

Honorary Degree Recipient

The seventh D.Sc (*honoris causa*) awarded to a chemist was presented to Dr. **Melanie Cooper** at USF's 110th commencement convocation December 10th.

She is currently the Lappan-Phillips Professor of Science Education as well as Professor of Chemistry at Michigan State University.



Dr. Cooper

The official citation is available on Chemistry's Web page.

On December 9th, the Department held a reception for her with faculty, staff, and students as guests. We are grateful to Ms. **Kaitlyn Kroner** (Academic Program Specialist) for organizing and coordinating the reception and end-of-the-year social.

More about Chemistry...

Dr. **Wayne Guida** has had the personal and professional pleasure of announcing good news concerning funding:

Funding –I

Professor **Brian Space** was awarded a 3-year NSF grant titled:

"Modeling of Metal Organic Materials (MOMs): Force Field Innovations and Applications with Impact."



Dr. Space

"Brian has been a leader in the development of accurate force fields for computing properties of complex metal organic materials, and this grant will allow him to continue his exceptional work in this area."

Funding -II

Dr. **Wayne Guida** along with Dr. **Mildred Acevedo-Duncan**, have received funding from Ibis Therapeutics, LLC for a drug discovery project titled 'Discovery and Development of Drugs that enhance STING (STimulator of INterferon Genes) biological activity.'



Dr. Acevedo-Duncan

The award is for one year in the amount of \$200,000 (depending upon matching grants) and could be renewed for a second year if specific milestones are achieved.

Chemistry graduates- Fall

The graduates (and their advisors in parentheses) are listed below:

Doctoral graduates

Dr. **Abdullah Alhendal** (Dr. Malik)

Dr. **Michael Dolagski** (Dr. McLaughlin)



Dr. Alhendal



Dr. Dolagaski

Dr. **Wenyang Gao** (Dr. Ma)



Dr. Gao



Dr. Nimmagadda

Dr. **Kenneth Kull** (Dr. Harmon)

Dr. **Sri Nimmagadda** (Dr. Antilla)

In the Department -II

Staff Appreciation Luncheon

This semi-annual event was held November 14th in the Chemistry Conference room. It was coordinated by Mr. **Roberto Avergonzado** and supported by **Barbara** and **Dean Martin**. Guests ordered from a menu of a nearby restaurant and food was delivered in time for lunch.



Ms. Cheryl Graham, Ms. Erin Ives, Mr. Roberto Avergonzado, Mr. Ryan Jahn, Ms. Kaitlyn Kroner, Ms. Leigh Anne Blackwell, and Dr. Christina Nelson

Seminar Coffee

The tradition of coffee before departmental seminars continued, thanks to dedicated service by members of Chemistry's



Ms. Anne-Claire Limon (l) and Ms. Elizabeth Yancy pictured at November 17th seminar.

Council for Graduate Students, who volunteer to brew the coffee in CHE 205 and deliver it to the T. A. Ashford Lecture

Hall after the class there and before the 9:30 am seminar.

Chemistry L&D

Chemistry's L&D committee chair reached out in response to a request from Captain **William Ipock**, USN, for starting a USF Foundation account for the USF Navy ROTC program for cadet needs similar to those that had been arranged for the Army and Air Force ROTC programs.



MIDN Vrontas, Dean Martin, Capt. Ipock

The immediate response was "Certainly."

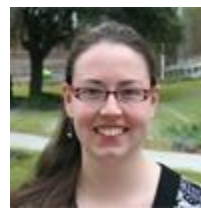
The picture shows Midshipman **Alexander Vrontas**, student Battalion Commander for the Fall 2016 semester, accepting the check for \$1,000 needed to start the scholarship account.

CAPT Ipock is Commanding Officer NROTC and Professor of Naval Science, and is in his third year at USF.

Dr. Baker around the world

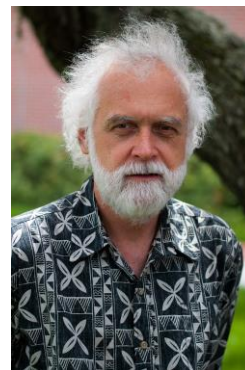
Dr. **Bill Baker** will have two Antarctic trips this year - one is a circumpolar cruise and the other his regular visit to Palmer Station. He left for the cruise next Tues December 13th, returning late Jan. That's only one leg of the circumpolar cruise. He boarded the

ship in Cape Town, South Africa, spend the month trawling for deep sea invertebrates among some of the sub-Antarctic islands, then conclude leg 1 in Hobart, Tasmania. One of his students, **Danielle Demers**, joined the cruise in Hobart. They'll continue leg 2, sampling along the way to Punta Arenas, Chile. Ms. Demers left the ship in Punta Arenas, be replaced by one of their Australian



Ms. Demers

collaborators, who will complete the circumpolar cruise leaving out of Punta Arenas and concluding back in Cape Town. Each leg was about one month duration.



Dr. Baker

Dr. Baker will leave for Palmer Station, for his normal Antarctic field season, in late March, returning in early June. Busy spring!

Two of his graduate students, Mr. **Andrew Shilling** and Ms. **Santana Thomas**, will be part of the field team at Palmer Station.



Mr. Shilling



Ms. Thomas

They traveled to Palmer ahead of Dr. Baker, arriving in late February and with the trio returning in early June. Mr. Shilling will be a member of the scuba diving team while Ms. Thomas will work on bioassays and chemical analyses in the laboratory.

WOW activities

Chemistry undergraduate advisor group members continued a fine tradition of hosting a WOW (Week of Welcome) event. This time it was January 12th in the plaza of Chemistry.

At the WOW event, Chemistry advisors met with new and prospective Chemistry students, and spoke with them about research opportunities, general course planning ideas and how to connect with advisors on social media.



(L to R) Mr. Xavier Ramos, Ms. Adelia Douglas, Ms. Becky Couperman, Mr. Shaun Richardson, Ms. Karina Zimmerman.

Not pictured: Ms. **Ashley Sowell**, who took care of student emails and other duties while her colleagues manned the WOW table).

Alumnus receives Bader Award

Dr. **Kim D. Janda** (B.S. clinical chemistry, 1980) is the recipient of the ACS Alfred Bader Award in Bioinorganic or Biorganic Chemistry.

He is currently professor of chemistry and immunology; Ely R. Calloway, Jr. Chair in Chemistry; and director, Worm Institute of Research & Medicine at Scripps Research Institute.

His citation and additional information may be found elsewhere [C&EN Jan.2, 2017].

A local note: He was Plenary Lecturer at the 10th Raymond N. Castle Student Research Conference April 21, 2012.



Dr. Kim Janda

Persons you may know.

Mr. **Kenneth Hewes** (B.S. '80;M.S. '83) "recently accepted a promotion to Project Manager Bell Helicopter in the corporate headquarters in Hurst, Texas."

We enjoy seeing Dr. **Jack E. Fernandez** (1960-1995, Charter faculty; professor of chemistry emeritus) and his wife **Sylvia Fernandez** at CAS-sponsored meetings of “Trail Blazers” at Tampa’s University Club.

Mr. **Dilojan Senanayake** (M.S., 1996), kindly sent happy Thanksgiving wishes, as well as Christmas wishes from Grand Forks, ND.

Among ongoing outreach activities, he made arrangements “for funds from a local church to find life-jackets for Bangladeshi students and academics who were water sampling for water quality research on a major river there.”

Dr. **Matt E. McKenzie (B.S.’03)** an undergraduate collaborator visited during exam week. He is presently employed by a Corning firm. For a time after receiving his doctorate from LSU, he worked at Oak Ridge and was responsible for reading research proposals for computer time and had contact with Dr. **Lee Woodcock** and other Chemistry faculty members.

During our visit he noted the value of undergraduate research, which has been a strong feature of the Chemistry Department.

Charles D. Norris (BS.’88;M.S.91; Ph.D. ‘95) has a position as Chemist, Materials Evaluation Lab, of the Rock Island Arsenal, and is also an adjunct faculty member at nearby St. Ambrose University (Davenport, Iowa).

Amanda L. Perry nee Cheney (Ph.D., 2009) is a senior postdoctoral fellow at the University of Limerick. She and her husband **John Jackson Perry IV** (Ph.D., 2009) are parents of their first baby, **John Jackson Perry V**. His father is a senior postdoctoral fellow in Limerick’s Crystal

Engineering Research group, having received a B.A. (2003) in Chemistry, B. A. in Mathematics (2003), and a Ph.D. in Chemistry (2009) from USF.

We met Dr. **Jon Weinzierl** (faculty, ‘73-’08) and his wife Dr. **Susan Weinzierl** at our favorite coffee establishment. They are in good health, and they visited England twice last summer where it was cooler.

Down Memory Lane

Two boxes of pictures recently emerged and one reminded us of when Chemistry undergraduate students represented The Department in an athletic way.

Spring Volleyball Tournament April 7, 1987



(back)Karl Kovacs, Mr. Steinberg, George Cobb, Kevin Theriot; (front), Jim Leahy, Jeff Zimmerman, Daryl Sauer, Robert Sutton

Mr. Steinberg remains unknown for the present, but others went on to earn their doctorates and assume responsible positions, for example:

Dr. **Karl Kovacs**, V.P. Strategic Alliances, OriGene Technologies, Inc., Rockville, MD;

Dr. **James W. Leahy**, full professor, Dept. of Chemistry, Florida Center of Excellence for Drug Discovery & Innovation, and Department of Molecular Medicine.;

Dr. **George Cobb** Chairman, Department of Environmental Science, Baylor Univ.;

Dr. **Jeff Zimmerman**, IBM, working at Dominion Semiconductor, Manassas, VA.

Donors

The following is a list of those who made gifts to the Department during July 1-December 31, 2016.

We are grateful for the special support of Corporate and foundation donors as well as the valued support of alumni, faculty,* and staff. *

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Campus News...

“The USF System is home to a student body of nearly \$50,000 representing 130 different countries.”

About USF –I

USF System President **Judy Genshaft** has initiated some major changes in campus housing for students.



President Genshaft

These include, but are not limited to “Good –bye Andros, hello 21st Century student Village.”

USF’s 52-year old Delta, Zeta, and Eta halls were demolished after the last residents left last May.

Construction has begun on “The Village”, a \$133 million project, the largest in the history of the State University System. But it is being financed through a unique public-private relationship, described in an earlier issue.

Look for (fall 2017) two residence halls (“Beacon” and “Summit”), a dining facility (“The Hub”), and a wellness center (“The Fit”)

Completion is scheduled for the fall of 2017.

Performance Report 2015-2016

Some highlights from President Genshaft’s Report include:

More than 48,000 donors contributed over \$71 million.

The Unstoppable billion dollar campaign had reached a total of \$935,062,001.

This is considered a remarkable accomplishment for a university founded only 60 years ago.

USF was named an Emerging Preeminent Institution by Florida’s Board of Governor’s of the State University System (only one of four eligible). This designation makes USF eligible for additional state funding.

President Genshaft noted, “In every sense, our students are the heart and spirit of the USF System.”

About USF –II

“The USF System’s innovation and economic development efforts generate more than \$400 million in statewide impact each year,” according to an analysis released by Washington Economics Group.

USF Senior vice president for research, innovation and economic development Dr. Paul Sanberg commented, “The economic impact that we contribute ensures that high-tech jobs will continue to form the future backbone of the local and regional community, and create a foundation for even greater future success.”



Dr. Paul Sanberg,

About USF –III -Athletics

USF Athletics sponsors 19 varsity men’s and women’s teams that compete in 11 different sports, 18 competing at the NCAA Division I level in the American Athletic Conference.

The Bulls’ athletic program celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2015, having started with a men’s soccer contest in 1965. Nearly 500 student-athletes train and compete in the athletic district located on the east end of the Tampa campus. The Bulls have claimed nine conference titles, so far, in four seasons in The American Athletic Conference. Nine USF programs reached NCAA post-season competition in their 2015-16 seasons.

USF posted an 86 percent Graduation Success Rate among student-athletes in 2016, with 214 earning conference all-academic recognition.

About USF –IV

The USF System conferred 4,500 degrees during six commencement ceremonies held December 9-11. About 3,900 were awarded at the Tampa campus, 450 from USF-St. Petersburg, 150 from USF Sarasota-Manatee. Recipients represented 47 states, 86 nations, and included 245 student veterans

Acknowledgments

Seminar photograph courtesy Mr. **Shahedul Islam**, a graduate student who works with Professor Ming.

WOW photograph courtesy of Mr. **Xavier Ramos**.

Helpful updates courtesy Dr. **Michael J. Zaworotko**, Bernal Chair of Crystal Engineering, University of Limerick .

News items from the USF News Bureau.

Dormitory information from *USF*, the official magazine of the USF Alumni Association, Fall, 2016 issue

Helpful input from our fine alumni.

Background information. Mr. Brian Clark, USF Athletics

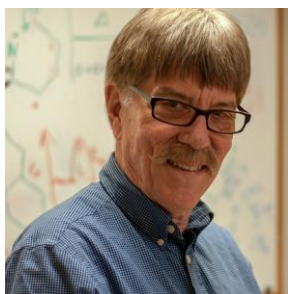
Donor information, courtesy Ms. Ann Serota, CAS Office of Development

Our outstanding Webmaster for his expertise and patience.

News and feedback

Web page:
<http://chemistry.usf.edu>

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Webmaster: Mr. Brant Tudor



Mr. Tudor

News:

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

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News for us or comments?

Please write to: dfmartin@usf.edu
or share with your favorite faculty or staff member.