

Honorary degree awarded

Dr. Joanna Fowler (B.A., 1964), who is Senior scientist, Medical Division, at the Brookhaven National Laboratory was the recipient of an honorary D.Sc. degree at the Commencement ceremonies on May 6th. She is also Professor of Psychiatry at Mount Sinai School of medicine, as well as being an adjunct Professor of Chemistry at SUNY Stony Brook.



Joanna Fowler, Ph.D., D.Sc., (h.c.)

She was named a member of the National Academy of Sciences in 2003, and recent honors received include the President's Medal of Science (2009) and the NAS Award in Chemical Sciences for "for exceptional accomplishments in the

synthesis of positron-emitting chemical probes, and for their implementation in biomedical imaging and studies of in vivo biochemistry, which have had a major impact on human health worldwide."

She was also the recipient of the 2011 Department of Chemistry Outstanding Alumna Award in 2010.

Dr. Fowler was honored at a reception held in the Marshall Center the afternoon of May 6th. She was accompanied by her husband, Dr. F.W. Fowler (BA '64), Professor of Chemistry, SUNY Stony Brook.



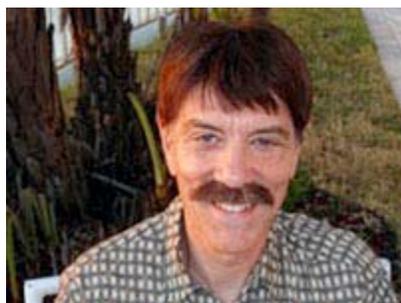
Reception with Dr Larsen welcoming Dr. Fowler (left), Dean Eisenberg (Dr. Larsen's right) and members of the department

Those attending included chemistry faculty members, **Dr. Eric Eisenberg**, Dean College of Arts and Sciences, **Ms. Jennifer Moore** from the Dean's office, Chemistry staff members **Ms. Kimberly Read** and **Ms. Victoria Mothershed**.

At the commencement ceremonies, held at the Tampa Convention Center, she was formally "hooded" by **Dr. Judy Genshaft** President USF System .

Dr. Guida's appointment

Dr. Wayne Guida, Professor of Chemistry, was elected Associate Chair in order to advance the CMD5 center proposal, interface this proposal with the new CDDI (USF Center for Drug Discovery and Innovation, formerly FCoE-BITT) and to aid in developing the department's five-year plan.



Dr. Wayne Guida

Cai award recipient...

Dr. Jianfeng Cai (Assistant Professor) has been awarded a 2011 ORAU Junior Faculty Achievement Award. **Dr. Randy Larsen** noted, "He joins the ranks of researchers for the Univ. of Michigan, Georgia Tech., Duke, Vanderbilt and the Univ. of Texas-Austin (as well as others) in receiving this prestigious award!"



Dr. Jianfeng Cai

"The Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement Awards provide seed money for research by junior faculty at Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU). These awards are intended to enrich the research and professional growth of young faculty and result in new funding opportunities."

Ninth Castle Conference

The ninth Raymond N. Castle Student Research Conference was held Saturday April 9th.

Our thanks to the Organizing Committee: **Christi Whittington Young** (Chair) **William Maza** (Co-Chair) and **Rachel Alessio, Janelle Arjoon, Chris Cioco, Jason Cuce, Shraddha Desai, Naga Duggirala, Todd Gatlin, Joey Gill, Parul Jain, Sridhar Kaulagri, Ushiri Kulatunga, Justin Moses, Ranjani Muralidharan, Shruti Padhee, Prajit Pillai, Jingran Tao and Justin White.**

Faculty Advisors were **Dr. H. Lee Woodcock** and **Dr. Patricia Muisener.**

Jeremy Beau served as Web Site Administrator.

24th Annual Scholarship and Alumni Celebration...

This year the event was held on April 7th at the Gibbons Alumni Center in Traditions Hall. It was organized by **Dr. Patricia Muisener** (Assistant Chair), **Christina Nelson** (Academic Services Coordinator), and **Kimberly Read** (Manager, Business and Fiscal Administration). The award recipients were determined by the department's undergraduate council facilitated by **LaToya Lee** (Lead

Undergraduate Academic Advisor). **Victoria Mothershed** (Research Administrator) served as the photographer.

This year's recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Award went to **Charles A. Asowata**, Ph.D., LtCol. US Army (BA '80).



Award plaque was presented to LtCol. Asowata

Other award recipients may be seen from the Event program ([link](#))



LtCol Asowata and guests in Traditions Hall

The recipient was joined by his wife, son and daughters, as well as a military advisor (pictured below.).

In addition two persons came from his home village in Nigeria, including the local chief.



Dr. and Mrs Asowata (2nd, 3rd from left), their family, and a military mentor (far right)

The first Celebration was held April 18, 1988 and was organized by **Dr. Stewart W. Schneller** (Faculty 1971-94; Chair 1986-94) and **Ms. Dyane Chapman**.

9th Undergraduate Research Symposium

This was held in the Marshall Student Center on Friday April 15th.

One Chemistry poster was especially popular, perhaps because it dealt with students and assessments of professors by Students, which can have implications for Pay, promotion and tenure (below).



Adam Bergin (left) and **Austin Grower** discuss their poster concerned with using RateMyProfessor as an assessment tool for faculty. **Dr. S. Sandi Urena** was their advisor.

Chemistry was represented by several posters, and two students won best poster

awards for their sections: **Mr. Roy Elias** and **Ms. Cheryl McCane**. Their advisors were **Dr Julie Harmon** and **Dr. Martin**, respectively.

Dr. Grossman's retirement

Dr. Randy Larsen, Professor and Chair, announced (April 5) that **Dr. Steven Grossman, Professor of Chemistry**, will retire at the end of the current semester.

Dr. Grossman joined USF in 1985 as a tenured Associate Professor from the University of Southwestern Louisiana, where he was an Assistant Professor. Steve obtained his Ph.D. from Purdue University in 1972 and was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Wisconsin from 1972-1974. He also served as a Research Scientist at Union Carbide from 1974-1976 and was a Research Associate at the N.E. Ohio College of Medicine from 1976-1978.

Dr. Larsen noted, “ During his time at USF, Steve ran an active research program and was funded through a variety of sources including NSF, NIH, the American Heart Association and the USDA as well as several private industries. Steve also served as an integral part of our biochemistry curriculum and his skills and integrity as an instructor in our department will surely be missed.”

He added , “I personally wish Steve all the best in his retirement and want to thank him for his years of service to the department, college, and university. His retirement is well earned!”

Annual Graduate Awards

These were presented just before the last seminar of the season on April 28th.

The Theodore and Venette Askounas - Ashford Fellowship was awarded to **Mr. Shawn Edward Larsen**, a doctoral candidate whose advisor is **Dr. Jon Antilla**.



Mr. Shawn Larsen

The George Bursa Award was presented to **Mr. Jeremy Beau**, Department Webmaster and advisee of **Dr. Bill Baker**.



Mr. Jeremy Beau

The Barbara Martin Fellowship recipient was **Ms. Xue “Snow” Xu**, whose advisor is **Dr. Peter Zhang**.



Ms. Xue "Snow" Xu

Dr. Jennifer Lewis returns...

Dr. Eric Eisenberg, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences announced an appointment of Dr. Elizabeth Bell to a four-year term as chair of WGS.

He expressed "tremendous gratitude to **Dr. Jennifer Lewis**, Associate Professor of Chemistry, who has served admirably as Interim Chair of Women's and Gender Studies. Under her able leadership, WGS has tripled the number of undergraduate majors, offered a wide range of cross-listed courses across the college, and reinvigorated the WGS Community Board."

"In August, Jennifer returns to her home department, Chemistry, to continue her work with her doctoral students in Chemistry education. She will retain her role as an Affiliate Faculty member in WGS."

On the move...

Three computational chemists have moved from Chemistry to the Interdisciplinary Research Building to take advantage of additional research space. They are **Dr. Brian Space** (Professor), **Dr. Lee Woodcock** (Assistant Professor) and **Dr. Arjan van der Vaart** (Assistant Professor).

More moves are in progress.

Virtual Tour...

When we first had department status (Autumn, 1964. See Department History), most of the Department was housed in the Chemistry Building. **Dr. Terence C. Owen** (Faculty, 1964-98; Emeritus, 1998-2009) had just moved to the Physics Building.

Now we are in *six* buildings.

To see what our facilities are like, take the Virtual Tour. Click on Department, then click on Virtual Tour. Please realize that this is an on-going project subject to revision as we grow.

[\(http://chemistry.usf.edu/department/tour/\)](http://chemistry.usf.edu/department/tour/)

Out and About...

Dr. Bill Baker (Professor) presented "In Support of Wandering" (Explore travels, hobbies, and curiosity-driven wandering) as part of USF's **LAST LECTURE Series** on Tuesday, April 19th in the Marshall Student Center Oval Theater.

Dr. K. Kenneth Caswell (Instructor) faculty advisor to The Chemistry Society, an American Chemical Society undergraduate student affiliate group, in cooperation with a few other student groups for which he is the faculty advisor (World Watch: Animals, Kids, Earth [WWAKE], representatives of the USF Cycle Racing Team), worked hard to field a great team that participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life on April 9th.

Relays of team members walked laps on the USF track through the day and into the night in an effort to encourage donations to the American Cancer Society.

Dr. Dean F. Martin (Faculty 1964-2006, Emeritus 2006--) was made an honorary Suncoast Battalion member April 15th at the Army ROTC Spring Formal.

Dr. Stewart W. Schneller was honored recently (Chemistry Faculty, 1971-1994; Chair, 1986-1994). Auburn University College of Sciences and Mathematics Interim Dean **Charles Savrda** sent an invitation to a reception (April 15th) announcing the Stewart W. Schneller Endowed Chair in the College of Sciences and Mathematics. **Dr. Schneller** retired as dean of the College in the summer of 2010, having served nearly 17 years.

Dr. T. W. Graham Solomons (Professor Emeritus, Charter faculty member, 1960-1990) was present at a luncheon for organic chemistry faculty, hosted by a John Wiley & Sons representative on March 22. He is at work on the 11th edition of *Organic Chemistry*.

Dr. Joseph A. Stanko (Faculty, 1973-2003) attended the Annual Scholarship and Alumni Celebration April 7th.

New graduate alumni

PhD. Graduates:

Matt Cross (Advisor: **Dr. Roman Manetsch**)

David Weyna (Advisor: **Dr. Michael Zaworotko**),

Tien Teng Ong (Advisor: **Dr. Michael Zaworotko**)

M.S. Graduate

Divya Ramamoorthy (Advisor: **Dr. Guida**)

Donations

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.

If you can assist in supporting one of our funds, please do as others have done, go to our Web page [<http://chemistry.usf.edu>], click on the link *Make a Gift*, and select a fund of your choice (*please see below*).

Where does the money go?

One possibility is the Martin Travel Fund. Interest from the endowment is used to support student travel to national (sometimes international) meetings, where they present a poster or an oral paper describing their research, and where they serve as an ambassador for our program and for USF. They also receive valuable professional experience and it assists in networking for future employment.

In the past, each student would receive up to \$250 based on the criterion that they would show support of their advisor and/or support of USF Student Government. Their creativity in seeking money is impressive.

Does the program work? Yes. Ten students were supported in 2009, mostly for travel to American Chemical Society meetings. In 2010, 18 students received support.

It is a truly valuable program administered by the Department's Graduate Council.

The endowment donors are pleased with the program and note that investing in students is one of the best investments they can make these days.

An on-line donation to the Endowment (426039) will increase the amount of the endowment, and in time the interest in the Spendable Account.

A donation to the Spendable Account will provide funds for immediate use. If you prefer this approach, please write a check to the USF Foundation, Inc., Account 306039 and send it to our Chair.

Thank you for your consideration.

Campus changes --- past and future...

New Music Building—March 31st
Saw the ribbon cutting for the new music building to house the USF School of Music. It is a 113,535 square-foot teaching facility (\$46.6 million) that “combines stunning performance sites and up-to-date teaching and rehearsal spaces that meet superb acoustical standards.”

A unique feature is a 32 T acoustical cloud that moves up and down depending upon the needs of group or person performing in the 458- seat Concert Hall.

Medicinal Plant Garden --- A new medicinal plant garden was created in the

USF Botanical Gardens. We think that it was inspired by a suggestion made by **Dr. Bill Baker**, Professor of Chemistry.

Ms. Kim Hutton of the Gardens recently prepared a short article about medicinal plants used by Creeks and Seminoles in Florida that was published in the newsletter.

What is the impact of donations?

The Annual Scholarship and Alumni Celebration started with two scholarships or awards. On April 7, some 17 were given to worthy students.

Ms. Kimberly Read shared a note she received from a student illustrating the incredible impact this event has on our undergraduates:

“I would like to express my sincere gratitude for receiving the scholarship. I am honored to receive such a generous scholarship award. This award encourages me to keep working hard and stay focused on my long-term goals. The funds will be used for the most important school related expenditures such as tuition, books and supplies. I am aware that my journey has just begun; yet receiving this award makes me feel that my academic career is progressing rapidly. Finally, I thank you for your kindness and generosity. I will use this award to my advantage, myself in the short-term, and my community in the long-term. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!!!”
[Quoted with permission]

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Webmaster: Mr. Jeremy Beau

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.

Photo credits:

24th Annual Scholarship and Alumni Celebration – **Victoria Mothershed** and **Dr. Joseph Stanko** (Alumni Award)

Undergraduate Research Symposium – **Amy Blodgett**, Assistant Photographer, USF Communications and Marketing.

Annual Graduate Awards --- **Ms. Adrienne McCain**, with assistance from **Ms. Kimberly Read**.

Dr. Fowler's reception -- **Ms. Mothershed**.