



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA

USF Chemistry NEWS

News of Interest to
Friends of the Department of Chemistry
University of South Florida

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Schneller Chemistry Legacy lectureship

An announcement from Dr. **Randy Larsen**, professor and chair:

“It is with great pleasure that I announce the initiation of the endowed Schneller Chemistry Legacy Lectureship.”

“In May, 2014, Stew and Aina Schneller established the Schneller Chemistry Legacy Lectureship endowment in the College of Arts and Sciences on the Tampa campus of the University of South Florida.”

“The Schneller Chemistry Legacy Lectureship will host one lecture per year within the Chemistry Department. The Schneller Legacy Lecturer is to be chosen by the chemistry department chair in consultation with appropriate faculty members forming a committee. Each Schneller Chemistry Legacy Lecturer will receive a plaque recognizing his/her lecture.”

“This Schneller Chemistry Legacy Lectureship honors the chemistry faculty who, from 1956 to 1970, traveled from sand spurs and gravel roads to arrive at a PhD granting department with an undergraduate degree program consistently recognized by the American Chemical Society.”

“Prof. Schneller received his undergraduate training at the University of Louisville receiving a B.S. 1964 and M.S. 1965. He pursued his doctoral degree at Indiana

University receiving his Ph.D. in 1968 which was followed by post-doctoral training at Stanford University from 1968-1970. After completion of his post-doctoral training Prof. Schneller joined the USF Chemistry faculty serving as Chair from 1986-1994. He departed for Auburn University in 1994 as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, a position he held until 2010. His area of research is in organic chemistry/Medicinal chemistry and drug discovery. He continues a very active research program at Auburn!”

Faculty Awards -I

Dr. **Jianfeng Cai** received notification of award for his NSF CAREER Award entitled: CAREER: Lipo-cyclic Antimicrobial Peptidomimetics that Disrupt Bacterial Membranes. This project focuses on the design and synthesis of a new class of peptidomimetics, and investigation of their action on the bacterial membranes.

Dr. Randy Larsen wrote, “The Award is for \$500K for five years and exemplifies the continued high impact research in drug discovery taking place within the Department of Chemistry, CMD5, CDDI and USF. The investments made in drug discovery have been integral to the success of our faculty!”

Faculty Awards -II

Prof. **Mark McLaughlin** received notification of award for an NIH STTR

Proposal entitled, "Second generation MTI-101 analogs using a novel peptoid-peptide hybrid beta-hairpin-like scaffold" (\$225K for this fiscal year).

Dr. **Randy Larson** in making the announcement wrote, "The STTR award highlights the entrepreneurial efforts in drug discovery within the Department of Chemistry!"

Faculty Awards –III

An announcement from Dr. **Randy Larsen** :

"Dr. **Scott Lewis** has been awarded an NSF grant entitled 'Improving Large Lecture Gateway Chemistry Courses through Flipped Classes with Peer-Led Team Learning' for \$329,994 over three years.

Dr. **Jeffrey Raker** and Dr. **Jon Antilla** are Co-investigators.



Dr. Lewis

He added: "This is an important project towards advancing STEM education at USF and is critical for advancing our Discipline-Based Education Research effort."



Dr. Raker



Dr. Antilla

Faculty Awards –IV

Dr. **Bill Baker** is a PI on a joint project with University of Alabama-Birmingham entitled "The Chemical Ecology of Shallow-water Marine Macroalgae and Invertebrates on the Antarctic Peninsula". The overall project is funded at \$1.7 million over 4 years with USF's share at \$889K over four years. The USF component involves USF-CDDI and the Department of Chemistry.

Faculty Recognition

Dr. **Randy Larsen** announced (June 12th) that Dr. **Shengqian Ma** (asst. professor) was included on the *2014 Highly Cited Researchers* list by Thompson Reuters.

Faculty Recognition ---II

Dr. Larsen announced (June 17th) that a review article in the journal *Chemistry Education and Research and Practice* has identified both Dr. **Jennifer Lewis** and Dr. **Scott Lewis** as being in the top 10 most published authors of empirical chemistry education research papers between 2004 and 2013.

He added, "This is an outstanding accomplishment and exemplifies the continued excellence of our Chemical Education Research program and to Discipline-Based Education Research at USF!"

Chem-SEEDS

This program involved eleven undergraduate researchers working with chemistry faculty this summer. The program is supported by the NSF as a summer REU-site. Two USF

2014 participants were supported by the USF Office for Undergraduate Research (OUR). Dr. **Santiago Sandi-Urena** was the PI for the NSF-supported program and Mr. **Parker Huhta** served as the Graduate Coordinator. Dr. Rick Pollenz is the Director of the OUR.

A highlight of the program was the Fourth NSF REU & RET Research Day Symposium held in the IRD Building, July 31st. This event was sponsored by Research One and the Colleges of Engineering and Arts and Sciences. More than 70 undergraduates and pre- and in-service teachers presented their work.

Chem-SEEDS participants are pictured below. Front row: **Anne Telcy**, Florida Southern College, **Nelson Garcia**, U. Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras, **Arielis Esteves**, U. Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras, **Reed Jacobsen**, USF, and **Jose Liriano**, USF. Back Row: **Vinushka Schalk**, New College of Florida, **Christopher Brewer**, Florida State, **Jermaine Henderson**, U. Mass-Boston, **Santiago Rodriguez-Ospina**, USF, **Nathan Pickering**, N.W. Missouri State U, Mr. Huhta, Graduate Coordinator. Not pictured: **Veronika Espinoza**, Cal State U.-San Marcos

The winners for outstanding posters were:
First Place: Mr. **Nathan Pickering** (Advisor: Dr. **Arjan van der Vaart**).
Second Places (tie): Mr. **Nelson Garcia** (Advisor: Dr. Peter Zhang) and Mr. **Chris Brewer** (Advisor: Dr. **Kirpal Bisht**)



Research Day group picture (Mr. Huhta, far right)

Certificates and cash prizes were given to the prize winners.

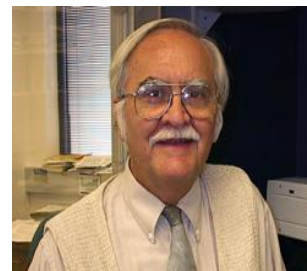
More about Chemistry...

Tampa Bay Section –ACS

The section's Awards Dinner was held May 22nd at the 7th Floor of the Interdisciplinary Science Building. A leading organizer was the section secretary, **Kimberly Fields** (Ph.D. '10), instructor in chemistry, who also served as faculty advisor to the Chemistry Society.



Dr. Fields



Dr. Stanko

The 60-year members honored included Drs. **Gerry Meisels** (Provost '88-94 ; Faculty '88-) and **Dean F. Martin** (faculty 1964--). 50-years members honored included Dr. **Joseph A. Stanko** (faculty ('73 - '03).



Dr. Meisels

Former faculty members **Dr. Douglas Raber** (1970-91) and **Dr. George R. Newkome** (1986-01) were also listed in C&EN as 50-year members

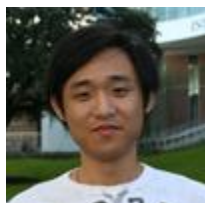
Summer Grads

Four persons earned their doctorate this summer. Advisors are listed parenthetically.

Dr. Yao Chen (**Dr. Shengqian Ma**) **Dr. Tao Liang** (**Dr. Jon Antilla**) **Dr. Adrian Villalta-Cerdas** (**Dr. Sandi-Urena**), **Dr. Fenger Zhou** (**Dr. Mark McLaughlin**).



Dr. Chen



Dr. Liang



Dr. Villalta-Cerdas



Dr. Zhou

USF-Lakeland Plaza

A plaza in the breezeway area of the Chemistry building on the USF Tampa

Campus will be created in an effort to memorialize the USF-Lakeland campus which was closed in 2012. When completed it will be called “*The Plaza*” and will be another great place on the campus for students to “hang out.”

A newspaper account showed ground breaking for the plaza at the entrance to the chemistry building. The present entrance was described as “tired, crumbling.” It is hoped that the new plaza will give USF-Lakeland students a sense of having been an important part of the USF System.



Conception Plan courtesy Ms. **Karla Willman**

The Lakeland student government is footing the \$600,000 bill. USF-Lakeland was abolished by the state legislature (2012) and replaced by Florida Polytechnic, which is scheduled to open this fall with 500 students. [USF opened in 1960 with about 2000 students.]

Steenbock Symposium notes

Dr. **David Merkler** and three research advisees attended a special meeting dedicated to a pioneering enzymologist, the late Dr. **W. Wallace Cleland**, held in May at U. Wisconsin-Madison.

Dr. **Merkler** noted that Mr. **Dan Dempsy**, a graduate student, and Ms. **Anne-Marie Carpenter**, an undergraduate, received first and second prizes, respectively, for best student presentations.

He also shared the query made by a National Academy of Science member Dr. **Vern Schramm**, who asked how long the students had been postdocs in Dr. **Merkler's** lab and was surprised by the truth of their academic status.

Dr. **Merkler** noted that the two USF students had been in competition with graduate students and postdocs from Wisconsin's Enzyme Institute as well as "from the Ivy League schools and of many of the other top ten US biochemistry departments..."

FAME

The 90th Florida Annual Meeting and Exposition was held at Innisbrook May 8-10.

Faculty speakers included Drs. **Li-June Ming** (Biochemistry & Biophysics), **Randy W. Larsen** (Chair) (Materials Chemistry;

Biophysics & Biochemistry), **Scott Lewis** (Chemical Education Chemistry), **Dean F. Martin** (Environmental Chemistry; Chemical Education). **David J. Merkler** (Biochemistry & Biophysics), **David Rogers** (Computational Chemistry). **Arjan Van Der Vaart** (Computational Chemistry, Biochemistry & Biophysics), **Brian Space** (Computational Chemistry), and H. **Lee Woodcock** (Biochemistry and Biophysics; Florida Award Symposium).

Organizers included Dr. **Shengqian Ma**, who organized Materials Chemistry I and II; Dr. **Santiago Sandi-Urena**, who organized Chemical Education I and II; and **H. Lee Woodcock**, who organized Computational Chemistry Symposium I and II, as well as the Florida Award Symposium honor of Professor **Weitao Yang**.

Graduate students who contributed oral presentations included **Christian R. Cioce** (Organic Chemistry), Mr. **Parker Huhta** (Physical Chemistry), and Ms. **Aleksandra Karolak** (Computational Chemistry).

A number of students and advisors contributed to the poster sessions (three of Dr. **Kirpal Bish's** students, for example). One presented by Mr. **Matthew Jacobson** was awarded second place in the Undergraduate Poster Presentation category.

Council of Graduate Students

New Council tee-shirts

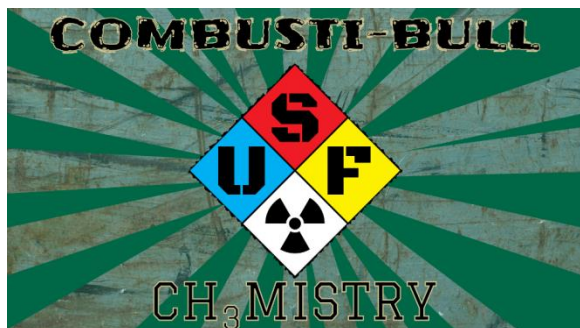
Kudos to Mr. Brant Tudor, Ph.D. candidate and department Webmaster, for his tee-shirt design for our Council of Graduate Students (please see Spring issue). The back will have "50" on it.



He properly recognized that chemistry was granted department status in the fall of 1964, so we are approaching our 50-year anniversary.

Council Buttons

The Council of Graduate Students is to have buttons made for the fall term, and selected a design by Mr. **Christian Cioce**, a member of Dr. **Brian Space's** group.



Design by Mr. Cioce

Welcome baskets

Ms. **Jacqueline (Salm) Fries** wrote: "We heard that this fall will be the 50th Anniversary of the USF Chemistry Department, so we thought we would try to make it as wonderful of an experience as possible for our incoming students. With this in mind, the Department's Council of Graduate students with the help of the Chemistry Department have put together welcome baskets for the new students entering the graduate program. We hope to

help start off their first semester not only as students and researchers but also as first time Teaching Assistants."



Chemistry Advising Cadre

Advising 3000 chemistry majors requires a dedicated cadre of advisors and Chemistry is fortunate to have one, thanks to Dean **Eric Eisenberg** and Provost **Ralph Wilcox**.



Pictured (l-R) are **Anthony Ianelli**, **Kristi Kirby**, **Ashley Dees**, **Lauren Albaum**, **Kelly Pearson**(leader) and **Chris McDermott**.

Members of the Cadre are valued for what they do and for who they are.

News and updates re: persons you may know

Ms. **Rachael Alessio** (M.S. '12) and Dr. **Dino Ferizović** were married March 29th in Cazadero, California. She is Laboratory Manager at Medical Chemical Corporation, Los Angeles.

Maria Gallardo-Williams (Ph.D. '99) was promoted Teaching Associate Professor of Chemistry at North Carolina State University, where she is Director of the organic chemistry teaching laboratories.

Dr. **Kim D. Janda** (B.S. '80) and his research group at Scripps Research Institute California were featured in a story in C&EN [vol 92, issue 23, p 32]. They discovered that a structural mis-assignment arose from an incorrect synthesis used to prepare an anticancer agent.

Acting on their suspicions, they determined the correct structure, applied for a patent and licensed the "recipe".

Dr. Janda noted a "backlash from so many pharmaceutical companies having laid off their chemists and disbanded their medicinal chemistry divisions."

Dr Janda served as the plenary lecturer for the Tenth Castle Conference (April, 2012).

Met **Lisa Luong** (BA '11) a post- graduate student in USF College of Pharmacy during a routine test.

Dr. **Douglas Raber** and his wife, Ms.**Linda Raber** co-authored a second novel, "The Sapphire Legacy" [www.raberbooks.com].

Met Dr. **Jon Wenzierl** (faculty 1973- 2003) and Dr. **Susan Wenzierl** one recent Sunday at our favorite coffee shop. They were looking forward to a Baltic cruise later in the summer.

Visited with **Jerome Williams** (B.S. '88, Ph.D. '97), St. Leo University about a prospective graduate student.

Across Campus...

USF was just been ranked 12th in the world among universities granted U.S. patents in 2013, and #1 in Florida, according to the new IPO/NAI list of the Top 100 Universities Worldwide Granted Patents in 2013. USF had 95 patents awarded in 2013. This is the fourth consecutive year USF has been in the top 15.

Dr. **Paul Sanberg** (senior VP for research and innovation) noted, " We are honored to have also made the IPO list of Top 300 Patent Owners worldwide for 2013, a list that includes only 13 universities among corporations such as IBM and Samsung." USF is the only Florida university that appears on that prestigious list.

What did they do after?

For over 15 years, we have been trying to keep track of our chemistry alumni in what we call the "Tracking Project," and the results may be found on our web page. Look for "Directory" and find either "Graduate Alumni" or "Undergraduate Alumni." It is far from complete, but we lack the necessary resources to be as good as we would like to

be. We value the help of loyal alumni in bringing us up to date.

“Make a Gift”

A treasured alumna asked about making a gift on-line to a specific chemistry fund.

Nothing could be easier, and we hope you will try it.

- o Go to our Web page: chemistry.USF.edu
- o Click on **“Make a Gift”** link (left side)
- o Find three sections; pick the fund of your choice and follow the directions for a credit card donation
- o Remember you may make a donation in honor of someone . Favorite Prof, perhaps?

Donors

The following is a list of those who made gifts to the Department of Chemistry funds January 1- June 30, 2014, as obtained from the College of Arts and Sciences Office of Development. We are grateful for the special support of the alumni, faculty, friends, staff, and corporate and foundation donors listed here.

Individuals

Patrick J. Anderson
Billy J. Baker, Ph.D.
Kirpal S. Bisht, Ph.D.
Anthony Joseph Girgenti, Ph.D.
Mr. Walter Goins III and Mrs. Alison Goins
Wayne Charles Guida, Ph.D.
Lorene L. Hall-Jennings
Dr. Milton Johnston, Jr. and Mrs. Maureen Johnston
Kenneth Clayton Jones
Samuel Bruce King
Ushiri Kulatunga, Ph.D.

Drs. James and Ellen Leahy
Shengqian Ma, Ph.D.
Abdul Malik, Ph.D.
Bruce F. Martin
Dr. and Mrs. Dean Martin
John Laurence Martin
Mark Andrew McLaughlin
Gerhard G. Meisels, Ph.D.
David J. Merkler, Ph.D.
Dr. Robert Potter and Ms. Suzanne Moore
Autumn M. Mueller
Patricia Anne Muisener, Ph.D.
Kimberly Bailey Read
Beth Koch Rechsteiner
Frances M. Salo
Guillermo Santiago Sandi-Urena, Ph.D.
Stewart W. Schneller, Ph.D.
Dr. and Mrs. Graham Solomons
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Stanko
Xiangdong Wei, Ph.D.
Henry Lee Woodcock III, Ph.D.
Xiao-Xiang Peter Zhang, Ph.D.

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Remembrance time

A sequence of interest:

December, 1956: USF was founded by act of the legislature in December 1956.

August4, 1957: Dr. John Stuart Allen, newly appointed president, opened the first office in a room of the Hillsborough County Courthouse.

September 1, 1957, President Allen appointed Mr. Elliot Hardaway Library Director This was the first academic appointment because of Dr. Allen's view "the library is the heart of the University"

October 22, 1957: State Cabinet mandated that the name of the school would be "The University of South Florida."

Abbreviations/acronyms

ACS: American Chemical Society
C&EN *Chemical and Engineering News*,
published by the ACS.

IPO: Intellectual Property Owners
Association

IRD: Interdisciplinary Research (Building)

NAI: National Academy of Inventors

Acknowledgments

Ms. **Karla Willman**, Ms. **Aleksandra Karolak** (selected photos), Ms. **Ann Serota** (donor information), Ms. **Jacqueline (Salm) Fries** (Council of Graduate Student info), Ms. **Adrienne McCain** (graduate student information), Dr. **Santiago Sandi Urena**.

News and feedback

Chair's Address:

Dr. Randy Larsen
Department of Chemistry-CHE 205
University of South Florida
4202 East Fowler Avenue
Tampa, FL 33620-5205
rlarsen@usf.edu



Dr. Larsen

Web page:

<http://chemistry.usf.edu>

Webmaster: Mr. Brant Tudor



Mr. Tudor

News:

For past issues you may have missed, please see the departmental Web page.



Anonymous editor and treasured colleague with favorite mascot at annual USF Alumni Association "Around the World Celebration." (Photo courtesy **Bill McCausland**, MBA, Executive Director, USF Alumni Association).

News for us or comments?

Please write to: dfmartin@usf.edu
or share with the Webpage or with the
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