Nobel prizes but that he does not blame Chico State College for this failure!!! I might add that our Department has a perfect record on this point, none of our graduates have won a Nobel prize. We are holding our breath.

Jon Bolstad has worked in the area of laser/optics for some fifteen years and as of last fall (1976) was hoping to locate somewhere in the bay area. He would like to become a weekend farmer. Jon and his wife have made two extensive tours of Europe, in 1971 and again in 1972-3 which he describes as "most memorable."

Ron Fegley sends us a Christmas letter each year which we greatly appreciate. Ron is now back at Boulder, Colorado after spending a number of years as the director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Mauna Loa Observatory at Hilo, Hawaii. Ron received his Ph.D. in Physics from U.C., Davis.

In Sun Hong is working at Minnesota Manufacturing and Mining in Minneapolis. In Sun is still active in judo. Jon Bolstad met him in Los Angeles a few years back where Hong was serving as a judge for a judo meet.

Don McCauley has become an artist of reputation in his spare time and has had considerable success selling his work. Don received his Ph.D. in Physics from U.C. Davis and has worked many years at China Lake.

Harvey Peck visited the Department a little over a year ago. He had been working for Lockheed but was then planning to relocate. Unfortunately I failed to get his address.

Carter Rabinoff is now retired after teaching many years at Los Angeles State. Carter got into TV work way back when they were still experimenting with mechanical synchronization. He and his wife have published two books about TV. They came to Chico to get Masters degrees (Carter in Physical Science and Magdalena in Psychology) after they had been well established professionally.

Carter and Magdalena were avid travelers and had long planned a world wide grand tour taking possibly ten years to complete but sadly Magdalena died in early '75. Now after two and one-half years Carter has decided to embark on the trip by himself. He plans to drive from California to South America (except for a short section in Panama), headquarter in Uruguay for approximately two years, travel to South Africa by ship, motor north across Africa, headquarter in Austria for about two years, motor across Asia, headquarter with friends in Japan for about two years and then return home. Carter will be aided by the fact that he speaks Spanish and German well and knows a touch of Russian and Japanese. Good luck Carter: "You are a better man than I am, Gunga Din."

Neil Madsen has worked at Lawrence Livermore Labs since 1972. He is a Numerical Analyst Mathematician serving as a general consultant to the lab in the area of numerical solutions of partial differential equations and numerical linear algebra. He has been involved in atmospheric modeling and serves as an independent consultant for the State of California Air Resources Board. Neil received his Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from the University of Maryland in 1969.

Dave Bennum and his wife visited the Department a little less than two years ago. At that time he had just received his Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Nevada but was having trouble finding permanent work. He was teaching part-time at the University of Nevada but supporting himself mainly as a house Black Jack dealer. Dave's major work was in the area of field emission.

Richard Rose is recently married and planning to return to graduate study in Mathematics at University of California at Davis this fall.

He will also serve part-time as a math teacher.

Ed Szymansky obtained his Ph.D. in Atmospheric Physics this spring from New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Socorro.

Boyd Reasor returned to CSU, Chico in 1972-3 to teach part-time in physics and earn an M.A. in Physical Science. Boyd now works for Command and Information Systems, General Electric, Sunnyvale, Ca.

Scott Perry is teaching physics at Sacramento City College. Scott obtained his M.S. degree in Physics from U.C. Davis.

Jonathan Regalado taught physics in the Philippine Islands for several years after leaving Chico in 1970. He is now Vice President for Academic Affairs at a small college in Negros.

Jim Guynn has worked for Hewlett-Packard since obtaining his M.S. in Computer Science here at CSU, Chico in Spring 1973. He has specialized in liquid crystals and has this year transferred to the main Hewlett-Packard branch in Corvallis.

Francesco Di Lorenzo has sent the Physics Department a Christmas card each year since he left Chico in 1973, except for last year. We believe he is still teaching in Venezuela.

Darryl Brock received his BA in Physics in 1973 and last we heard was teaching at Corning High School.

Ron Weakley is the Physics Department stockroom technician. Ron has become very proficient at integrated circuit design. He also takes an active interest in solar energy and is responsible (with the help of Lew Parker and Russ Larsen) for the design and construction of the solar energy water heater on the roof of the Science Building which will help to heat the building's water.

Dave Dion is in business in Chico and he drops in to see us periodically. Dave obtained a secondary science teaching credential but chose not to enter the teaching field.

Mike Grimes teaches high school physics in Roseville. Mike is the biggest and strongest (since Hong?) that we have turned out.

Mike porter has taught at Yuba College off and on since getting his B.A. in Physics in Spring 1973. He is the fastest that we have turned out. Mike is now working towards an MS degree in Physical Science here at CSU, Chico.

Bob Messmer moved to Hughes Aircraft after working about two years with General Dynamics. He is working mainly in the area of software programming. As of last fall he was hoping to complete the requirements for an MS in Computer Science at USC fairly soon and then possibly some more work in physics.

Greg Smith is currently working toward an MS degree in Physical Sciences here at Chico. Greg is the best bicycle fixer we have ever turned out. Besides bicycles, Greg is also interested in such things as black holes and quantum electrodynamics.

Gary Roseme is employed at Lawrence Livermore Labs in solar energy research. Gary is also pursuing an advanced degree in engineering at UC Berkeley.

Things are about the same here. Mallary still receives and gives confessions but Jack Zeilenga has switched from being a compulsive computer analyst to an integrated circuit zealot. Our lower division courses have heavy enrollment and sustain us. Upper division however is depressingly low. We have only a small number of majors but more critical is the fact that a smaller number of engineers, mathematicians, chemists, etc., take upper division physics than in the good old days. For example, the computer read-out indicates that this fall only nine students will enroll in Phys. 200A, Modern Physics, taught by Mike McGie (who has always been a popular teacher). The course as you might know is roughly a brief survey of the physics courses every effort is made to keep the mathematical level as low as possible. It seems incredible to me that out of 12,000 CSU, Chico students less than ten would enroll in such a course. Optics, Solid State Physics and Advanced Lab have enrollments of two, two and three respectively.

In reading over what I have written above I could not help but be impressed with the high level of accomplishment in so many fields that you as a group have attained. It makes an old teacher proud. However, I hope that you will not get the idea we are trying to run an accomplishment contest. Admittedly we take considerable pride in what you all do, but basically we are interested in knowing where you are and what you are doing (philoprogenitive).

Let us hear from you.

Best regards.

Fred Boos

Fired Boos