

Dr. Zaworotko in Top 20....

Dr. Randy Larsen wrote (February 11th):

“Thomas Reuters (ISS Web of Knowledge) has now published its rankings of the top 100 chemists world wide in terms of publication impact. **Mike Zaworotko** is now ranked #20 in the world!!!! The ranking is based upon publications since 2000. Mike has 7,403 citations for 83 publications since 2000 for an astounding average of 89 citations per publication!”

“Congratulations to Mike for this significant achievement! It is efforts such as this that have resulted in our continued rise in the NRC rankings and will propel us to a top 25 department in the near future. It is truly an amazing accomplishment!”

Only one other chemist from Florida is on the list. The link to the rankings is:

[\[http://sciencewatch.com/dr/sci/misc/Top100Chemists2000-10/\]](http://sciencewatch.com/dr/sci/misc/Top100Chemists2000-10/)

State Senate Committee Appearance

On February 16, 2011 **Dr. Mike Zaworotko** testified before the Florida Senate Higher Education Committee during a session devoted to Innovative New Programs. His primary goal was to describe the activities of USF-SMMARTT and its internationally

recognized research in the area of metal-organic materials (MOMs). He was accompanied by two graduate students, **Jason Perman** and **Carissa Vetromile (Dr. Randy Larsen’s advisee)**, who also had the opportunity to speak.



MOMs will be part of our future

But will they be our MOMs or their MOMs?

- More efficient chemical processes
- New energy technologies (hydrogen, carbon capture)
- Environmental remediation (TICs, warfare agents)
- Better drug delivery and pesticide release

USF Mike Zaworotko - xtal@usf.edu

Opening slide of presentation

In addition to focusing upon MOMs and how they might play an important role in green energy and environmental remediation, he also addressed broader issues concerning investment in science infrastructure in the context of the rise of China and India. Both countries have made enormous investments in pure and applied research in the past decade and China is now contributing more than 80% of the papers in the field of MOMs, which is today one of the highest impact research areas in chemistry.

New Academic Services Administrator.

Dr. Randy Larsen (Professor and Chair) announced that **Ms. Christina Nelson** began the appointment on December 1, 2010.

She has a B.S. in Communication (College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell a Masters in Education (USF) and is a Ph.D. candidate (Curriculum and Instruction, Higher Education Specialization) at USF's College of education.

Dr. Larsen Noted that **Ms. Nelson** has significant experience in academic administration, as well as breadth in employment experience., including being a skilled academic advisor in various roles at USF.

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. This Spring Semester, 55 students are participating in research for credit. We also have a number of undergraduates who have chosen to volunteer this semester, which would bring our total participation close to 80 students. Twenty-nine of the students in the REU program are enjoying their first semester as researchers. Eighteen faculty members are involved in the mentoring process this semester.

This semester, **Dr. Patricia Muisener** and **Mr. Todd Gatlin** will coordinate two workshops: "Writing a Scientific Abstract" and "Creating and Presenting a Scientific Poster." There will be follow-up meetings for each of the workshops for students to review each others progress and gain feedback on their own work. These

experiences will culminate when students present their research at the 9th Raymond N. Castle Student Research Conference.

The "Castle Conference", as it is often called, is organized by students to provide undergraduate and graduate chemistry researchers an opportunity to develop communication skills needed to excel in the future. Plans are being made to host the 9th Raymond N. Castle Student Research Conference on Saturday (please see below).

Ninth Raymond N. Castle Student Research Conference

A student committee has been organized and is actively involved in preparations for the Conference on Saturday April 16th

Registration (no charge) and further details are available on the Department Web page [[http:// chemistry.usf.edu](http://chemistry.usf.edu) click on **Department**, and note **Castle Conference** on menu.]

As a recent program noted, "The conference is an excellent opportunity for undergraduate and graduate chemistry students to share scientific ideas and research progress."

Prizes are given for outstanding oral and poster presentations.

An opportunity to support this outstanding program is available on our Web page [See the "Make a gift" link and note the Castle Fund].

Campus changes --- past and future...

Where we are

The College of Arts and Sciences was reorganized in the fall 2008. Chemistry became part of the **School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics**. SNSM consists of Cell Biology, Microbiology and Molecular Biology; Chemistry, Integrative Biology; Geology; Mathematics; and Physics. As of the 2009-2010 academic year there were 147 faculty, about 6200 undergraduate students and 472 graduate students. The active research and contracts totaled \$44,215,976.

Tampa Campus info:

Buildings : 253
Rooms: 18,000
Trees: 7, 811
Underground pipes: 50 miles
Sidewalks: 27 miles
Toilet paper used ('10): 15,909 miles
 (From a Facilities Management Team presentation March 1, 2011)

Out and About...

Dr. Bill Baker (Professor of Chemistry) was pictured with Professor Dennis Kyle (Department of Global Health) in a SNSM brochure "IMAGINE" ("Rethinking what is possible").

Wen-Shan Chang (MS '10) is employed by Nafertine Bio-technology Co., LTD, located in Fengyuan, which is near Taichung, Taiwan. She represented the firm's interests in nano-fertilizers in a presentation in Vietnam (November).



Wen-Shan Chang

Abuzar Kabir (Ph.D. '05) is a visiting postdoctoral fellow at the International Forensic Research Institute and an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Florida International University. His doctoral mentor was Dr. Abdul Malik.

Duke D. Pooré (Ph.D. '96) was promoted to Major, U.S. Army in November and is serving at a post in Hawaii.



LTC James M. Berry attaches the major's insignia to Duke D. Pooré's uniform at the promotion ceremony

Chuhua Wang (Ph.D. '97), a Senior Analyst at Technic, Inc., Providence, RI, sent Holiday greetings. His daughter is a high school senior.



Dr. Chuhua Wang and his wife in London

What did they do later?

Continuing a series about alumni and past advisees and their careers after graduation.

Richard W. Hoerbelt (B.A. '69) taught mathematics at Greco Junior High School in Temple Terrace (1969-71). From 1971-73, he was employed at various optical laboratories in the Tampa Bay area gaining useful experience and insights.

From 1993-2008, he was Founder and Owner of TriCity Optical, having identified the needs of eye care professionals in the area. And the firm soon enjoyed a national customer base. He told us that his chemistry education contributed to the success of the firm in several ways, including what was involved in the application of anti-reflective coating for lenses.

In June 2008, his firm was sold to Carl Zeiss Vision, N.A. and now serves as a "showcase" laboratory in the Southeast.

He is currently serving as General Manager

and contributes regularly to the evaluation of new technologies.

Dr Guillermo Morales, a former Ph.D. advisee of **Dr. Mark McLaughlin** recently joined AsisChem as Chief Executive Officer. AsisChem Inc. is a contract research organization specializing in drug discovery and chemical services. **Dr. Morales** has held leadership roles in at least three other organizations.

New Graduate Alumni ...

Graduates at the December 2010 Commencement Ceremonies included the following :

Doctoral graduates

Zhenming An (advisor: *Dr. David Merkler*), **Kimberly Bliss Fields** (advisor: *Dr. X. Peter Zhang*), **Brent Hilker** (advisor: *Dr. Julie P. Harmon*)
Priyesh Jain (advisor: *Dr. Mark McLaughlin*)**Sridhar Reddy Kaulagari** (advisor:*Dr. McLaughlin*)
Chung Sik Kim (advisor:*Dr. X. Peter Zhang*)**Matthew Dennis Lebar** (advisor: *Dr. Bill J. Baker*)

Masters graduate

Ali Abdul Rasoul Husain (advisor: *Dr. Kirpal Bisht*).

Dr. O'Malley's retirement

Dr. Rebecca O'Malley, Professor of Chemistry, retired at the end of the fall 2010 semester after a valued career of over 30 years at USF (1977-2010). Among her notable achievements was a paper describing the isolation of a substance from

grape seeds that may provide an explanation for the so-called “French Paradox .”

A reception honoring her was held Friday, January 28th in NES, where she was surrounded by grateful colleagues and alumni, who shared memories of her contributions, professional assistance, and formative activities.

Beverages were coordinated by **Dr. Randy Larsen**, professor and chair. Hors d’ourves were arranged by **Ms. Kimberly Read**, M.B.A. (office manager), and by **Ms. Linda Lowe** (fiscal and business assistant). **Mr. Roberto Avergonzado** and **Dr. Joseph Stanko** (faculty, 1973-2003) took pictures and helped set up.



Dr. Bill Martin, Dr. Jeff Zimmerman, Mrs. Zimmerman, Dr. O’Malley

Among the alumni who paid tribute were two doctoral advisees, **William B. Martin** (Ph.D., ’86), **Jeff Zimmerman** (Ph.D. ‘ 89), and a former student, **D. N. McKeithan** (Ph.D. ’90).

Dr. O’Malley’s son, **Matthew O’Malley**, M.D., spoke and was accompanied by his wife.

Dr. Patricia Muisener (Assistant Chair), coordinated efforts and arranged for a framed collage of pictures of Dr. O’Malley, and was assisted by **Mr. Avergonzado** (scanning) and **Ms. Adrienne McCain** (graduate secretary).



Dr. O’Malley proudly displayed her collage (Dr. Matthew O’Malley, second from left in background)

At meetings...

Those attending and presenting at the ACS PacifiChem 2010 meeting in Honolulu, December 15-20, included **Dr. Jon Antilla**, **Dr. Randy Larsen**, and **Dr. Mike Zaworotko**. The ACS was the host sponsor, and seven chemical societies were co-sponsors.

Around the campus

Need a ride? A new helpful feature on the Tampa campus is the availability of WeCars that can be rented by the hour by students, staff, and faculty.



WeCars parked near Science Center

They've moved: The Tampa Campus has a new building, the Dr. Kiran Patel Center for Global Solutions. Initial donors (\$5 million with \$5 million matched by the State) were Dr. Kiran C. Patel and Dr. Pallavi Patel.



A portion of the Patel Center off Alumni Drive

First two floors will include the Patel Center and USF World (a combination of all USF international initiatives).

The third floor will include offices presently housed in the Admin. Building. The fourth floor will have the president's Office, the provost offices, and business and finance department.

The move will free space in the Admin Building for the Honors College, presently housed in the Student Services Building, which can't cope with the growth of the College.

ISA Building ...



ISA Building facing the west side.

This is a picture kindly provided by the Mr. Jim Neighbours, Assistant Director, Building Information Services, and was taken from a PowerPoint presentation sponsored by the Facilities Management Team (March 1, 2011).

It is notable that the two taller-than the building cranes have been removed and considerable progress is being made.

The building will contain 238,500 ft² with about 52,000 ft² of "shell space" for later modification.

The building represents an investment of \$92.8 million and occupancy is anticipated for August 2011.

It will have two 3300 seat auditoria, teaching laboratories, including those for chemistry, as well as classrooms, and over 40 research laboratories.

New donation:

The USF Foundation announced (Feb 25th) that USF System president **Dr. Judy Genshaft** and her husband, **Steven Greenbaum**, are creating an endowment of \$1 million dedicated to the financial support of UF students who wish to study abroad. The gift to be made over a five-year period will create the new Genshaft/Greenbaum Passport Scholars Fund.



President Judy Genshaft and Steven Greenbaum

The donation will be eligible for matching funds through the University Major Gifts Challenge Program, creating a total endowment of \$1.75 million.

President Genshaft noted that international travel is becoming an essential part of students' education if they are to be competitive and successful in a global economy.

An interesting aspect of the Passport Scholarships is that the students will be selected on the basis the educational opportunity they are pursuing, rather than just traditional scholarship opportunity criteria, such as grade-point average.

Faculty/Staff Fund Drive

The annual Faculty/Staff Fund Drive was launched in September and will conclude June 30, 2011. USF faculty and staff are encouraged to make a donation to one of the thousands of funds that are available.

Chemistry has done well. Last year we had a 94% participation rate (highest in the college). So far this year, our participation rate is over 85%, and we hope for more donors.

College activities include a series of gatherings (Pizza for Lunch, Bagels for Breakfast, and tea time during February and March) at which visitors are provided with information by Fund supporters, including Dean **Eric Eisenberg** and a chance to visit with fellow college members.

One interesting activity includes a drawing for prizes. And Chemistry was represented

in the visitor group and among the winners.



Dr. Shengqian Ma (photo courtesy of Ms. Jennifer Moore)

One of the winners of a drawing at a pizza lunch was Dr. Shengqian Ma who received a College of Arts and Sciences travel mug.

Dr. Ma is an assistant professor in his first year at USF, and he is interested in materials research

Donors ...

Donors who generously supported the Department of Chemistry (July 1-December 31, 2010) included the following individuals and organizations. We gratefully acknowledge their support and encouragement.

In these economically challenging times, private philanthropy is essential for support of academic programs, so we are especially

grateful for the support these donors provided to our programs.

Individuals

Dr. Mildred Acevedo-Duncan and
Mr. Larry Duncan
Dr. Heather Ahlborn and
Mr. Jeffrey Ahlborn
Mr. Mark Alldredge
Dr. Jon Antilla
Mr. Roberto Avergonzado
Dr. Kirpal Bisht
Dr. Jianfeng Cai
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We are grateful to all for their helpful support. Please advise us of any omissions or other errors. Thank you.

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?

Please write to: dmartin@cas.usf.edu
or share with the Webpage or with the Facebook.