

Recognition...

C&EN

“Zeolite-like frameworks have large cavities”. A research item from the Department appeared in the online version of *Chemical & Engineering News*, written by Michael Freemantle and provided online [<http://pubs.acs.org/email//cen/html/020906103242.html>]. “A process for synthesizing metal-organic frameworks offers the potential for introducing tunable organic functionalities into to large zeolite-like cavities,” according to Dr. Mohamed Eddaoudi, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, and co-workers [Chem. Commun., published online February 2, [dx/doi.org/10.1039/b600188m](http://dx.doi.org/10.1039/b600188m)]

Awards

Dr. Mohamed Eddaoudi, has been awarded a five-year Career Award by the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Roman Manetsch, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, has been awarded an American Cancer Society Grant.

Travel Scholarships.

Ten graduate students received travel awards to attend national and international meetings. The awards were started in 2005 with a \$1000 donation and was matched by the department from USF Foundation funds. Preference was given to graduate students

whose mentors promised to provide matching funds.

Obviously, the funds only go so far, and additional donations are being sought. Another \$1000 donation has been made by the donors who thought it was a good investment the first time and were pleased by the results. They hope others will join them in investing in our worthy students.

Introducing our new faculty members...

Dr. Nick Lawrence was appointed as an External Affiliate to the Department of Chemistry. He is also associated with Moffitt Cancer Center.

Dr. Ron Musselman was appointed as a Research Professor. He is a former faculty member at Franklin and Marshall with interests in inorganic spectroscopy. He comes with a single crystal fluorescence instrument.

Out and about...

Promotions: Congratulations to **Dr. Julie Harmon**, **Dr. Randy Larsen**, and **Dr. Brian Space**, who had their application for promotion to full professor approved by **Dean John Skorvetz**.

Really new faculty members...

The Department is seeking another faculty member, and **Dr. David Merkler**, Associate Chair, has been chair of the search committee.

Open House:

Friday, February 10, was coordinated by Mr. Jarrod Eubank, an elected student member of the Graduate Council. It served to welcome new graduate students and friends of the Department. Among the crowded group that was obviously enjoying themselves were **Dr. George Wenginger** (Faculty '63-'99), **Dr. Joseph Stanko** (Faculty '73-'03), **Dr. Robert S. Braman** (Faculty, '67-'03) and **Mrs. Gloria Braman**, **Dr. Arthur Gilford**, CAS Associate Dean for Faculty Development, and **Dr. Wayne Guida** (Ph.D. '76). Dr. Guida holds joint appointments at Eckerd College and Moffitt Cancer Hospital and Research Center.

Campus changes --- past and future...

Look for Garage III in 2007 located near Graduate Student Housing and west of the Science Center. Dr. John Allen, USF's first president once described USF as "the campus where the concrete never sets."

Faculty you should know...

Dr. Noel J. Dickson: "I was born and raised in Newcastle, NSW in Australia which was primarily for many years an industrial town based around the BHP steelworks. The proliferation of coal in its various guises was the source of much of this industry.

I have been in love with chemistry since I was around 11 years old. My first exposure to the wonderful world of chemistry was making copper sulfate crystals. Not only did the procedure of making very large crystals keep me enthralled for ages, but the deep blue color was so hypnotizing to me that I was instantly attracted to the beauty of what chemistry offers.

During my high school career I majored in the sciences and in particular chemistry. At the end of my six years, my father wanted me to work in the BHP laboratories. To placate him I did so for a period of two months at the end of High School and before I finally decided to go to University full-time. The process of routinely taking water samples and testing for say water-hardness or BOD or chloride content was fun initially, but after two months of constantly doing titrations with little or no ability to extend my chemistry was the major reason for me leaving the world of industry and deciding to study full-time at university.

I attended the local university (University of Newcastle) and very quickly fell in love with organic chemistry. I completed my Honors here and managed a 1st class. My thesis was on "*The Mechanism of Neighbouring Group Participation in Aryl Azide Pyrolysis*" under Professor L.K.Dyall. Part of the process of examination for the honors thesis was to be examined by an external, unbiased academic. This is where God intervened!

My examiner was Professor W. R. Jackson from Monash University in Melbourne. At the end of the examination Prof. Jackson ("ROY") asked me if I would like to come to Melbourne and work for him doing my PhD. He arranged for a Commonwealth Scholarship and I initially completed a M.Sc. and then went onto complete my

Ph.D. This was in the area of “*Metal Catalysed Synthesis Of Heterocyclic Compounds*”. The main part of this was the synthesis of a compound called *isoheliotriedene* that was an anti-tumor agent.



Dr. Dickson with Collingwood jumper on back wall

Roy Jackson was truly my mentor in chemistry. A man who loved life (and still does really!) and showed me the real pleasures of working in a chemistry laboratory. Roy is probably one of the best known chemists from Australia, and he is well respected around the world, including the U.S. Apart from the techniques of organic chemistry that he patiently showed me, he also showed the ways of making liqueurs like Brandy schnapps and Cointreau! He introduced me to bushwalking and was an avid “footy” fan too. It was in Melbourne that I truly fell in love with Australian football and became a Collingwood fan (that is the black and white jumper hanging on my wall in my office). Oh how much Melbourne is still my spiritual home.

After completing my Ph.D., I tutored at Monash for a little in Organic Chemistry before I decided I needed a change and went and worked at DULUX paints (ICI) for a period of 18 months. Deciding that this was

not quite for me I then did some traveling around Europe and England, initially for 6 months, but this then enveloped into some three years. At this stage I decided for many reasons that I did not wish to go back to Australia and therefore applied for and received residency in the UK. Simultaneously I accepted a position as a chemistry teacher at a very good school, just outside London called Watford Boy’s Grammar School (WBGs), and this is where God intervened again.

It was here that I met a very prominent educationalist who at the time was Head of Science. John Holman is one of the best known chemical educationalists in the whole of Europe. He has written many papers and textbooks and is now Professor of Chemical Education at York University in the UK. It was at this time that I really became very interested the way chemistry was being taught and the style and content of the syllabus and how this very directly influenced whether students were “turned on” by the subject and therefore continued with chemistry in further education. John Holman helped me come to terms with the English way of doing things. His mentoring role and encouragement saw me progress through to become Head of Chemistry at WBGs. He encouraged me to become part of the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) and then to actively participate on the Education Council for 3 years. During this period, I was also nominated for TWO major teaching awards in the UK. The first time I was awarded silver medal while the second time around I managed even better.

Through the RSC, I became heavily involved with something akin to the REU program here and also had success: I was awarded a European Science Teaching/-Research award for innovative Chemistry for the work I did with my research students.

I became involved with a number of other people in some revolutionary changes in the way chemistry was being presented: the Salters Approach to chemistry is a context-based approach and is very unconventional in its approach to teaching chemistry. However, after a small start in the mid-1990s it is now very successful with over half of the students at high school studying chemistry completing the Salters syllabus. A spin-off of this was my publication of an experimental chemistry book.

A move back into the tertiary sector was inevitable. And after a stint as Head of Science at another school, I then accepted appointments at King's College, London and University of London, while at the same time as lecturing in Organic Chemistry for the Open University system at Nottingham.

Then, unfortunately, I had to return to Australia: my mother had become very sick, and I needed to be back with my family. After a short stint with the newly formed Centre for Green Chemistry at Monash, I accepted a position as Lecturer at the University of Sydney, where I spent three years. After attending a conference in the U.S., I realized that perhaps this is where I wanted to be for both my teaching and my research could be intertwined. I initially accepted a Visiting Professorship at Coastal Carolina University in SC before I accepted the role I now find myself in here at USF.

My interests include traveling, sports like swimming, running and martial arts (I have been kick-boxing for over 8 years now) and reading; particularly biographies or autobiographies: you can learn so much about yourself in the reflections of other peoples' lives!

The joy of our present, the hope of our future...

[a continuing series on current graduate students]

Greg McManus: "Greg was born in 1980 in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island - the most densely populated province in all of Canada (pop. 138,000). Twenty-two years later he obtained his Bachelor of Science degree with Honors in Chemistry from the University of Prince Edward Island where he worked for two years as an undergraduate under the supervision of Dr. Brian Wagner studying Supramolecular Host:Guest Inclusion Complexes in Substituted Cyclodextrins, Calixarenes and Metal-Organic Networks *via* Fluorescence Spectroscopy.



Greg McManus pictured in Morocco 12/05

Greg visited USF during the Departmental Open House in the spring of 2002 and after leaving his decision to the last possible moment he migrated south to Tampa in

August of that same year to pursue graduate studies with **Dr. Michael Zaworotko**. His research primarily focuses upon synthesizing novel metal-organic molecules/networks and characterizing them by means of x-ray crystallography. His work has led to multiple publications and he has had the opportunity present his research at numerous regional, national, and international conferences. In fact, Greg recently received a scholarship from the International Center of Materials Research to attend the 3rd International Conference of the Africa Materials Research Society in Marrakech, Morocco (2005). Greg was fortunate enough to have been a recipient of the George Bursa Award (2004), the Theodore Ashford Award (2005), and a Provost Commendation for Outstanding Teaching by a Graduate Teaching Assistant (2005). Upon graduating, Greg's long term plans are to pursue a career in academia – hopefully some place where it isn't quite so hot in the summer.”

Awards Banquet

The Eighteenth Annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet is scheduled for April 19th at the Embassy Suites Hotel at the USF Campus. The first was started by Dr. Stewart Schneller, then Chairman of the Department of Chemistry. Look for pictures on the Web page.

We get letters and visitors...

Dr. Jesse Binford (Faculty '61-'03) and Mrs. Lolita Binford wrote that they have lived in Austin, Texas for a year now and that they love their 56-year old Texas rock house. It is near grandchildren and the university. “He keeps busy with the usual home maintenance, unpacking all those books, gardening, and bicycling..” He was

also a red cross volunteer helping to reunite Katrina's families by computer. Lolita has helped with food and clothing collections at their church. And they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in June 2005.

Carl Blake wrote from Austin, Texas that he works for the State Government. He moved there last year and is producing a short film. He mentioned having **Dr. Dean Martin** for General Chemistry-1 in the fall of 1984, and kindly remembered the demonstrations.

Melissa Derby (Ph.D. '02) called from Harvard University where she is a research associate and Research Assistant Laboratory Manager. She mentioned that she danced with Mr. Richard Gere in Harvard Square when he was named man of the year and played tennis (indoor courts) with Mr. Val Kilmer. Later, she stopped by USF to visit.

Duke D. Pooré (Ph.D. '96) Capt., U.S.A. Completed Phase II Officer Training and received an Army Medal of Commendation for services rendered at Walter Reed Hospital.

Dr. Joseph Stanko (Faculty '73-'03) wrote “On an alumni matter, I am sending you ... a photo of two of our past graduates, both from the class of 2001. Their names are Michael Verschage and Jonas Nazareth. You might remember them.... I had them in the inorganic courses. Michael was a B.S. major and Jonas a B.A. major. They recognized me in the crowd at the last USF home football game in November, and I took their picture which shows them saluting the "Bulls". Michael said he is in charge of ordering all the chemicals for a large orange juice processing plant, I believe, in Auburndale ... Jonas is working for DuPont as their sales director for their Corian countertop product on the West-

Central coast of Florida. They both had very nice things to say about their time in the Department.”



Michael Verschage and Jonas Nazareth at Raymond James Stadium, November 2005 (photo courtesy Dr. Stanko)

After visiting the Open House, He wrote, “Incidentally, another alumna sends her regards. While Joan and I were over at the University Mall one afternoon last week, a former student, Nilofar Pishdad (BS Chemistry, 1995) stopped me to say hello. She worked at Savannah Lab after graduation and for the past several years has been employed in the lab of the Tampa Water Department at the Reservoir on 30th street. I had her in Advanced Inorganic and she said she had you for Historical Perspectives. She was pregnant that Spring of 1995, and she said her daughter is now 11 years old.”

Dr. W. Karl Olander (M.S. '68) and **Mrs. Zuli Olander** visited on their way to the USF-UConn basketball game. Dr. Olander earned his Ph.D. at the University of Illinois Champaign/Urbana. Later was at General Electric and other major firms before becoming co-founder (1986) and Vice-President of Business Development ATMI, Inc. He was the first Outstanding Alumnus at the first Awards Banquet in April 18, 1988.

Down Memory Lane...

Remember the days of the Chemathons when high school students would visit, take lab tours, and compete by taking chemistry exams for prizes?



Dr. R. S. Braman in a lab tour of Chemathon-93

News and feedback

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

Look at this page (upper right-hand corner) for Graduate Alumni to see if we have your correct occupation. If not, please contact the Department Webmaster, Mr. Jason Hair (hair@cas.usf.edu)

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