

Recognition...

Scott Lewis (Ph.D. '06) was named a recipient of the USF Graduate School's "Outstanding Dissertation Award". His advisor, **Dr. Jennifer Lewis**, noted "I think this is quite an honor for the first chemical education dissertation out of the department".

Dr. Scott Lewis is presently Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Kennesaw State University.

Appointment...

Dr. John Skvoretz, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, announced that **Dr. Julie Harmon**, Professor of Chemistry, has joined the Dean's Office as Faculty Coordinator for Special Projects

About and abroad

Dr. Mohamed Eddaoudi, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, was an invited speaker at the *Second International Symposium on Chemistry of Coordination Space*, held in Fukuoka, Japan from December 15-16, 2006. He also presented an invited seminar at Kyoto University on December 14.

New grant

At Moffitt, The Cancer Drug Discovery program project grant application will be

funded by NIH/NCI, according to **Professor Mark McLaughlin**, who said the grant budget would be about \$9 million over the next five years. The grant would start January or February, 2007. **Dr. Said Sebti** is the PI and **Drs. Kumar Chellappan, Hong-Gang Wang, Jerry Wu, Jiandong Chen, Nick Lawrence**, and **McLaughlin** are co-PIs. **Dr. Wayne Guida** (Ph.D. '76) is the HTS core leader of this P01 and will have substantial support as well. This group has been meeting and working together on developing this application for three years. This was the second submission.

New patent

Dr. Rebecca O'Malley, Professor of Chemistry, is the co-inventor with **Dr. David F. Fitzpatrick**, a retired professor in Pharmacology and Therapeutics on a recently issued patent for a potent endothelium-dependent vasorelaxing compound. (U.S. Patent 7,132,446; 11/7/06). Some background information and the structure was presented in an earlier issue of *News* [Vol. 3, issue 1, pp. 2-4] and in *J. Agric. Food Chem.* **2000**, 8, 6384-6390.

A previous patent on a related topic was issued March 16, 2004, also with Dr. Fitzpatrick.

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

[a continuing series on current graduate students]

Dorina Sava is a research assistant in Chemistry, and we asked her to describe her interesting background:

“I was born in Bucharest, the capital of Romania, a very old, diverse and architecturally elaborate city. This is where I have lived and completed my education, including my BSc degree in Materials Science and Engineering from University Polytechnica of Bucharest, one of the oldest and most prestigious technical schools of the country.

Throughout the whole length of my studies I was the recipient of an annual scholarship, while being actively involved in local conferences, where I participated and won several prizes. In the year of my graduation I was awarded an Erasmus-Socrates scholarship to perform the experimental part of my undergraduate BSc thesis in the Department of Chemical Engineering of University of Patras, Greece. Here I was exposed to an innovative way of coating different substrates with aluminum by a Fluidized Bed CVD process.

During the same year I have decided to challenge myself on a different level and came to do my PhD in Chemistry at USF, enhancing and completing my previous training with the in depth study of the phenomena that occur at the molecular level in materials chemistry. Therefore, in spring 2004, I joined Dr. Eddaoudi’s research group, where I am working on multiple projects, specifically targeting the design and synthesis of porous materials for gas storage purposes.

I am also very interested in exploring the molecular magnetism of our frameworks and their possible integration into building functional materials. During several occasions I was given the opportunity to present my research at local, regional, or national meetings, winning a second prize for my poster presentation in the Raymond Castle Conference at USF in spring of 2005, where I helped also as a student organizer for two years, consecutively.



Ms. Dorina Sava in Dr. Eddaoudi’s lab

Currently I am finishing writing up my first author publication, while being co-author of one paper published in the *Journal of Molecular Structure*. So far, my graduate experience has been rewarding; the most difficult thing to deal with is the distance that separates me from my family that I am very fond of and especially my mother, who has supported me in all the ways, and for whom I have the greatest love, respect and admiration.”

Around and about campus...

The loud, pounding thumping sound that one can hear anywhere on campus from early morning on ‘til quitting time is a

“sound of progress.” It is part of the construction of the new **student center** (four stories tall, 230,000 square feet, and \$64 million). An article in *The Oracle* mentioned that offices in Student Government face the construction site, and they can hear the noise very well, and “the floor shakes mildly.” The sound should stop in February, 2007.

The former **Special Events Center** which was constructed during the presidency of Dr. John Lott Brown is no more, and the ground was leveled as part of the new student center, due to be completed in May 2008.

The **Elsworth Simmons Park** was dedicated in early December. It is located between Moffitt Hospital and the Fine Arts Building, and abuts an artificial pond. The Park was named for the late Mr. Simmons, a former county commissioner, who had a significant role in the founding of USF and the creation of the Medical Center (now “USF Health”). Rep. Sam Gibbons and President Genshaft were among those who spoke at the dedication.

The **Center for Urban Transportation** “trailer city” located near the Science Center at the corner of Alumni Drive and Laurel was demolished recently. It had been replaced by one permanent building, next to Engineering Building –II.

The new **ROTC Building** (four stories) is being erected next to Physical Education on Maple Drive.

A recent announcement from **Provost Renu Khatur** noted : “Academically, [USF] got ranked in the top tier of Carnegie’s classification for Community Engagement (USF is one of the very few to be in the top-tier of **both** Research and Community Engagement classifications along with

UCLA, UNC-Chapel Hill, Michigan State, Minnesota, and Virginia Tech).”

Significant Chemists project

The Seminar room of the Chemistry Building (CHE 201) now has 14 posters (15” X 18”) providing information about 14 significant chemists. For each, there is a picture, a biography (in USF green) and a watermark in USF yellow symbolizing the person’s contribution.



The posters are currently arranged in birth order with **Justus von Liebig** at the beginning (with a watermark showing N,P, K) to emphasize his role in understanding the limiting reagent concept of fertilizer.

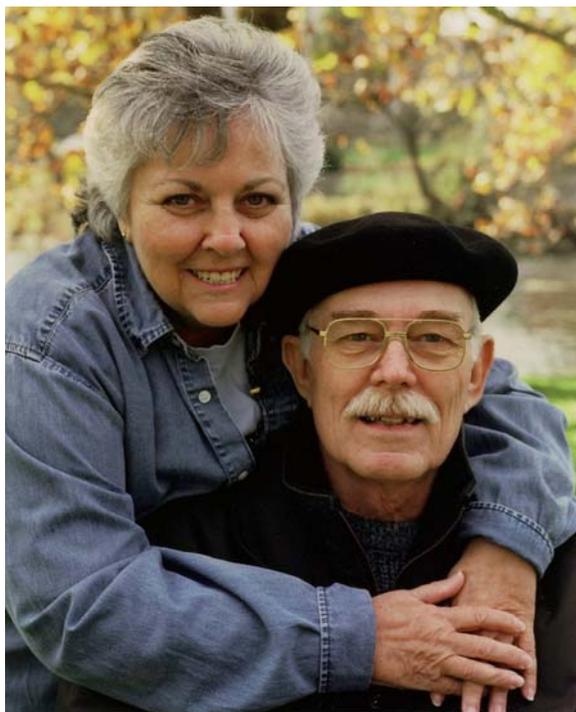
Dr. Gertude Elion, who received an honorary doctorate from USF is included, as is **Dr. Percy Lavon Julian**, the subject of a Nova series program, *Forgotten Genius*, that will air on public television on February 6, 2007.

We are grateful for the Assistance of **Ms. Lorene Hall-Jennings**.

Dr. Jay Worrell (1938-2007)

Dr. Worrell, Professor of Chemistry Emeritus (faculty member 1967-2002), died January 27 after a long battle with cancer.

Dr and Mrs. Jay Worrell were living in Shippenburg, PA, where their picture was taken last fall.



Mrs. Louise Worrell was a staff member for many years. **Dr. Worrell** was Professor Emeritus, and served as a faculty member, 1967-2002.

Dr. Mike Zaworotko, Professor and Chair, paid tribute to Dr. Worrell in a message distributed January 29th.

He concluded:

“Jay will be missed but not forgotten by the many people he influenced during his long and distinguished career. As one colleague

said, “He made quite a sweep in the Department”.

Our thoughts are with his family.”

Epitaph

[This was provided by Mrs. Worrell, who had been Dr. Worrell’s wife for over 50 years]

“Tonight, 27 January 2007, we lost a truly extraordinary man – Jay H. Worrell

He was a person full of wisdom, who loved people and life. Jay was an honorable man who was admired and loved by everyone who knew him.

In his lifetime, he was a listener as well as a teacher. He enjoyed teaching chemistry to his students. However, Jay also taught others how to live life to its fullest by exemplifying the way he lived his own life – righteously, lovingly and with respect to his family, friends and colleagues.

He enjoyed reading, loved to travel, taste new delectable foods and scrumptious wines wherever he visited.

He was my friend, a caring and loving husband and a great father to our three children.

Jay has given life a fighting chance but the cancer within his body grew too strong. He is now without pain and is in a place of tranquility and at peace.

He will be missed, remembered and loved by everyone that knew him.

Jay’s last wish was to be cremated without a memorial or Funeral Service. His wish has been honored.”

We hear about...



Frank (Francisco) S. Adamo (M.S. '68) wrote that he took a train ride to his 45th high school reunion and then to Washington DC for the Toastmasters International Convention.

Charles Asowata, Major, U.S. Army, (B.A.'80), stationed at the Pentagon in Environmental Safety and Occupational Health, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, recently passed his qualifying doctoral exams at George Mason University.

Kiran Avancha (Ph.D., 2006) is a Graduate Pharmacist Intern with Walgreens Company in South Miami where he is currently completing the required number of intern hours to obtain a license to practice pharmacy in the State of Florida.

William Beaumont (M.S., '80) has moved his IP law practice to the law firm of Merchant & Gould located in downtown Washington, D.C. The firm is based in Minneapolis and has offices in other cities.

Kathleen Carvalho-Knighton (Ph.D. '00), Assistant Professor of Environmental Science & Policy, USF St. Petersburg, is pictured on the USF College of Arts and Sciences Web page.

Christina Coates (Ph.D. '04) is a post-doctoral research fellow and chemistry instructor at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers. She has been working on several research projects pertaining to novel

decontamination technologies and is associated with the Biotechnology Research Group.

David L. Eng-Wilmot (Ph.D. '78) stepped down as Chemistry Department Chair at Rollins College, but he became Faculty Advisor to Rollins Relief and will lead a fourth group to St. Bernard Parish, LA (January, 2007).

Dr. Jack Fernandez, Professor Emeritus, Charter Faculty member, who taught 1960-1995, continues to serve as a community columnist for the *Tampa Tribune*.

Kenneth Hewes (M.S.'83) lives in Richardson, TX and is still with Texas Instruments. His wife, **Doreen Meeks Hewes, C.P.A.**, recently was appointed controller of a private high school. Their son, Winston, started first grade last fall.

Tae-Young Kim (Ph.D. '06) is a Chemist II at Xcelience in Tampa.

Scott Lewis (Ph.D. '06), Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Kennesaw State University, visited December 28th.

Wen Li (Ph.D. '06) is a Chemist II at Xcelience, Tampa.

Dean Martin was pictured in *Chemical & Engineering News* (November 20, 2006, p. 91) with ACS Tour Speakers attending the fall national meeting in San Francisco.

Dr. and Mrs. Cal Maybury wrote from The Villages, FL that they hope to visit Tampa more often. **Dr. Maybury** was a faculty member 1961- 1992 and served as Department Chair, 1963-1974.

Charles Norris (Ph.D. '95) is a Laboratory Manager in the Department of Civil and

Environmental Engineering at the University of Central Florida. He also has taught organic chemistry, lecture and lab, at Valencia Community College.

Dr. Jay Palmer (faculty member, 1978-83 and other years) updated us on the research that he, **Dr. Joe Stanko** (1973-03), and **Heidi Kay** (Ph.D. '99) did on some 100 anti-tumor agents. USF has licensed their patent for use by a Pharmaceutical firm.

Dilojan Senananayake (M.S. '96) is a Wathab Field Officer for the International Committee of the Red Cross, whose delegation in Sri Lanka is stationed in Columbo. Dr. Robert Potter was his advisor.

Dr. T. W. Graham Solomons, Charter Faculty Member and retired Professor of Chemistry visited USF January 30. Dr. Solomons was a faculty member 1960-1990.

News and feedback

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

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

News for us or comments? Please write to dmartin@cas.usf.edu