Jack Shiner retired only recently, but he came to IU in 1952, when the faculty size was around 20 and was struggling to develop a strong research presence. Jack had just finished a year of independent research nominally under the guidance of Paul Bartlett at Harvard, and in a short period of time he became well known for his contributions to physical organic chemistry utilizing deuterium isotope effects. In 1962, Jack became chair and began writing a proposal that would further solidify enormous research gains at IU over that period. By 1966, the faculty size was nearly 45, including administrators like Ward Schaal and Lynn Merritt, who spent most of their time at Bryan Hall. At that time, IU's research reputation had developed so that it was rated 15-20 in the country, judging by publications and grant income. What Jack and other members of the chemistry department and the physics department did was to write a proposal for a “Centers of Excellence” grant. This grant provided for the development of the IU Cyclotron Facility and for expanded hiring of faculty and staff in chemistry for a five-year period. The NSF provided $5 million and the university was to pick up the salaries after five years. Unlike some other universities receiving this type of grant, IU fulfilled its promise. This is one of the reasons that IU’s Department of Chemistry enjoys such strong support in the machine, electrical, computer, and glass shop even today.

Jack's administrative efforts extended to the Office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He began in that position during the recession of 1973, a particularly difficult time for U.S. universities. His efforts helped preserve the very strong international reputations of not only the chemistry department, but also the English, German, psychology, and biology departments. The latter was particularly noteworthy because four different departments in Jordan Hall were combined into the current biology department during Jack’s tenure. Characteristic of Jack’s deep analytical sense was his statement at the time: “What you do in Hard Times is more important than what you do in Good Times.”

In 1982, Jack was recruited again to be chemistry department chair when plans for a $40 million renovation of the Chemistry Physical Plant were to be executed. Jack oversaw the building of the south and east additions, the renovation of the ‘64 annex, and the renovation of the original chemistry building. Among the many concerns during that effort was the air handling system, which was new for academic buildings, although more or less standard for new industrial labs. A modest, but relatively new, innovation was an ethyleneglycol heat recovery system to increase efficiency.

These unselfish efforts were not Jack’s only contribution to IU chemistry. His research group, while never large by synthetic chemistry standards, was productive and important in their impact. Hyperconjugation as a stabilizing force for cations received its confirmation in Jack’s lab. The characterization of solvolysis reactions, particularly the sequence of formation of intimate, then solvated, then free ions was also confirmed and delineated for particular systems in Jack’s lab. The calculation of isotope fractionation factors and the recognition that solvent isotope effects could be characterized by changes in vibrational frequencies due to hydrogen bonding came out of Jack’s lab. It is particularly significant that one of Jack’s students, Brown Murr, who when he began his independent research career at Johns Hopkins, utilized deuterium kinetic isotope effects to show that solvolytic generation of the 2-norbornyl cation occurred with participation by the beta C-C bond. That is, he showed that the cation was non-classical, thereby settling an important question in the ‘60s and ‘70s, long before the development of NMR and theoretical techniques that ultimately provided the same answer. One need only attend the Gordon Conference on isotope effects to witness the enormous esteem in which Jack’s scholarly efforts are held. But Jack’s scientific interests go well beyond isotope effects. Those of us privileged to know him over the years have profited from his many penetrating questions to seminar speakers in diverse areas of chemistry.

In addition to his scholarly and administrative activities, Jack lent his expertise to the American (continued on page 14)
A number of professors emeriti have also been involved in noteworthy activities over the past year. Frank Gurd has forwarded from Albuquerque an article in *Biophysical Chemistry* — co-authored with Fred Richards — that provides a special perspective on the career of their mentor, John Edsall. Marvin Carmack has relocated from Arizona back to Bloomington, where he is a lively participant in many departmental and university social functions.

Evelyn Jabri has left IU to become an assistant editor for *Nature Structural Biology*. Joe Zwanziger has relocated to Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia.

A reception honoring Ed Bair took place on the occasion of the dedication of the Edward J. Bair Mechanical Instrument Services facility last December. During a series of lectures on ice physics in Fairbanks, Alaska, last December, George Ewing had the misfortune to be in an automobile accident involving a moose, but he has recovered from this incident and is back at work in the lab, doing NSF-sponsored research on the properties of thin-film water and ice. Lee Todd recently completed the construction of a fully functional laboratory on his farm in Monroe County, where he plans to pursue some new research ideas.

Finally, as famous as Jack is for his many efforts, he will not surpass the fame of the brew named for a small town in east Texas that bears the family name. Shiner Bock Beer is a Texas staple.

— Joe Gajewski

Joe Gajewski has described Vernon ‘Jack’ Shiner to me as a scholar, administrator, teacher, sports car enthusiast, gentleman farmer, and patron of the arts. I concur heartily, but I hasten to add one more word of description: insightful — he hired me!

— Rupert Wentworth

Faculty news
(continued from page 12)