1. Dave Bailey’s passing has brought mourning throughout this community. I had the good fortune to see Dave just after work on Monday, when I stopped by just before he and Sally left BroMenn to go home. I wrote Jeff afterwards to say that Dave had changed, that he made a decisive turn toward death, and that he willingly embraced this difficult journey. Dave knew that he couldn’t get better, and he didn’t want to linger long, for his family’s sake as well as his own. I associate one word more than any other with Dave—“determination”—and so I was not entirely shocked when he left us quickly. You have by now heard from Mona about the Bailey Prize in Chemistry. Jeff will have more information on how you might help him and his colleagues in Chemistry as they establish this remembrance of Dave, beginning with our commencement this May. We will have a moment of silence for Dave at the beginning of our Monday meeting, and we invite you to attend a celebration of Dave’s life, to be held at Evelyn Chapel, Wednesday February 5th, at 5 P.M.

2. In this time of anxiety about our country’s possible (likely?) entry into open war with Iraq, we all may find it useful to re-read the AAUP statement on “Academic Freedom” that appears in the Faculty Handbook (Chapter II – 12-13). Several faculty members have asked me recently about their rights and responsibilities with regard to expressions of their opinions on world events and politics, and the AAUP statement is the best, most recognized way of answering those questions. This university embraces these principles of academic freedom and will use them, if necessary, to defend the rights of all members of this community to participate in open debate and discussion. I recommend also that you review a recent statement by the Association of American Universities (An association of 62 leading research universities in the United States and Canada) entitled “The Responsibility of Universities at a Time of International Tension and Domestic Protest.” You can find this statement at http://www.aau.edu/resources/AAUState1.15.03.html. President Myers, Dean Matthews, and I invite your advice and counsel about how, in the words of this statement, we might “actively promote informed dialogue, analytical thought, and exemplary arguments.”

3. The following faculty members (and their proud colleagues) report significant accomplishments:

- **Ram Mohan** is one of eight professors nationwide selected for the Young Observer Program by the U. S. National Committee for the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry. Jeff Hanna explains, “The Young Observer Program allows selected participants to experience the global efforts that impact the scientific community and to further their careers and international reputation by establishing contacts and participating in a network that leads the global chemistry enterprise.”
Ram and his students have also published an article on their very new and groundbreaking work with ionic liquids, “Synthesis of Homoallyl Ethers via Allylation of Acetals in Ionic Liquids Catalyzed by Trimethylsilyl Trifluoromethanesulfonate” in the most recent issue of *Organic Letters*.

- **Valérie Orlando**’s second book, *Of Suffocated Hearts and Tortured Souls: Seeking Subjecthood through Madness in Francophone Women’s Writing of Africa and the Caribbean*, is now out in a lovely edition from Lexington Books. Engaged as I was to learn about so many new (to me) and fascinating writers, I confess that I was most touched by the dedication page, blank except for—“For Zahia and her sisters.” What better way to understand how our learned colleague in French relies on and appreciates her colleague, Professor Drici, in Mathematics?

- **Becky Roesner** and several student co-authors now studying at several fine graduate schools (U. of North Carolina, U. of Florida, and John Marshall Law School) have published a substantial article, “Mono- and di-functional aromatic amines with p-alkoxy substituents as novel arylimido ligands for the hexamolybdate ion,” in *Inorganic Chimica Acta*. Becky gave me a handsome offprint from Elsevier that notes that her article is also available online at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

- From the fastness of his sabbatical in Scotland, **Gabe Spalding** wrote to let me know that his co-authored paper, “Applications of Spatial Light Modulators in Atom Optics,” has been published in *Optics Express*.

Congratulations to all these faculty colleagues! And, join me, too, in sending our colleague, Mike Weis, a cheer to buoy his recovery, which is, by all reports, progressing well. Because his physical therapy is apparently quite arduous, we all should probably send our good wishes by e-mail, rather than disturbing his much-needed rest with a ringing phone.