First of all, please accept my apology that this message is arriving later than usual. The unfortunate combination of a case of influenza and a number of high priority tasks that had to be completed before I left for Florida on December 20th necessitated a change in the “time line”. The only benefit of my having been delayed is that I have received lots of updated information from many of you since mid December and now can include the more current information in the Members’ List, and all of you can benefit from it. Please, if any of you notice errors in your own information or see information about another alumnus that you know to be incorrect, I would greatly appreciate your letting me know. The same is true if you know the whereabouts or someone for whom there is NO information.

I must apologized further if any of you do not see news items that you sent me included either here or on the website, but my computer hard drive died in June, taking with it ALL of my data, including email archives, and the most recent back-up disk was corrupted and unusable. Thus, what I have been able to recover was either from a previous disk (from 2004) or copies of items that Professor Ojima and others had on their computers and could share with me. I am still discovering items I need but no longer have and spending lots of time recreating or retyping them from paper copies. Even so, or perhaps because of this, the year has flown by!

Professor Ojima, despite a sincere effort to be kinder to himself and reduce stress, has been continuing at much the same level of activity as always. In addition to the usual business of the lab and the ICB&DD and supervising the large number of graduate and undergraduate students in his lab, he taught graduate courses in the fall and spring and still managed a busy travel, lecture, and consulting schedule. He also organized two symposia at the ACS spring meeting in Atlanta, published an ambitious number of articles, and edited “Volume 10, Applications to Organic Synthesis I” in “Comprehensive Organometallic Chemistry III”. The Ojimas’ major concession to relaxation and recreation was a ten day vacation in Hawaii in December.

The year began auspiciously enough, with Professor Ojima deciding to accept three very strong first year graduate students into the lab, Joseph Kaloko, Yu-Han (Gary) Teng, and Kunal Kumar. We also had good news from our 2005 high-school summer research students, two of whom (Nora Micheva and Gabriela Jara) were named Intel Semi-finalists! Also in January, Douglas Sturm, accompanied by Professor Ojima, traveled to the Bristol Myers Squibb Undergraduate Research Symposium in Connecticut, where he presented the results of his research as a BMS Summer Research Fellow. We also added a talented new undergraduate student, Fumiko Azuma, who is working under the supervision of Dr. Stanislav Jaracz.

Wen-Hua Chiou, who had stayed on in the Ojima Lab as a postdoctoral fellow after earning his Ph.D. in August 2005, left the group in early March to accept an industrial postdoctoral position at OSI Pharmaceuticals in Farmingdale, NY. He remained in close contact
with Professor Ojima, however, working on several articles for publication, and a few months later he received the much-coveted offer of a faculty position at National Chung Hsing University, in his native Taiwan. He and Chia-Yin are currently readjusting to life there and planning a wedding celebration in about a month.

After the ACS Meeting we were able to concentrate for a while on the routine matters of research, proposal preparation, and progress reports, but more change was on the way. As the school year drew to a close, we had to say good-by to several of our undergraduate researchers who were graduating, specifically Ori Maller and Steve Chow. Kimberly Odynocki changed her status by being admitted to the BS/MS program and remained in the Ojima Group. Following Commencement, the three new graduate students began working in the lab, and we were joined shortly thereafter by Daniel Cohen, our NSF-REU Summer Research student, from SUNY New Paltz.

At the end of May, Professor Ojima left for a trip to Dalian, China, to participate as invited lecturer at an International Conference on Drug Discovery. He had scarcely returned home when, in early June, he was off again, to Moscow for another conference. Thus he was away on his birthday, so we had to postpone the celebration until after his return, but we did send him an e-card and group photo on the day. At the end of June, the group was joined by three enthusiastic high school student researchers, Zeynep Basaran, from Smithtown H.S. and identical twins, Christopher and Kenneth Winter, from Ward Melville. Eventually all three made us proud by becoming Siemens-Westinghouse Semifinalists, and the twins were regional finalists in the Team Category!

In July Dr. Kan Ma resigned from his position as Director of the Instrumentation Lab of ICB&DD to accept a post at NIH and return to his family in Maryland, and Bruno Chapsal left after a six-month Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Ojima Lab to go to Professor Arun K. Ghosh’s laboratory at Purdue. Just before their departure, we welcomed a visiting graduate student from the University of Glasgow, Ms. Ching Ching Chua, who was this year’s winner of the Francis and Marta Johnson Scholarship. As usual summer also provided an opportunity to enjoy the benefits of life on Long island, especially the annual Barbecue at the Ojimas’ lovely home and the lab’s beach party at Smith Point Park.

The fall ACS Meeting was in San Francisco in September, and Grace Chuang organized a delightful Reunion Dinner for the Ojima Group, past and present, at one of the city’s trendiest restaurants. Despite the late arrival of some of the current members due to travel delays, a good time was had by all!

While on the subject of ACS Meetings and Reunions, I would like to take this opportunity to give all of you early notice that plans for the August 2007 ACS Meeting Ojima Group Reunion in Boston are already underway. Since there are now quite a large number of alumni in and around the Boston area, and the trip from Stony Brook or NYC can be accomplished so easily, an unusually large turnout is expected. I might even make the trip myself to take advantage of the opportunity to see many of you again. Deric Geng and Chris Borella (when he recovers a bit from Chloe’s grand entrance) have volunteered to be the organizers of the event and will be sending more information as plans progress. Of course, if
you would like to help and/or participate, you can find their email addresses in the most current version of the Ojima Group List (attached).

In September 2006, shortly after the ACS meeting, the Medicinal Chemistry Division announced the creation of its “Hall of Fame” and, as most of you have already been informed, Professor Ojima was one of the “charter members” of the group. It is thought that other ACS Divisions may follow suit with their own versions of this idea. Certainly it is an outstanding honor, and I know that many of you, like the current members of the Lab and ICB&DD have already sent your congratulations.

In late October Professor Ojima left for his annual lecture/consulting trip to Japan. Yoko accompanied and, in addition to fulfilling his professional obligations, he was able to get a "Human Dock" whole body checkup at the Kitasato Institute Hospital and attend his University of Tokyo and Junior High School Class Reunions. The Ojimas returned to Port Jefferson in time to plan and host their annual Thanksgiving Eve celebration, which was wonderful, as always.

The end of the semester was particularly hectic, with numerous First and Third Meetings, Advanced Graduate Seminars, and, most importantly, Sunny Huang’s and Jin Chen’s Ph.D. defenses, all scheduled between Nov. 27th and Dec. 15th. Of course all of the Ojima students were successful, and Dr. Huang will be moving to Manhattan (where husband Charles already works) in a few weeks to join the laboratory of Professor Lawrence at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Happily, Dr. Chen will be staying on until the end of the spring semester to finish up some of her research and prepare her results for publication, and also to await the birth of her and Jun’s son in early March.

Speaking of births, this has been a prolific year for Ojima alumni. Among those celebrating the arrival of their first children were Dr. Grace Chuang and Jason Duquette, with daughter Maria; Dr. Leila Abrous-Sansaka and husband Jarek with son Frederik; Dr. Ed Wu and wife Yanming, with son Nathan; Dr. An T. Vu and Tram Hoang with daughter Sophie; and Dr. Chris Borella and wife Chenie, with daughter Chloe. Photos of the new arrivals can be seen on the Ojima Group site by clicking on the Alumni News link at: http://ojima10.chem.sunysb.edu/~ojimaweb/homepage/homepage.html

Any of the rest of you who would like to share your own news with us are welcome to forward items, announcements, photos, etc. Sometimes they will appear on the Ojima Group site or perhaps on the Chemistry Department website as well as in this little “newsletter”, and Professor Ojima and I always enjoy hearing from you.

The entrance into this world of new life is always a cause for rejoicing, as it should be. Most of you know that Jackie Kampf and I have both been delighted by the births of our first grandchildren in December 2005, and Frank and I just returned from celebrating Christmas and Mattingly’s first birthday. But the decision to have a child is a serious one and a major responsibility, especially in these difficult times, and it is an affirmation of faith and hope.

2006 was a year of great tragedy and turmoil all over the world. Natural disasters, the horrors of Darfur and genocide, all the terrorism and sectarian fighting in various parts of the
world, have contributed to an atmosphere of tension and anxiety about the future. Many of us have been deeply troubled by the widespread corruption and abuse of power on the part of elected officials who are supposed to be protecting our interests and democracy. Hatred, bigotry, and greed are undeniable facts of life. Yet we also know that human beings are capable of great compassion, love, and generosity. We have seen it demonstrated in the actions of rescue volunteers at disaster sites, in the willingness of public figures to focus attention on acts of barbarity and genocide, and in the selflessness and valor of our troops (and allies) in Afghanistan and in Iraq (whatever your feelings about the war). I hope that you will take some time to reflect on and be inspired by these acts of courage and sacrifice and to join me in a sincere wish for peace and brotherhood throughout the world in the coming year.

To all of you, your families and loved ones, I send my sincere wishes that you are blessed with love, good health, and happiness in 2007.

Warmest regards,

Pat

Alaafia  He Ping  Paix  Peace  Paz  Shalom