

## **Chemistry Majors**

### **DePauw University Class of 1954**

**Norman J. Hudak '54**



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## Chemistry Majors in the DePauw University Class of 1954

There were eleven members of the class of 1954, all men, who completed a chemistry major. They were:

Name	Affiliation	Graduate School	Hometown
John C. Banter	ΣN	Western Reserve Univ.	Marion, IN
Alan Burkhalter	ΔΤΑ	Univ. of Iowa	Moline, IL
Rodney (Rod) B. Clampitt	ΛΧΑ	Univ. of Wisconsin	Hagerstown, IN
Edward G. Daniels	Independent	Univ. of Illinois	Lorain, OH
William P. Giddings	MHA	Harvard Univ.	Schenectady, NY
W. Brian Hill	MHA	Univ. of Illinois	Gridley, IL
Henry J. Hoenes	MHA	Michigan State Univ.	Ottawa, IL
Bernard E. Hoogenboom	ΛΧΑ	Univ. of Iowa	Goshen, IN
Norman J. Hudak	MHA	Cornell Univ.	Lorain, OH
John A. Jennings	MHA	Case Western Reserve Univ.	Xenia, OH
John (Jack) L. Spencer	ΛΧΑ	Univ. of Michigan	Sanford, FL

We were an interesting group. Ten of us were Rector Scholars throughout our four years as undergraduates. Jack Spencer, who transferred to DePauw after his freshman year at Rollins College, was the only one who did not have a Rector Scholarship. I think he would have qualified for one if he had enrolled at DePauw as a freshman—something the other ten of us had done. Even though we all took the same core chemistry classes together, I do not think that any of us regarded himself as being in a competition. Instead, we were friends who supported one another and who worked well together. As seniors six of us chemistry majors were among the twenty-eight students elected to Phi Beta Kappa. All eleven of us went on to graduate schools. Ten of us earned Ph. D.'s in chemistry; one, John Jennings, earned an M.D.

A group photograph of the chemistry majors in the class of 1938 was displayed on the wall of the large chemistry lecture room in Minshall Laboratory. That class had been regarded as the best DePauw had graduated. The Chemistry faculty insisted on having a photograph taken of our class standing with them in front of Minshall Laboratory. That photograph was mounted on the wall next to that of the class of 1938 and remained there for as long as Minshall Laboratory stood. Nowadays, only a plaque marks the location of where Minshall Laboratory was.

All of us majors took the same core courses. As freshmen we had General Chemistry with Dr. Donald J. (Jack) Cook. I chose Prof. Cook who was an organic chemist, but who also taught inorganic chemistry, as my advisor. Quantitative Analysis with Dr. Jervis Fulmer came in our sophomore year. The first semester was devoted to volumetric analysis and the second to gravimetric analysis. We learned Organic Chemistry from Dr. Howard Burkett in our junior year and Physical Chemistry from Dr. John Ricketts as seniors. As seniors we had a short course in Inorganic Chemistry with Dr. Cook, and we carried out senior projects.

When I arrived at DePauw as a freshman I knew nothing about graduate schools. In fact, I do not think I had even heard about them. By the time I was a senior I was very cognizant of them. The chemistry department bulletin board was full of fliers about opportunities for graduate study all over the country. I realized that Bill Giddings, my roommate, had made a cogent observation when he said, "The Chemistry Department has been preparing us for graduate school ever since we got here." We had advice from all of the chemistry faculty about graduate schools. Bill Giddings was fortunate because his father recruited new Ph. D.'s for careers with General Electric. From Bill I learned about the graduate schools in chemistry that his father thought were the best in the nation. My fellow chemistry major classmates and I all realized that we had to spread out our applications because graduate schools in chemistry would not be likely to accept more than two or three candidates from the same undergraduate institution.

### Careers of the 1954 DePauw University Chemistry Majors

Name	Graduate School	Professional Activity
John C. Banter	Western Reserve Univ.	Prof. Florida Atlantic Univ.
Alan Burkhalter	Univ. of Iowa	Prof. Univ. of California, San Francisco
Rodney B. Clampitt	Univ. of Wisconsin	Monsanto Co. – Orchard Corp. of America
Edward G. Daniels	Univ. of Illinois	Upjohn Pharmaceuticals
William P. Giddings	Harvard Univ.	Prof. Pacific Lutheran Univ.
W. Brian Hill	Univ. of Illinois	Prof. Indiana Univ. Southeast
Henry J. Hoenes	Michigan State Univ.	PPG Industries
Bernard E. Hoogenboom	Univ. of Iowa	Prof. Gustavus Adolphus Coll.
Norman J. Hudak	Cornell Univ.	Prof. Willamette Univ.
John A. Jennings	Case Western Reserve Univ.	Obstetrician/Gynecologist
John L. Spencer	Univ. of Michigan	Eli Lilly & Co. – Prof. Florida Southern Coll.

Norman J. Hudak  
 Salem, Oregon  
 February 17, 2014

1954



Faculty: Howard Burkett, Jervis Fulmer, John Ricketts, Donald "Jack" Cook



CHEMISTRY CLUB—Top Row: J. Pontius, D. Knapp, H. Hoenes, R. Clampitt, B. Hill, J. Vaughn, E. Daniels, J. Shields.  
Second Row: N. Yoshida, J. Banter, J. Jennings, D. Yarian, E. Peters, R. Murphy, R. de Paredes, N. Hudak, P. Hoagland,  
J. Spencer, L. Heldt.  
Bottom Row: L. Tresselt, Dr. J. Ricketts, Faculty Advisor, Dr. J. Fulmer, Faculty Advisor, Dr. E. Pool, Faculty Advisor, A.  
Burkhalter, Sec'y, W. Giddings, Pres., B. Hoogenboom, S. Yott.

## Photograph of Rector Scholars Entering DePauw University, Fall 1950

This photograph of incoming Rector Scholars was taken in September or October, 1950, in front of Speech Hall. Ten of the eleven chemistry majors in the DePauw University Class of 1954 appear in the picture. John L. Spencer, the eleventh major, who enrolled at DePauw in September, 1951, as a sophomore, is not in the picture. When the bottom row is taken as the first row and the top row as the sixth row, the ten individuals can be identified by counting from either side of the picture. I cannot identify the woman at the extreme left of the sixth row, but I count her as the first person on the left in that row.

Name	Row	Position from left edge	Position from right edge
John C. Banter	6th	4	15
Alan Burkhalter	4th	10	10
Rodney B. Clampitt	6th	8	11
Edward G. Daniels	4th	11	9
William P. Giddings	6th	13	6
W. Brian Hill	2nd	13	4
Henry J. Hoenes	6th	12	7
Bernard E. Hoogenboom	5th	18	2
Norman J. Hudak	2nd	4	13
John A. Jennings	6th	16	3

### Rector Scholars Entering DePauw University, Fall 1950

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February 17, 2014



## Appendix

### Chemistry Majors in the DePauw University Class of 1954

I do not remember when, where, or how I first learned that all eleven chemistry majors in the class of 1954 earned doctorates. Before including that statement in my life story I wanted to be sure that that indeed was the case. I was also curious about the university where each had studied for the degree. In my search for information I used my copy of *The 1954 Mirage* (the DePauw yearbook) and my copy of the *1990 DePauw University Alumni Directory*. The *1954 Mirage* was a useful reference for living group affiliations, Rector Scholarships, hometowns, and Phi Beta Kappa memberships. The Alumni Directory corroborated that all eleven chemistry majors had earned doctorates by using the title Dr. in listing each one of them, but it did not name the institutions granting the degrees. The directory also provided information about professional activities in 1990.

When I began, I knew from memory the names of all the chemistry majors: John Banter, Alan Burkhalter, Rodney Clampitt, Edward Daniels, William Giddings, W. Brian Hill, Henry Hoenes, Bernard Hoogenboom, Norman Hudak, John Jennings, and John Spencer. I even knew that Bill Giddings' middle name was Paul, that the W. in Brian Hill's was for William (he was eighth in the line of William Hills), and of course my own middle name. I knew that Bill Giddings had earned his degree at Harvard and was a professor at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA, that Bernie Hoogenboom was a professor at Gustavus Adolphus in St. Peter, MN, and that Brian Hill was a professor at a branch of Indiana University in southeastern Indiana. I also knew that Alan Burkhalter died more than ten years ago, that Jack Spencer died about five years ago, and that Brian Hill died in early 2013.

I used Google extensively in my search for more information. I soon found the obituary of Dr. Alan Burkhalter Ph.D. who died on September 15, 2001. Thus, I was confident that he had earned a doctorate, but I did not know where. Tracing that down ultimately became my most difficult task. I also found obituaries for Jack Spencer, Ed Daniels, and Brian Hill. Because Spencer, Daniels, and Hill are relatively common surnames, I had to use modifiers to their names in my Google searches. Using Dr. before their names or Ph.D. after, or both, provided good leads. Because I vaguely remembered that Class Notes in the *DePauw Alumnus* reported that John Spencer had died in Florida, I used Florida as a modifier for him. I eventually found his obituary using his name and Lakeland, Florida, and learned that he got his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan. When looking for information about Ed Daniels, I used Kalamazoo as a modifier because I believed he worked for Upjohn Pharmaceuticals in

Kalamazoo. I found his obituary, but it did not include where he earned his Ph.D. However, it did list his sister, Gladys Sifter of Yorba Linda, CA, as one of his survivors. I got her telephone number off the web, and when I telephoned her I learned she did not know where he got his Ph.D., but she offered to call her nephew, Jim (Ed's son), to find out. It was at the University of Illinois, just as I had suspected. I was fairly confident that Brian Hill lived in Jeffersonville, IN, and was not surprised to find his obituary in a Louisville, KY, newspaper because Louisville is just across the Ohio River from Jeffersonville. The newspaper reported that he, too, had earned his Ph. D. at the University of Illinois.

When I entered Dr. John Banter into a Google search, the first item in the list was "Dr. John C. Banter – Florida Atlantic University." It indicated that he was Emeritus Professor, Ph.D. Western Reserve University, BS DePaw (*sic*). Bernard Hoogenboom was also easy to find. His name was first on the list in a Google search, and clicking on that item gave me all the information about him that I was searching for. Records from Gustavus Adolphus show that he earned his Ph.D. at the State University of Iowa which is commonly known as the University of Iowa. Information about John Jennings was also easy to find because I knew he was an obstetrician/gynecologist in suburban Detroit, MI. The first item in the list that popped up gave me the information that he got his M.D. at Case Western Reserve University. However, I believe it was still Western Reserve University in 1959. I found two likely Rodney Clampitts on the web. The one I was looking for was Rodney B. Clampitt, living in Winston-Salem, NC. I attempted to telephone him using the telephone number given in the entry but found that it had been disconnected. Further searching led me to the information that his Ph.D. came in August, 1958, from the University of Wisconsin and that he had worked with Prof. McElvain.

My biggest surprise came when I entered the name Henry Hoenes and immediately found the entry "Henry J. Hoenes Obituary – Spring, Texas." Because I knew he had been living in the Houston area and Spring is a Houston suburb, when I saw the dates "Born June 8, 1932 – Died October 30, 2013," I was certain I had found the right Henry Hoenes. However, his obituary did not include where he had earned his Ph.D. degree. I telephoned his wife, Donna, whom I remember from our days at DePauw to learn that he received it at Michigan State University.

Finally the last piece of the puzzle fell into place when I learned where Alan Burkhalter got his Ph.D. His obituary provided the following information: "Dr. Alan Burkhalter, PHD passed away on September 15, 2001 at the age of 69. He was a highly respected professor of Pharmacology at University of California San Francisco for 36 years before retiring in 1992." A daughter, Sharon Kurk, was listed as one of his



survivors. A search for her on Google revealed a Sharon M. Kurk whose entry also included Sharon M. Burkhalter. I telephoned her to find out about where her father obtained his Ph.D. She did not know but offered to ask her brother. Neither he nor Sharon's step-mother knew, but they believed that he got a Master's degree from the University of Iowa. Allowing two years for a master's degree, I surmised the following about Alan Burkhalter: BA, DePauw, 1954; MA, Iowa, 1956; at UCSF 1956-1992 [36 years!!]. Those dates led me to think that perhaps he had gone to UCSF for his Ph.D. and stayed on as a faculty member. But I was wrong. I telephoned the Pharmacology Department at the University of California at San Francisco and ultimately reached an associate of Dr. David Julius. She had access to Alan Burkhalter's curriculum vitae and found that he had earned his Ph.D. at the University of Iowa in 1957.

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Norman J. Hudak	Cornell Univ.	Prof. Willamette Univ.
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John L. Spencer	Univ. of Michigan	Eli Lilly & Co.—Prof. Florida Southern Coll.

To verify the information in this careers table I spoke with all of the surviving members of the group except Rodney Clampitt. From what I found on Google I believe his most recent address was in Winston-Salem, NC, but when I dialed the two telephone numbers given for him there, I was informed that those number were no longer in service. I do know that he got patents while working for Monsanto and that the 1990 *DePauw University Alumni Directory* gave his professional association as Orchard Corp. of America in St. Louis, MO.

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