

Recognition...

An announcement by **Dr. Randy Larsen**, Professor and Chairman (December 16, 2008):

“As many of you already know (good news really does travel fast!) **Dr. Jon Antilla** (Assistant Professor) has just been awarded an NSF-CAREER award entitled "Chiral Phosphoric Acid-Catalyzed Reaction Methodology and Synthetic Applications" (\$550K over five years). I believe he is the fourth NSF-CAREER award recipient over the past six years in the Department of Chemistry!”



Dr. Jon Antilla in his BSF office

“Once again, I can not emphasize enough the quality of faculty we have not only in the department of chemistry but within SNSM [School of Natural Science and Mathematics] and CAS!”

Past recipients of the prestigious award are Drs. **Space, Cardenas, Eddaoudi, and Zhang.**

[More information re: Dr. Antilla, please see *News* 4(3): 4-7.]

More recognition...

Dr. Jon Antilla and **Dr. Peter Zhang** (Associate Professor of Chemistry) have been selected as *Synlett and Synthesis* 2009 “Thieme Chemistry Journal Awardees.”

Some 30-50 such awardees from around the world are selected by the Editorial Board members as “promising young professors at the beginning of their careers, according to Dr. Peter C. Vollhard, Chief Editor, *Synlett*, and Professor of Chemistry, U.C. Berkley. Recipients will receive free print or electronic subscriptions to both journals.

Speaking of **Dr. Zhang**, he was the subject of a “Highlight” in *Angew. Chem. Int Ed.* **2008**, 47, 2-5.



Dr. Peter Zhang in his BSF office

His colleague, **Dr. Jon Antilla**, wrote (1/1/09) in an e-mail to department faculty:

“This highlight by Mike Doyle is essentially a highlight of the Peter Zhang laboratory and some of their best work (cyclopropanation). It is a very significant achievement by the Zhang lab and they should be commended by us all! In particular **Dr. Josh Ruppel**, **Dr. Shifa Zhu**, **Dr. Jess Jones**, and **Kim Fields** were active in this area at USF (plus previous researchers at Tennessee).”

[Dr. Michael P. Doyle, Professor and Chair, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Maryland, College Park, was a seminar speaker during the fall term.]

USF Chemistry Society

Dr. Randy Larsen wrote (e-mail, 12/18/08):

“The USF Chemistry Society recently participated in the Hoops for Hope event which was the first ever at the University of South Florida. The Hoops of Hope is an organization that began in 2004 that is focused on bringing hope to individuals across the globe affected by AIDs. Hoops of Hope has sponsored thousands of young children whom have been orphaned by AIDs....”

“The USF Chemistry Society is a student organization (directed by [Dr.] **Ken Caswell**) that is focused on spawning student interest in the subject of chemistry here at USF as well as improving student understanding of the subject. Much of this has been accomplished by the society through the student-staffed tutoring center that the Chemistry Society controls. However, the society is attempting to branch

out into other areas of community service in attempts to better serve the USF and Global Community.”

“As Chair, I would like to extend my thanks to Ken and the Society for their efforts in not only promoting the chemical sciences to our undergraduates but also in reminding us all (students as well) that our discipline extends beyond the classroom and laboratories!”

[More about **Dr. Caswell**: Please see *News* 6(1)]

Campus changes --- past and future...

Construction of Magnolia dorms (located due west of the Science center) are coming along. What we can't decide is what the final color will be. The USF building colors seem to be rose and beige. And clearly, you see the rose, but you also have the choice of



Magnolia dorms in early February

five other colors as well (primer, more primer?). No prizes will be given for deciding the final color, however.

Opening is still scheduled for Autumn, 2009.

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. There are currently 62 students in the program. **Mr. Jason Cuce** is the graduate assistant.

The program continues actively this term, and we are grateful for financial assistance from the Honors College, through **Dr. Naomi Yavneh**, Director, Office of Undergraduate research.

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

[a continuing series on current graduate students]

Dr. Larsen wrote in December, "Please join me in congratulating **Emma Farrell** for being selected to attend the Education Without Borders 2009 conference in Dubai. All expenses for this conference are covered for *Emma* from a variety of non-chemistry sources. This conference is only open to students and the goal is to establish contacts between younger Western and Middle-Eastern scientists."

Ms. Farrell came to USF in September 2005. Her doctoral advisor in Chemistry is **Dr. David Merkle**.

[Additional information: Please see *News*, 6(2): 2; 6(5):1]

Thank a prof...

"I am pleased to announce a new addition to the Graduate School website (<http://www.grad.usf.edu/programs/thankyourprofessor.php>) known as "Thank Your Professor." Modeled after the Temple University initiative, this site allows graduate students to send thank you notes to those professors who made a real difference in their lives. While there are several sites to rate and critique professors, there should be at least one site where those professors who reach out to students, go the extra mile, and truly change lives are rewarded. Students send their comments on an electronic form to the graduate school where they are reviewed for content and posted. Students will be told that their comments need to be positive as this is a "Thank you" site. For confidentiality, no student names will be posted. The faculty member and the faculty member's dean will be notified of the submission and the post."

Presumably happy alumni could do the same thing.

Dr. Solomons on campus...

Dr. T. W. Graham Solomons (charter faculty member, Faculty 1960-1990) was a Campus visitor in mid-February. While here he had an enjoyable lunch with his guests, including members of the organic chemistry division. He spoke highly of the Department and the achievements of its faculty members.

Among other things, he said he is working on the *tenth* edition of his *Organic Chemistry*, and we wish him every continued success.

We hope to see him again this fall.

Castle Conference...

Mark your calendar for Saturday April 18th, the next Castle Research Conference.

The Organizing Committee consists of **Jason Cuce** (Chair), **Sumit Handa**, **Chung Sik Kim**, **William Maza**, **Meagan Small**, **Carissa Reimink**, **Michelle Cortes de Salva**, and **Wai Ma**. **Dr. Jon Antilla**, Assistant Professor, and **Dr. Patricia Muisener**, Associate Chair, are serving as advisors.

The group agreed to collaborate with the Tampa Bay Section, American Chemical Society, which has sponsored an annual Meeting-in-Miniature.

Persons we have heard from or about ...

Jarred F. Eubank (Ph.D. '08) holds a post-doctoral position with the research group of Professor Gerard Ferey in France, one of the most established groups in MOFs chemistry. His research is concerned with MOFs for drug delivery under the supervision of Dr. Christian Serre, Université de Versailles, Versailles, France.

He sent best wishes for a happy new year (Bonne Année), and mentioned enjoying the snow, though not the cold.

Maria Gallardo-Williams (Ph.D. '99), Senior Lecturer and Coordinator of Organic Laboratories, North Carolina State, sent a picture of her children, **Victoria** and **Nicholas**.



Dr. Gallardo-Williams

Elsie Gross (Ph.D. '94), retired professor at Hillsborough Community College, sent a Christmas card.

Kenneth Hewes (M.S. '83) is now an applications engineer in the R&D Laboratory at Celertity, Inc. The firm is mainly a vendor that supports the semiconductor industry. His wife, **Doreen Meeks Hewes**, C.P.A., a USF alumna, is the comptroller at John Paul II School in Dallas. Their son, **Winston**, is a second grader.

Anil K. Patri (Ph.D. '00), also sent his best wishes. He is Deputy Director, Nanotechnology, SAIC Frederick, Inc. National Cancer Institute at Frederick (MD).

He also sent a recent picture taken at the International Dendrimer Symposium in Toulouse, France.



Drs. Don Tomalia, Anil K. Patri, and George Newkome.

Dr. Newkome (Faculty, 1986-2001) was Dr. Patri's doctoral advisor, and **Dr. Tomalia** was his post-doctoral mentor.

Dr. Donald A. Tomalia is Director of the National Dendrimer & Nanotechnology Center and Distinguished Research Scientist/Professor at Central Michigan University.

Dr. George R. Newkome is at the University of Akron, where he is Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School; Professor of Polymer Science and Chemistry, Intellectual Property Fellow, James and Vanita Oelschlager Professor of Science & Technology.

Mick Perez-Cruet, M.D. (M.S. '86) sent Christmas greetings from Michigan. He sent a picture of himself, his wife, two daughters and two sons.

Deloan Senanayake (MS. '96) sent his good wishes and wrote that he is at Florida State University studying oceanography.

Chuhua Wang (Ph.D. '97), Senior Analytical Chemist at Technic, Inc. (Providence, RI) sent news of his family, and good wishes.

Departmental Funds...

This is the list provided by Dr. Zaworotko in December, 2007.

Chemistry Operating Fund for general use (acct. # 42-0550)

Chemistry Scholarship Undergraduate Awards (42-0700)

Barbara and Dean Martin Seminar Series Fund (42-6014)

George Bursa Award in Chemistry for outstanding graduate students (42-6013)

Barbara B. Martin Endowed Fellowship (42-6046)

Martin Travel Endowment to support travel for graduate students to national and international meetings (42-6039)

Owen Chemistry Undergraduate Research Fund (42-3030)

Worrell Memorial Scholarship (42-1900001)

Wenzinger Memorial Scholarship (42-0043005).

We are grateful to anonymous donors for their donations to these funds.

It is a pleasure to note that The Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation has made a donation in the amount of \$5,627 to the ***Owen Chemistry Undergraduate Research Fund***.

Details about awards may be found under "Awards" on the departmental Web page.

News and feedback

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News:

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

News for us or comments?

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