

## ***Faculty Honors and Awards Reception***

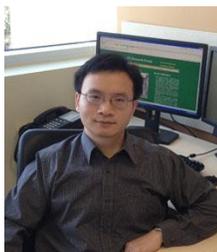
This annual event was held November 5<sup>th</sup> in Traditions Hall, Alumni Center. Ten categories of awards were presented including the following

### **Faculty outstanding achievement award**

Awardees included two associate professors of chemistry, i.e., Dr. **Jianfeng Cai** and Dr. **Shengqian Ma**.



Dr. Cai



Dr. Ma

### **Outstanding undergraduate teaching award**

An award went to Dr. **Scott Lewis**, assistant professor of chemistry and a member of **CITRUS**.



Dr. Scott Lewis

### **Outstanding undergraduate advising award**

Recipients were Ms. **Lauren Albaum** (Health Professionals) and Ms. **Ashley Dees** (Chemistry).



Ms. Albaum



Ms. Dees

## ACS re-approval

Dr. **Wayne Guida** received notification that the ACS Committee on Professional Training had reviewed Chemistry's report that is periodically required. We are pleased the Committee members had agreed that our program meets the ACS Guidelines and agreed to *continue approval*.

The Committee commended the department's continued growth, self-evaluation activities, and breadth of research activities. In addition the training program for chemistry teaching assistants was described as "strong and well structured." Helpful comments were also provided.

The report that was reviewed was prepared largely by Dr. **Patricia Muisener** who had been a senior instructor and assistant chair before leaving USF to be with her family in New Jersey. She is now a teaching associate professor and program chair for chemistry and chemical biology at Stevens Institute of Technology. Additional input was provided by Professor **Randy Larsen**, who was then department chair.

The next periodic report will be due in **2018**.

## Dr. Space recognition

Dr. **Brian Space** has received an XSEDE (Extreme Scientific and Engineering Discovery Environment) Award supported by the National Science Foundation valued at >\$110K for use of high end computational resources to support his work on Simulations of Gas in Metal-Organic Materials.  
Sorption



Dr. Space

Dr. **Chris Cioce**, a former graduate student in Dr. Space's lab, is the Co-PI on this grant.



Dr. Cioce

## Staff Recognition

Staff members Ms. **Adrienne McCain** and Mr. **Wally Pagan**, two outstanding staff were recognized for “demonstrating extraordinary achievement in the workplace.”



Ms. McCain

These awards were presented on Friday, December 18 at the annual staff appreciation event.

Ms. McCain (graduate secretary) was nominated by Dr. **Christina Nelson** and Dr. **Ed Tuross** with the support of Dr. **Wayne Guida**.

Mr. Pagan ( a laboratory manager ) was nominated by Ms. **Kimberly Read**, Dr. **Jhon Figueroa** and Dr. **Laura Anderson** with the support of Dr. **Randy Larsen**.

## Chemistry Department Activities

### Council for Graduate Students

#### Seminar coffee

Council graduate students have restored the tradition of coffee prior to Chemistry



Members from left: Shahedul Islam, John Dillashaw (Vice President), Abiola Jimoh, Elizabeth Yancey (president)

departmental seminars. This means that dedicated persons get up early to start the perking process prior to the start of seminar at 9:30 am.

#### Refreshments

A special treat before a seminar was a selection of bagels with “fixings” that was provided in October. Faculty and students come to seminar for the knowledge, but bagels were a special treat, thanks to Council members’ generosity.

The January 14<sup>th</sup> seminar had donuts and February 4<sup>th</sup> had a range of bagels which were studiously avoided by faculty members who had a rich holiday season. It was the generous though that counted.

### **Chili cook-off**

This was held October 16<sup>th</sup>, with no reports of indigestion.

### **Open-House**

About two dozen prospective graduate student visited Chemistry on October 13th They spent the morning and early afternoon touring Chemistry facilities and research laboratories housed in five different buildings.

Council members hosted a gathering in the afternoon before saying good bye to our visitors.

### **Tailgate activities**

An interesting activity is a tailgate gathering before home football games. The USF Football team has become bowl active for the first time since 2009. Council members are active fans and supporters.

### ***Staff Thanksgiving luncheon***



From left: Ms. Linda Lowe, Ms. Cheryl Graham, Ms. Kimberly Read, Dr. Wayne Guida, Ms. Lorene Hall-

Jennings, Mrs. Barbara Martin, Mr. Roberto Avergonzado, Ms. Adrienne McCain,

Some of the staff members present are shown in the picture; the advisors came but needed to leave for advising sessions. Lunch was obtained by Ms. **Kimberly Read**, and the Martins donated the expenses in appreciation of all the support staff members provide.

### **Lab Safety Officers**

A fourth class of some 17 graduate students in chemistry were the most recent class of Laboratory Safety Officers who successfully completed the department Lab Safety Course the fall semester. The course was co-taught by Dr. **Jhon Figueora**, and Ms. **Julie Van Horn** (Health and Safety), and Dr. **Edward Turos**.

Students received extensive information about all aspects of safety, including extinguishing a fire, meeting personnel of Health & Safety, learning the cost of disposal of toxic wastes, etc.

### ***Fall Commencement***

#### ***Honorary degrees***

An honorary degree, e.g., D.Sc. (*honoris causa*) is an academic procedure for recognizing persons of distinction.

The nomination process requires an appropriate CV, a minimum of three (maximum of five) letters of evaluation from qualified individuals, approval by chair, approval by the dean, approval by the Faculty Senate Honors and Awards Council, approval by the Faculty Senate, and approval by the USF President.

Chemistry with seven recipients has had more than any other department at USF. The list and their backgrounds may be found [<http://chemistry.usf.edu/honorary-degrees/>]

### Honorary degree recipient

Dr. **Eric Jacobsen**, Sheldon Emery Professor of Organic Chemistry at Harvard received an honorary degree (D.Sc. *honoris causa*) on December 12. Citation details may be found on our Web page (please see above).



Provost Ralph Wilcox, President Judy Genshaft. The Recipient, Board of Trustees representative

### Chemistry graduates

**Ge Bai** (Ph.D.), Advisor: Dr. **Jianfeng Cai**

**Matthew Battisini** (Ph.D.) Advisor: Dr. **David Merkle**.

**Patrick Nugent** (M.S.), Dr. **Shengqian Ma**, Advisor



Dr. Bai



Mr. Nugent

### Commencement Fact Sheet

**Kimberly Fields** (Ph.D.'10) instructor, served as commencement marshal at two commencements this cycle. She has been serving as a marshal since returning to USF in 2012, and rarely misses a commencement cycle

Four commencements (December 11, one; December 12, three) were held on the Tampa campus

Total USF system degrees conferred: 4145, consisting of Bachelors (2467), Masters (290) and Doctoral (130). USF St. Petersburg:430; USF Sarasota-Manatee, 197.

### Week of Welcome

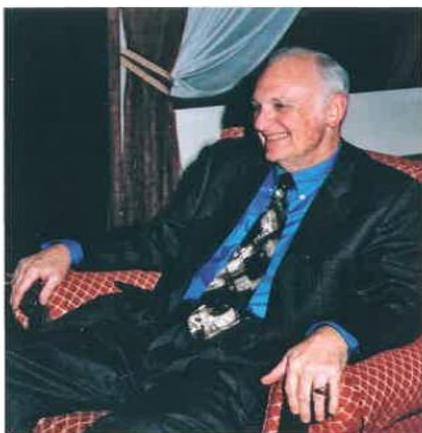
Chemistry Academic Advisors hosted a WOW (Week of Welcome) event on 13th, January 2016 in The Plaza of Chemistry. They handed out hot chocolate or tea and cookies to students



undergraduates (REU) program and answering questions about chemistry degrees.

## Obituary

Dr **Robert Dallas Whitaker**, 82, retired chemistry faculty member died January 4, 2016 after having been diagnosed with cancer. He served USF 1962-1992, teaching general and inorganic chemistry and serving as a research advisor. His interest in history led to the creation of CHM 4070, Historical



Dr. Whitaker

Perspectives in Chemistry. He also co-authored a general chemistry textbook with his friend and colleague, Dr. **Jack E. Fernandez** (Charter faculty and professor emeritus), and he was the author of a textbook for chemistry for nurses. A more complete obituary appeared in the *Tampa Tribune* on January 10<sup>th</sup> (Metro, page 5).

### **Trail Blazers Series Lecturer**

Dr. **David Merkler**, Professor of Chemistry, presented “Cellular Communication: Fats, Fruit Flies, and the Medicinal Uses of Cannabis.” to those attending the CAS – sponsored Series after a dinner at the University Club, February 4<sup>th</sup>.



Dr. Merkler

## **Tampa Bay Section –ACS**

**Kimberly Fields** (Ph.D.'10), permanent instructor in chemistry, who also serves as faculty advisor to the Chemistry Society.



Dr. Fields

### **News and updates re: persons you may know**

Saw Dr. **Jack Fernandez** (charter faculty, faculty member, 1960-95) and Mrs. **Sylvia Fernandez** at the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the College of Arts and Sciences *Trail Blazers* presentation at Tampa's University Club. Also present at the dinner and faculty presentation were Dr. **Leon Mandell** (faculty 1984-2000; dean, 1984-81) and Dr. **Sarah Mandell**, a former faculty member in religious studies.

**Adrian Villata-Cerdas** (Ph.D. '14) is one of four invited speakers at the March 2016 ACS National meeting (San Diego). They will participate in a seminar, “New and Noteworthy Chemical Education Research 2014-2015.”

**Maria Gallardo-Williams** (Ph.D. '99) sent Christmas greetings and a picture of her extended family. He is Teaching associate professor and Director of undergraduate organic laboratories at North Carolina State University.

**Ken Hewes** (B.S.'80;M.S.' 83) continues to be an employee of Bell Helicopter in Adlington, TX where he and his wife **Doreen Hewes**, CPA are the proud parents of a son **Winston Hewes**, 15.

**Dean F. Martin** (Faculty, 1964 –) was elected a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors. He is a charter member of the organization. Installation will be held at the annual meeting held April 14-15 in Washington, D.C.



Dr. Martin

**Dilojan Senanayake** (M.S. '96), who has been scientifically active in North Dakota continues his international collaborations. He is assisting a farmer in Kenya and an agricultural specialist dealing with rural communities in Cameroon. He supplies them with analysis kits that will help define soil fertility. Kits have been sent to Kashmir, India, as well as Sao Paulo, Brazil and Lima, Peru.

Later he sent valued Christmas wishes.

**Dr. Joseph Stanko** (Faculty, 1973-2003) sent his good wishes (January) and updated

us.

**Chuhua Wang** (Ph.D. '98), senior analytical chemist, Technic, Inc. sent Christmas wishes. He and his wife had the pleasure of seeing their daughter graduate from Brown University and took her on a trip to China. Afterwards she entered Brown University Medical School, and completed her first term in the Fall, 2015.



Dr. Wang and his wife in front of the Temple of Heaven, Beijing

## ***Across Campus...***

### **Future dorms**

USF System President **Dr. Judy Genshaft** announced final approval for a student-housing village at the Tampa campus.

When the village is completed in June 2018, some “2,171 students will be able to live in its five buildings that will have academic support and study spaces, health and wellness facilities, and retail space.”



Dr. Judy Genshaft

The village, to be located between the Marshall Student Center and Fletcher Avenue, will replace 1960s-era Andros residence Halls.

A unique feature is a “P3”, a public private partnership that will allow USF to progress with incurring massive debt. The financial partner assumes responsibility for the “financing, building, and maintaining the \$132.6 million village.”

It is the largest such partnership in the history of the State University System. It is, in addition, the largest single student housing project ever to be approved by the Board of Governors.

### **Don’t light up...**

A campus-wide smoking ban started January 4, 2016. “No e-cigarettes, hookahs, chewing tobacco, or other tobacco products will be permitted on the Tampa campus nor at school-sponsored events .”

### **More information of interest**

The National Science Foundation named USF as one of the Top 25 public research universities in the United States (December).

USF admitted the best class ever in the fall term of 2015.

In 2015 alone, the USF System granted almost 13 thousand new degrees.

### ***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. Can you help?

We may be associated on Facebook, but in addition to pictures a few words of current position/activities would be appreciated.

### ***Acknowledgments***

President Genshaft’s announcement was obtained from her statement in the *Tampa Tribune* (November 12, Op\_Ed page 12)

Thanks to Anne-Claire Limon for the Council for Graduate Students picture.

Reception photographs courtesy Joe Roberts, Roberts Imagery.

Honorary degree photograph courtesy Ms. Entela Balliu Caisse

Tobacco ban story from the *Oracle* (Nov, 19, 2015),

USF achievements in part from President Genshaft’s 2015 winter message transcript.

Dr. Guida’s picture courtesy of Mr. Brant Tudor.

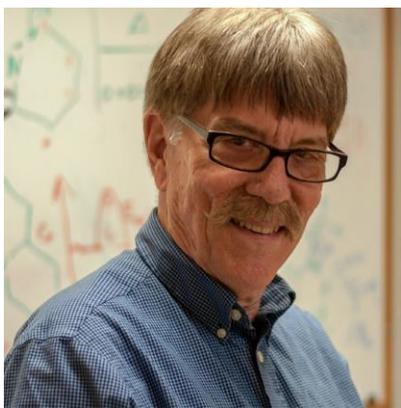
Dr. Whitaker's picture, courtesy of Mrs. Richie Whitaker

## **Abbreviations**

ACS – American Chemical Society  
CITRUS- Center for the Improvement of the Teaching And Research in Undergraduate STEM education

## **News and feedback**

### *Interim Chair's Address:*



Dr. Guida

Dr. Wayne C. Guida  
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University of South Florida  
4202 East Fowler Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33620-5205

### **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.

### **News for us or comments?**

Please write to: [dfmartin@usf.edu](mailto:dfmartin@usf.edu)  
or share with the Webpage or with the Facebook.