

Recognition...

Dr. Bill Baker (Associate Professor) had his research featured in articles in the Tampa Tribune and the USF Oracle in February, and the USF magazine (spring issue). The articles were about a compound he and his collaborators isolated from a marine tunicate that he obtained while diving in waters near Anvers Island, Antarctica. The compound, named Palmerolide A, was tested at National Cancer Institute and displayed positive effects on melanoma cells. Melanoma is said to be the most commonly diagnosed form of cancer in persons 25 to 29. The Baker group is studying the compound's mode of action - "why it kill melanoma cells and what the biochemistry is." Dr. Baker's research has been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation.

Out and about...

Polyani Lectures, February 17-18

Dr. John Polyani, Professor of Chemistry, University of



NES Building, February 2005. Ribbon cutting ceremony in foreground.

Toronto and 1986 Nobel Prize winner in Chemistry gave two lectures at USF. On Thursday, February 17, at 7 pm, after a reception in the 1956 Ballroom, he spoke to a general audience on the topic "Technology, Tolerance, and Terror." On Friday, February 18, he presented a second lecture, "Seeing Chemical Reactions, One-Molecule-at-a Time", at 11:00 am in EDU 115. This seminar was open to faculty and students.

The event was sponsored by TIAA-CREF. We are grateful for their support and for the considerable assistance of **Mrs. Judith**

Powell of the College Development Office.

Dr. David Merkler was chairman of an organizing committee that included graduate students **Jarrod Eubank**, **Greg McManus**, and **Christina Ridley**.

NES Building ribbon cutting February 28.

Yes, the Building was occupied as soon as faculty and students could be admitted, but an official ribbon cutting assisted by the USF Ambassadors was held at 3 pm on February 28. The ceremony was presided over by President **Judy Genshaft**.



Guests at the ceremony included (left to right) John Skvoretz (Dean, CAS), Barbara and Dean Martin, Graham and Judy Solomons.



Dr. T. W. Graham Solomons (far left) and other members of the ribbon-cutting team.

Speakers included Hillsborough County Commissioner **Mark Sharpe**, **Dr. John Skvoretz**, recently appointed Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, **Dr. David Stamps** (former Provost, who was Dean of Arts and Sciences and a moving force to get the building built as soon as it

was), and ES&P graduate student **Mr. Mark Mueller**, who presented a student's perspective. Special guests included **Dr. T. W. Graham Solomons**, long-term faculty member (and one of two surviving Chemistry Charter Faculty), and his wife, **Mrs. Judith Solomons**. **Dr. Stamps** recognized **Dr.**

Solomons and summarized his contributions.

Other former faculty members present were; **Dr. George Jurch**, **Dr. Joseph Stanko**, **Dr. Bill Swartz**, and **Dr. George Wenzinger**.

Those cutting the ribbon included the speakers and County Commissioner **Kathy Castor**, Trustee **Dick Beard**, Provost **Renu Khator**, and **Dr. Solomons**.

“The quality and size of our teaching and research activities are enhanced by the opening of NES,” said **Dr. Mike Zaworotko** (Professor and Chair) in a USF Press release. “The teaching labs on the bottom two floors will better serve students, and the research labs on the top two floors will help three NIH-funded organic chemistry researchers focus on drug design and discovery...”

Following the ceremony, guided tours and refreshments were available.

Seen about...

Dr. Jeff Davis, long-time faculty member (1965-1998) and former department chair (1978-82; 1995-98) re-visited the department in April. He and his wife, **Sylvia**, live in Santa Rosa,

CA. It was a pleasure to see him.

Castle Student Research Conference

The Conference supports the late Professor Castle's goals of scientific collaboration and scientific education and is organized by departmental students.

The organizers of the Fourth Conference, held on April 30, included:

CoChairs: John Perry IV and Gio da Silva; Treasurer: John Perry IV; Marketing: Gio da Silva and Jarrod Eubank; Session Coordinators: John Perry, Jarrod Eubank, and Ina Sava; Promotions: Ina Sava; Program Coordinator: Audrey Mokdad and Dijana Lekic; Abstract Coordinator: Jarrod Eubank; and Food and Beverage Coordinator: Jaci Brant. Dr. Randy Larsen (Associate Professor, Associate Chair) served as advisor and **Jason Hair** provided webpage support.

Prizes for student posters and presentations are listed on the Department Web page.

You've been around a while...

if you remember **Mrs. Aura Ferrell, Mr. Sal Iozzia, Mr. John Mashburn, Mr. Bernie Pulin, Mr. Freeman Revels, Mrs. Penn, Mr. Ron Quincel** (our first glassblower). But all were important persons in the life and development of our Department.

Spotlight on...

Jack Fernandez, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Chemistry and Charter Faculty member is the author of his first novel *Café con leche*.

T. W. Graham Solomons, Ph.D., Charter Faculty member and retired Professor of

Chemistry (1960-1990) provided funds for the First T.W.G. Solomons Award in Chemistry that supports a worthy chemistry major. The first recipient was announced at the annual Undergraduate Banquet in April.



Abuzar Kabir.

The joy of our present, the hope of our future

[a continuing series on current graduate students]

Abuzar Kabir has been a graduate teaching assistant in Quantitative Analysis Laboratory and Methods Laboratory for several years. He has also held a position as a GC-MS analyst for several summers. He was born in Jessore, a small city in Bangladesh, and we asked him to tell more about himself:

“After finishing my high school education in Jessore, I moved to Dhaka, the country's capital, to begin my higher study. I enrolled into the University of Dhaka where I obtained my B.Sc. with honors and M.Sc. in Applied

Chemistry and Chemical Technology. I started my professional career in the Department of Applied Chemistry & Chemical Technology, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh as a lecturer in 1993 and was promoted to assistant professor in 1996. I left Bangladesh for higher education in 1999 and joined the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, USA as a graduate student. I flew to Tampa on the first day of the new millennium to continue my higher study in the Department of Chemistry, University of South Florida. Later I joined Dr. Abdul Malik's research group and started my research on developing new sol-gel hybrid organic-inorganic material systems for chromatographic separation and analytical sample preparation. My research at USF has resulted in 8 publications in prestigious journals and 3 patents. I am planning to finish my Ph.D. work and graduate in May 2005."

He defended his dissertation on April 29.

Alumni News:

Charles Asowata, Major U.S. Army (B.S. '80) is now Deputy Director, U.S. Army Biological Arms Control Treaty Office (BACTO) headquartered in Fort Detrick, MD. When he visited in February, he explained that BACTO is "the U.S. Army's focal point for implementation of and compliance with all biological arms control treaties and agreements to which the United States is a signatory."

William Beaumont (M.S.'80) is an attorney with the law firm of Lowe, Hauptman & Berner in Alexandria, VA, and he wrote: "I specialize in all facets of chemical and biotech patent law, particularly genetically-engineered plants. I also have a wine-import business, William-Harrison imports,

importing wine into states from both France and Argentina."

Maria C. Flynn, M.D. (M.S. '89), a staff Radiologist in the U.S. Navy (stationed at Portsmouth Naval Center) participated in the February 2005 Gasparilla Parade walking with the Krewe of St. Brigit. Her mother is also a member as is **Dr. Rebecca O'Malley**.

What are they up to?

Please look at our web page ("Graduate Alumni") and see if you (and/or your friends and fellow alumni) are accurately listed. It is hard to keep up with the growing list of alumni (would you believe over 275 graduate alumni). We would be grateful if you could bring us up-to-date on what you or some of your friends are doing...

News and feedback

For additional information on faculty, staff, students, and programs, please see our Department Home Page: <http://chemistry.usf.edu>

For past issues you may have missed, please see the Home Page.

And if you have news for us, please contact us at: dmartin@mail.cas.usf.edu

We thank **Ms. Rebecca Puig**, Division of Research Grants, for the pictures of the ribbon cutting.