

## ***In memoriam.***



“Dr. Terence C. Owen, 78, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry died peacefully on Tuesday morning, June 23, 2009. He was born in Cannock, England, and received his doctorate in chemistry at the University of Manchester.

He brought his wife and two children to Tampa in December of 1963, when he joined the University of South Florida as an associate professor. Dr. Owen served as Chairman of the Chemistry Department from 1974-1978 and received many awards for his outstanding leadership and devotion to the field of chemistry. In addition, an endowed scholarship was founded in his name to reward outstanding research students.

He loved both teaching and research, and though retired in 1997 continued his research and mentoring up to the week before his passing.

He was also an avid sailor and explored much of the west coast of Florida, the Keys and Bahamas on his summer vacations.

He is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Betty Patricia; his daughter, Judith of Memphis, Tenn.; his son and daughter-in-

law, John and Mayra of Atlanta, Ga.; and five grandchildren, Lindsey, Christopher, Lauren, Scott and Alexi.” [Obituary from Tampa Tribune]

Who can forget his wit? “I don’t have an accent --- you have an accent.” (a statement to his students)

Who can forget his creativity... His application for NCI synthesis contractor that included a better synthesis of a desired compound, and a large sample to prove it? The Southeast Regional ACS meeting that was held at Tampa Airport when he was chair and avoided the long ride from airport to convention hotel that is so typical of SERMACS? “Have We Got a Meeting for You?” Owen’s Compound with all the Google hits? The unique apparatus in his laboratory?

A celebration of his life was held at his home on Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Faculty you should know***

**Dr. Jianfeng Cai** joined the department this summer as an Assistant Professor. He comes to us from Yale where he worked with Dr. Andrew Hamilton as a post-doctoral associate. In 2006, he earned his Ph.D. in Bioorganic/Medicinal Chemistry through Washington University in St. Louis.

**Dr. Vicky Lykourinou** will be continuing in the department this fall as an Instructor. She joined this department as a student

graduating with her Chemistry-Bioinorganic Ph.D. in 2006. For the past three years, she has served as a Visiting Instructor demonstrating strong teaching and leadership skills.

**Dr. Santiago Sandi-Urena** joins us this fall as an Assistant Professor. He received his Ph.D. in Chemistry with an emphasis in Chemical Education through Clemson University in 2008. He was most recently serving as a post-doctoral fellow with Dr. Melanie Cooper in the Department of Chemistry at Clemson.

**Dr. Arjan van der Vaart** begins this fall as an Assistant professor in the Computational Chemistry group. He joins us from Arizona State University where he served as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry. He graduated with his Ph.D. in Chemistry from Pennsylvania State University in 2001.

**Dr. H. Lee Woodcock** starts this fall as an Assistant Professor in Computational Chemistry. He is moving to USF from the National Institutes of Health where he served as a Career Transition Award Fellow in the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute. He received his Ph.D. in Chemistry with a concentration in Computational Chemistry from the University of Georgia in 2003.

## ***Faculty recognition***

**Dr. Jon Antilla** was the recipient of a visiting professorship at Université du Havre (Le Havre University in Le Havre, France; July 1-15). He will give seminars at Le Havre and at least two at other French Universities in northern France. He will also work with Professor Vincent Dalla at Le Havre to achieve future collaborations.

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

The pictures of Annual awards for outstanding graduate students in chemistry are now available.



Ms. Kimberly Fields  
Ashford Award



Mr. Jason Perman  
The George Bursa Award



Ms. Dorina Sava  
Alexiou Award in Environmental Chemistry

## **Update Re: Castle Student Research Conference**

For background, please see *News: 7(2)*. Here is a list of the awardees for their Contributions made on April 18, 2009

### **Graduate Student Oral Presentations**

Second Place Oral Presentation Morning:

**Shawn Larson, \$100**

First Place Oral Presentation Morning: **Xue Xu, \$150**

Second Place Oral Presentation Afternoon:

**Brent Hilker, \$100**

First Place Oral Presentation Afternoon:

**Mohamed Alkordi, \$150**

### **Barbara and Dean Martin Poster Competition**

Two first place Graduate Poster winners

First Place Graduate Poster: **Kurt Van Horn, \$100**

First Place Graduate Poster: **Meghanath Gali, \$100**

**The Undergraduate Poster Competition --** sponsored by the Clear Springs Co Account

Second Place Analytical Undergraduate Poster Competition:

**Frederick Stull, \$100**

First Place Analytical Undergraduate Poster

Competition: **Judy Triplett, \$150**

Second Place Inorganic and Natural Products Undergrad: **Emily Mevers, \$50 and Rebecca Gridley, \$50**

First Place Inorganic and Natural Products Undergrad: **Kevin Dubois, \$150**

Second Place Biochemistry, Polymer, Physical, Computational Chemistry Undergraduate Poster:

**Sibel Demirel, \$25**

**Ruben Durand, \$25**

**Daniel Leyva, \$25**

**Mrunal Tailor, \$25**

First Place Biochemistry, Polymer, Physical, Computational Chemistry Undergraduate Poster: **Christian Cioce, \$150**

Second Place Organic Undergraduate Poster Competition: **Mario Martinez, \$100**

First Place Organic Undergraduate Poster Competition: **Kristopher Hahn, \$150**

## **Lawson recognition...**

**Mr. Shawn Larson**, who works with **Dr. Jon Antilla**, will travel to Lindau, Germany as he was nominated by our University President and selected to attend the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting (representing the NIH and USF, all expenses paid) to meet with over ten Nobel Laureates. He is one of the student researchers selected for this meeting from all over the US and the world - I think only one or two are allowed per school. The details can be found at: [www.lindau-nobel.de/](http://www.lindau-nobel.de/)

## **Cairns in Grenoble...**

**Ms. Amy Cairns** (Ph.D. candidate in **Dr. Mohamed Eddaoudi's** laboratory) was at the Institut Laue-Langvin in Grenoble, France (June 21- June 27), where she was running inelastic neutron scattering (INS) experiments on two porous isostructural metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) that she had synthesized. INS can be used to study the interactions of molecular hydrogen with the framework (i.e., does the hydrogen have a preference to interact with the metal cluster or organic moieties at low loadings). She noted, "As part of our Department of

Energy (DoE) project, we collaborate with Dr. Juergen Eckert from the University of California in Santa Barbara (UCSB). Dr. Eckert submitted a proposal for beam time at Institut Laue-Langvin so that we could have the opportunity to collect INS data on these compounds.” The proposal was accepted, and they were granted time to use the INS spectrometer. Dr. Eddaoudi agreed to send her to aid in activation of the compounds.

### ***Faculty about and abroad...***

**Dr. Mike Zaworotko's** recent trip to China included a lecture at Nankai University, <http://www.nankai.edu.cn/english/> in the city of Tianjin, a booming and historic city that is ca. 1.5 hours drive from Beijing. Tianjin is the gateway to Beijing in that it sits on the river that connects Beijing with the Yellow Sea. Tianjin was the key city in the Boxer Rebellion, which would be regarded as a relatively recent event in Chinese history. He was hosted by Prof. X. Bu, who is Head of Chemistry, and it is noteworthy that Nankai University has an existing relationship with USF: [http://global.usf.edu/educationabroad/downloads/sem-brochures/sem\\_NankaiU.pdf](http://global.usf.edu/educationabroad/downloads/sem-brochures/sem_NankaiU.pdf)



Prof. Bu and Prof. Zaworotko

He also presented 4 hours of lectures at the *2009 Beijing Summer School on Crystallography, Crystal Engineering and Functional Materials* that was held at Peking University. While in Beijing he was able to enjoy the Great Wall at Badaling and the Forbidden City.



Great Wall at Badaling

### ***Antilla course***

**Dr. Jon Antilla**, as part of his NSF CAREER grant, conducted a 6-week-long Chemistry Laboratory Enrichment course in cooperation with USF's Department of Education supported Upward Bound for 40+ underprivileged H.S. students from the Hillsborough School District. The course included hands-on experiments such as measuring the density of eggs, determining the percentage of fat in potato chips, and the synthesis of aspirin.

The course also included such demonstrations as an “upside-down thunderstorm” and an “oscillating chemical reaction.”

### ***News on Campus***

The Department of Chemistry has belonged to the College of Arts and Sciences for many

years and still does. But CAS reorganized last August and now consists of three schools: Natural Sciences and Mathematics (SNSM), Behavioral Sciences, and Humanities. Defining further details of organization continues, but a main feature is the development of more inter-disciplinary research programs (See "Proposals of Interest").

Magnolia II, the dormitory pictured previously [please see 7(1), (2)] will now be named Juniper and Poplar. The total occupancy is about 1050 beds. The halls are seven-story towers, each with a cafeteria, a Starbucks, faculty offices, and three classrooms.

Most of the 18 courses offered will be first-year and second-year level. Part of so-called learning communities will be faculty members living on campus.

First-year students are now required to live on campus, unless their homes are within 50 miles.

The latest issue of *Today's Tomorrows* (Vol. 10, issue 1, a publication of Moffitt Cancer Center) features three chemistry professors: **Dr. Wayne Guida** (professor of chemistry), **Dr. Mark McLaughlin** (professor of chemistry), and **Dr. Roman Manetsch** (assistant professor of chemistry). All are pictured in an article that describes the collaboration between Moffitt and the Department of Chemistry researchers as the Moffitt-USF "bridge".

### ***Proposals of interest...***

**Dr. Jon Antilla**, James and Ester King Foundation and the Florida Department of Health, "Synthesis and Screening of Sigma Ligands for Stroke Treatment at Delayed Time Points," (\$999,360, two years, starting

on July 1, 2009). The Team Science grant is a collaboration between **Dr. Keith Pennypacker**, **Dr. Javier Cuevas**, **Dr. Allison Willing** (College of Medicine), and **Dr. Antilla**, who noted "This grant was developed from a seed grant in 2007 from BITT and a graduate interdisciplinary fellowship from BITT for Ms. Michelle Cortes-Salva in the Antilla laboratory.

**Dr. Jon Antilla**, BITT seed grant, "Novel Neuronal Nicotinic Receptor Modulators for the Treatment of Ataxia" (\$70,000), a medicinal chemistry project in collaboration with **Dr. Lynn Wecker**, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Medicine.

**Dr. Scott Emery** (Project Manager), **Dr. Dean F. Martin** (PI) "Periodic (Five-year) assessment of Wetland Conditions..." (\$150,000, 9 months), SWFWMD.

**Dr. Xiao (Sheryl) Li**: "Collaborative MRI submission (for acquisition of a high-resolution scanning electron microscope), National Science Foundation (\$478,800; total, \$684,000), **Drs. Ashok Kumar**, PI, **Dr. Rudy Schlaf**, **Dr. Vinay Gupta**, (College of Engineering), **Dr. Matthias Batzill** (Physics), and **Dr. Xiao Li**.

### ***Papers of interest...***

A paper co-authored by **Prof. Wayne Guida** (Ph.D.'76) appeared online in *Journal of Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters*: "Identification of a disruptor of the MDM2-p53 protein-protein interaction facilitated by high-throughput in silico docking" by Harshani R. Lawrence, Zhenyu Li, M.L. Richard Yip, Shen-Shu Sung, Nicholas J. Lawrence, Mark L. McLaughlin, Gregory J. McManus, Michael J. Zaworotko, Saïd M. Sebti, Jiandong Chen, and Wayne C. Guida.

The manuscript was submitted in response to an invitation that **Dr. Guida** received from the editor, **Dr. Dale Boger**, to contribute to a special Symposium in Print edition of the journal in honor of **Dr. Carlos Barbas**, who is receiving the Tetrahedron Young Investigator Award this year.

**Dr. Guida** wrote, “Carlos is a professor at the Scripps Research Institute and did undergraduate research with me many years ago during my first stint at Eckerd College.”

He added, “Perhaps the paper is equally noteworthy since the author list reveals that the work was the result of a true collaboration between USF Department of Chemistry and Moffitt scientists.”

### ***Persons we have heard about...***

**Bo Jiang** (Ph.D. `08) is a Senior Statistical Analyst at the Canadian Headquarters for Capitol One, a Fortune 500 Company (Toronto). He wrote, “I am very grateful to USF for providing me the wonderful experience to develop my knowledge and skills during my Ph.D. years.” His advisor was **Dr. Jennifer Lewis**.

**George Cobb** (Ph.D. `89), Professor of Environmental Toxicology at Texas Tech University, is a candidate for treasurer of the American Chemical Society Division of Environmental Chemistry (ENVIR). He has previously served as member-at-large and as Merit Awards Chairman for the Division.

**Dr. Marylyn Lupton**, Chemistry administrative aide (1974-1986) before earning her doctorate in humanities at USF and her husband, **Keith**, celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 6. They first

met on a mountain in Wyoming, where both have been invited by friends to attend a church picnic.

**Dr. John W. Siebert IV** (B.S. `86) earned his Ph.D. at the University of Texas-Austin in 1991 and is now an associate professor of chemistry at the University of Texas-Dallas where his research focuses on “synthesis and coordination chemistry of novel classes of macrocyclic receptors.”

### ***What did they do?***

A check of the alumni list on our Web page and comparison with USF Alumni Directory (2008) provides interesting information about some alumni after they were graduated from USF in the late 1960s.

**Bonnie Sue Jurmak Eifert** (B.A. `68) earned a M.S. at the University of Miami, and became Quality Assurance Manager at ZLB Plasma in Boca Raton.

**Richard Alt** (B.A. `69) became President at Bionomics Laboratory, Inc. in Orlando.

**Andre W. Benson** (B.A. `69) became an employee of Humana, Inc. in St. Petersburg.

**Richard William Hoerbelt** (B.A. `69) became President of Tri-City Optical in Clearwater. Founded in 1993, Tri-city was a wholesale laboratory that was subsequently acquired (June 2008) by Carl Zeiss Vision Laboratory Network, and he became Laboratory Manager at the new firm.

**Stephen Lee Hunter** (B.A. `69) became Director of Technical Services at Silver Springs Citrus in Howey in the Hills, FL.

**Ann Louise Lovitt, M.D.** (B.A. `69) earned her doctorate from Tulane and became an

anesthesiologist at Jeans Hospital, Temple University in Philadelphia.

**Barbara M. Nuernberger** (B.A. '69) became a toxicologist with the District 4 Medical Examiner's Office in Jacksonville, FL.

### ***"Giving"....***

This is the title of a new secure link on the departmental Web page. (Box is top center). Clicking on the link allows a donor to make a gift to one of the accounts that the Department is emphasizing. Both are related to the annual Scholarship & Alumni Award celebration each spring.

**The Chemistry Operating Fund** provides support for special guests to attend, a worthy cause that can not be supported by State funds. It also provides for food for seminars and related needs.

**The Chemistry Named Awards** endowment provides cash awards to outstanding students in six areas of chemistry. (This was the first year that \$200 awards were given in addition to a book in the subject area). In addition, the awards are named in honor of six pioneering faculty members all retired: **Drs. Binford, Braman, Davis, Fernandez, Owen, and Stanko.**

Two additional awards (in cash) are named after two past department chairs: **Drs. Maybury and Zaworotko.**

We hope to build up the funds so the amount of the awards can be increased.

Friends tell us the system works rapidly and well.

## ***News and feedback***

### ***Chair's Address:***

**Dr. Randy Larsen**  
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### ***Photographs:***

**Ms. Kimberly Read, M.B.A.**  
Manager, Fiscal & Business Administration

**Dr. Mike Zaworotko**  
Professor of Chemistry

### ***Web page:***

<http://chemistry.usf.edu>

### ***Webmaster:***

**Mr. Tony Green**

### ***News:***

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

### ***News for us or comments?***

Please write to: [dmartin@cas.usf.edu](mailto:dmartin@cas.usf.edu)