

Recognition...

Chemical & Engineering News (February 12, p. 91) quoted a statement by Cope Scholar **Dr. Leonard MacGillivray**, Associate Professor of Chemistry, University of Iowa, paying tribute to his undergraduate advisor, **Dr. Mike Zaworotko**, Professor and Chair: “[He] provided an “extremely supportive environment in which to explore chemistry. Dr. Z was my undergraduate advisor, and he also ended up being my general chemistry instructor. He always welcomed undergraduates into his lab. There, I was introduced to the nuts and bolts of an active academic life. I was hooked.”

The article notes that **Dr. MacGillivray's** four years in **Dr. Zaworotko's** lab produced some 20 publications.

233rd American Society National Meeting in Chicago... Graduate student **Ruizhi Wu** was awarded an “Excellence in Graduate Polymer Research” certificate by the Division of Polymer Chemistry in recognition as an outstanding graduate student in the field of polymer chemistry. He was nominated for the award by his advisor, **Dr. Kirpal Bisht**, and by **Dr. Mike Zaworotko**.



Mr. Ruizhi Wu with certificate

Visitors

Dr. Carmen Valdez Gauthier, Associate Professor, Florida Southern College, is on sabbatical leave and is spending this term working with **Dr. Mike Zaworotko**, having spent the fall semester at the University of Illinois-Champaign/Urbana.

She earned a B.S. from Pontifical Catholic University of Peru and Ph.D. from the University of New Hampshire. Her research interest is the self-assembly of supra-molecular compounds.



Dr. Carmen V. Gauthier

When she returns to Florida Southern, she will be Chair of her Division.

Dr. **Young Shik Kong**, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Chonbuk National University, Chonju, Korea, is working with **Dr. Brian Space** on a problem of mutual interest in computational chemistry. Dr. Kong earned a B.S. in Chemistry at Seoul National University, a M.S. and a Ph.D. from the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and technology. He joined the Space group in February, 2007

Out and about...

From **Dr. Bill Baker**, Associate Professor of Chemistry (March 16th):

“Just a quick note to say we've arrived! Got into Palmer Monday afternoon after a week and a half in transit. Amazingly calm crossing of the Drake Passage but had one night of bumps, just for Alan's sake (can't say you've experienced the Drake without losing a meal or two!).“

“Moved from the ship (pix) onto the Station Wed and by now feel like old hands. We've been weathered out today but otherwise



Dr. Bill Baker and Mr. Alan Maschek in front of the *Gould*

have been in the water every day... bags full of tunicates ready for shipment north.”

Meeting-in-Miniature-2007

The third annual meeting-in-Miniature of the Tampa Bay Section, ACS, was held at the USF-St. Petersburg Campus on March 9, and **Eric Steimele** (Ph.D. '99) was the local organizer.

Department students were well represented.



Front row: Carey Hartmann, Kristen Wheeler, Kiran Kirti, Chunyan Wang, Lauren O'Donnell. Back row: Plenary speaker Dr. Joseph Francisco, Ryan Centko, Pasha Khan.

Ms. Wang (advisor, **Dr. Julie Harmon**), and **Mr. Khan** and **Ms. Kirti** (advisor, **Dr. Kirpal Bisht**) won prizes for outstanding presentation by a graduate student; **Ms. O'Donnell** (Advisor, **Dr. Dean Martin**) was the winner of outstanding presentation by an undergraduate student prize.

On campus...

The **Joint Military Leadership Center** is being built on Maple Drive (next to the PE Building). The \$10.3 million facility is due to open next fall. At that time, it will house all three ROTC programs (Army, Air Force, and Naval) under one academic roof. [Some 328 U.S. universities sponsor ROTC programs, but USF is one of 38 that have all three.] The new building will also have classroom space for all USF students, and it will house a new academic minor ---national security studies --open to all students. It will have three new auditoriums and several classrooms.

Also the new building will free up classroom space in three other buildings. [Information from www.usfOracle.com; 2/15/07]

REU News

REU is a research experience for undergraduates and was initiated as an NSF-supported summer program with a three-year grant, as noted in previous issues of *News*. The program was adapted to the fall and spring semesters starting with the fall of 2005. Currently, some 40 students are participating

Campus changes --- past and future...

University Tech Centers have been filled, both the side for USF faculty members and the side serving as innovation incubators.

The pounding has stopped at the construction site for the new and expanded **Phyllis Marshall Center** (formerly **University Center**)

Spotlight on faculty

Dr. Julie P. Harmon is a Professor of Chemistry and the Faculty Coordinator for Special Projects in the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Harmon joined the Chemistry Department at USF as an Assistant Professor in 1993. She was promoted with tenure to Associate Professor in 1998.

Prior to that, she was an Associate Research Scientist in the Physics Department at the University of Florida studying polymeric scintillator materials. She also worked in polymeric toners at Eastman Kodak Research Laboratories, in coatings and resins at Pittsburgh Plate Glass and was a synthetic polymer chemist at Union Corporation Optics, Inc.

She received a Ph.D. in Materials Science from the University of Rochester in Rochester, NY, an M.A. in Chemistry from Duquesne University in Pittsburg, PA, and a B.A. in Chemistry (Cum Laude) from Mercyhurst College in Erie, PA.

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

[a continuing series on current graduate students]

Jacob Shafer was asked to tell us about himself, and he wrote: “I spent the majority of my life in the humble town of Hutchinson, KS, growing up with an inspirational mother and two caring grandparents. Perhaps it was this nurturing environment that lead me to become a very focused student at Buhler High School, where I graduated in the top 10% of my class with a 4.0 GPA. I went on to complete



Mr. Jacob Shafer in a Merkle Group lab

an AA in science from Hutchinson Community College where I was vice president of the Science Club and graduated with honors as a Presidential Scholar.”

“This first college experience only fed my hunger for higher education, and after my brief stint at Hutchison Community College I started commuting 57 miles one way to Wichita State University, where I graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B.S. in Chemistry. While there, I had the wonderful opportunity to work with Dr. Eichhorn in pursuits of inorganic chemistry as I completed an RSEC program through the

NSF in the summer of 2003. This work focused on building models of enzyme active sites, particularly using an air stable dithiol, 2,2'- dithiol dibenzaldehyde. My extracurricular activities included kick-boxing and the Chemistry Club, of which I became Co-President before completing my studies at WSU.”

“I had always known that higher education was for me, and it became clear after my college experiences that Chemistry was this calling. USF was kind enough to offer me this opportunity when it awarded me with an Investing in the Future Graduate Assistantship. I now focus towards biochemical endeavors in Dr. Merkle’s lab. My work is a proteomics-related project which I find as interesting as it is challenging. I am synthesizing biotin-tagged Coenzyme A and using it as a molecular probe of sorts, and my first co-authored paper is currently being written.”

“I love Tampa’s warm climate and vibrant population as well as USF’s exciting and stimulating environment, and I am pleased to be a part of it. I hope that one day my career will reflect well on USF and brighten its reputation.”

We get letters...

Dr. Daniel L. Akins (Faculty, 1970-1977) was pictured on an advertisement in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* “**Look Who’s Teaching at CUNY.**” He is **Distinguished Service Professor, Physical Chemistry, and Professor, Chemical Engineering** as well as **Director of Graduate Center for Analysis of Structures and Interfaces.**

Lori Ardanato (B.A., '00) successfully defended her dissertation in the College of Marine Science on Thursday March 15.

Craig Bowe (Ph.D. '03) is doing a teaching postdoctoral year at Furman University, and is also engaged in research and outreach projects.

We met **Ashley Brown** (Ph.D. '03) at the recent ACS Meeting in Chicago, and she said she is now a faculty member at Mississippi State U. **Dr. Steve Grossman** was her doctoral advisor.

An announcement from Squire, Sanders & Dempsey L.L.P. noted that Ms. **Suzette M. Marteny** (B.A.'02) has joined the firm's Tampa office as Associate, Corporate, Intellectual Property. The firm has about 800 lawyers and 30 offices located around the world.

Dr. T. W. Graham Solomons gave a lecture to **Dr. Roman Manetsch's** organic chemistry class on February 2 during a visit. The 9th edition of "Organic Chemistry" is due out and the present edition is the second best selling organic textbook in the nation. **Dr. Solomons** was a Charter Faculty member and taught at USF 1960-90.

Dr. Antony Wilbraham wrote some time ago to bring us up to date. He was once a student of Professor Emeritus **Terence Owen** in Liverpool, UK. Then at USF he did a NSF-funded post-doctoral research project with **Dr. Owen** on the radiation chemistry of sulfur-containing compounds. Subsequently, he was a visiting assistant professor at Florida Presbyterian College (now Eckerd College). Then, he joined the faculty of Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville in August, 1968, and became Professor Emeritus in December 1994.

He collaborated with **Michael Matta** and **Dennis Staley** on a textbook for allied health sciences (Benjamin Cummings, 1981), then wrote two more, one of which

took 75% of the Texas market., and the 6th edition became the number one high school chemistry textbook in the nation.

Among other activities, he initiated a lecture series at SIUE; past lecturers included **Drs. Jacquelyn Barton, Alfred Bader, Ronald Breslow**, and USF's **Dr. Terence C. Owen**.

He ended with the note that his "accomplishments [were] influenced by his formative years spent at USF."

Patents...

U.S. Patent 7,193,114, issued March 20, 1997. Inventors **Dean F. Martin** and **Craig A. Bowe**. See <http://uspto.gov>

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 look at our Department Home Page:

<http://www.cas.usf.edu/chemistry>

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

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