Honorary Degree

President Judy Genshaft and Dr. Zare

Dr. Richard N. Zare was the recipient of a D.Sc. (hon. causa.) at the 101st Commencement Convocation December 14th. He is the Marguerite Blake Wilbur Professor in Natural Science and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor at Stanford University. He is recognized as an internationally renowned scientist, educator, and civic scholar.

He has authored or co-authored over 800 publications and obtained more than 50 patents. He made a notable impact as chair of the National Science Board and is the recipient of many significant awards (Please see our Web page for additional information).

50th Anniversary

We were reminded by Dr. Ralph Wilcox Provost and Senior Vice President that

“On Saturday, December 14, 2013 the University of South Florida will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its first graduating class, when only 325 students received their diplomas. Now, a half-century on from that winter day in 1963, hundreds of thousands have joined their ranks, as USF has grown from a regional ‘commuter school’ into a Top 50-ranked national research university awarding more than 10,000 degrees each year.”

Fall Graduates

Masters

Mr. Mohamad N. Amin (Dr. Jiangfeng Cai); Ms. Ashley Mullen (Dr. Brian Space)

Platform party members included Drs. Larsen, Zare, and Martin (Photos courtesy MS Entela Balliu Caisse)
Doctorates

Dr. Jhon Figueroa (Dr. Rudy Schlaf)
Dr. Seongmin Hong (Dr. Xiao Li)

Chemistry Kudos

Ms. Kelly A. Pearson, lead Chemistry Advisor was the recipient of an Outstanding Undergraduate Advising Award. She was presented the award at the Annual Faculty Honors and Awards reception on November 20, 2013.

Dr. Mark L. McLaughlin, Professor of Chemistry and Interdisciplinary Oncology, who has a joint appointment at Moffitt, recently received an Excellence in Innovation Award for his work in the development of MTI-101, a second generation anti-cancer drug used in the treatment of multiple myeloma.

More recognition...

Dr. Xing Wang, assistant professor of chemistry, received a Certificate of Achievement for the “Top Research Poster in Biological Sciences” for his Oktoberfest poster. The certificate was recently sent by Dr. Charles Connor, Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship, College of Arts and Sciences.

NSF CAREER Award

Dr. Randy Larsen announced (January):

Dr. Shengquin Ma, assistant professor of chemistry, is the recipient of a NSF Career Award, of five years duration valued at $575K. The title of the project is "CAREER: Development of Mesoporous Metal-Organic Frameworks as a New Type of Platform for Enzyme Immobilization"

SERMACS-Atlanta

USF Chemistry was well represented at the regional ACS Meeting, November 13-16.

The Larsen group was well represented. Dr. Randy Larsen presented two papers, Ms. Tarah Word gave a talk as did Ms. Christi Whittington. Mr. Parker Huhta had a poster as did a REU Student, Mr. Vincent Fuillerat.
Dr. Santiago Sandi-Urena was co-author of two oral presentations, one by graduate advisee Mr. Adrian Villalta-Cerdas and one by undergraduate advisee Mr. Patrick McKeny.

Dr. Scott Lewis’s presentation was entitled “Can a PLTL teaching reform targeting General Chemistry improve student progression throughout a chemistry curriculum?”

Dr. Vasiliki Lykourinou’s paper was “Authentic Chemistry Experiments (ACE) in the general chemistry lab curriculum: Design, implementation, and the role of teaching assistants in the freshman laboratory.”

**SERMACS – REU,Chem-SEEDS**

A total of seven Chem-SEEDS ‘alumni’ presented work that was done last summer at USF as part of the NSF–supported summer research experience coordinated by Dr. Sandi-Urena and Dr. Patricia Muisener. Travel to SERMACS was co-sponsored by the NSF through Chem-SEEDS travel grants. Ms. Ranjani Muralidharan (REU TA) assisted the undergraduate researchers with their planning and preparation for this scientific event.

Other undergraduate advisees contributed posters describing their research.

- **Mr. Thiago N. Arzua** presented a poster entitled “Metalloradical catalyzed N=N bond formation with fluoroaryl azides: A new approach to the synthesis of fluoroazobenzene compounds” with co-authors Dr. Lin-Mei Jin, a post-doctoral research associate, and Dr. Peter Zhang.

- **Ms. Solianna Herrera** (Dr. Li-June Ming, advisor) presented a poster entitled “MBTH inhibition of Copper (II) thiostrepton’s oxidation of DTBC to DTBQ.”

- **Ms. Fiona Kearn**s (Chem-SEEDS), an advisee of Dr. Lee Woodcock, had a poster entitled “Computational ecology: Elucidating novel chemical defense mechanisms of Antarctic sea sponges.”

USF REUs accompanied by Dr. Lykourinou (faculty mentor) and Mr. Adrian Villalta-Cerdas (grad. mentor) posed for a group picture after Mr. Patrick McKeny’s oral presentation during the last session of the technical program.

REU USF delegation included Ms. Fiona Kearns, Dr. Vicky Lykourinou, Ms. Solianna Herrera, Mr. Thiago Arzua, Mr. Patrick McKeny, and Mr. Adrian Villalta-Cerdas

Dr. Santiago Sandi-Urena wrote, “A celebratory visit to downtown Atlanta followed their hard work and accomplishments. Academic REU attendance to SERMACS 2014 was possible thanks to the financial support of the Martin Travel Fund and the department's Research
Experience for Undergraduates Program."

Inside Chemistry

2014 Martin Lecturer

Dr. Stephen L. Buchwald, Camille Dreyfus Professor of Chemistry, MIT, presented a lecture “Palladium and Copper-Catalyzed Methodology in Organic Synthesis: From Fundamentals to Applications." (January 23rd).

He was introduced by Professor Peter Zhang. “Prof. Buchwald is one of the most well-known and famous figures in modern organic chemistry. His name has appeared in several hundreds of research publications and several dozens of issued patents. In addition to hundreds of lectures and seminars, his name has been associated with both an important name reaction (Buchwald-Hartwig Amination) and a class of effective catalysts (Buchwald Phosphines).

Besides their fundamental importance, his reaction and catalysts have been widely used in pharmaceutical industry as well as academic laboratories around the world. His research and education activities have been recognized by numerous awards and honors.

He recently received the Arthur C. Cope Award, the highest and the most prestigious award in organic chemistry by ACS (American Chemical Society). He has been elected as both a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences.”

Dr. Peter Zhang and Dr. Jon Antilla were post-doctoral researchers in Professor Buchwald’s laboratory at MIT.

Chemistry Society Tutors

It is not too late to note the special services of the tutors during the fall term, as described by their advisor Dr. Kimberly Fields, visiting instructor.

“The Tampa Campus library went from walk-in assistance for General and Organic Chemistry to an appointment-only system as a result of cut-backs. As a result, many students were left in need of assistance with their chemistry coursework and the Chemistry Society Tutors helped to fill that need.”

She added, “I hear nothing but good things from students that have visited the tutors and am grateful that they stepped up to fill that gap. I understand that the Library tutorial center is in the process of accepting applications for tutors and may restore the walk-in availability later.”
Kudos to the Volunteer Tutor Team:

Mehak Aggarwal, Ashleigh Bachman, Chris Cardona, Julia Chung, Laverne D'Silva, Michael Field, Matthew Lazzara, Sinhye Lee, Danny Lough, Lindsey Marti, Mevin Mathew, Ayden Nguyen, Pauline Nguyen, Michael Pare, Marina Saad, and Ali Siddiqui.

These tutors serve year-round in “biology, chemistry, physics, and math” as scheduled in NES 115.

Thanksgiving donations

Ms. Kimberly Read (Manager, Fiscal & Business Administration) coordinated and helped deliver donations to Tampa’s Metropolitan Ministries. They included Toys (15), boxes of cereal (6), canned goods (15), boxes of mac & cheese (20) peanut butter (20 jars), shampoo, candy, and diapers (500) plus a donation of 50 Thanksgiving meals.

Travel Awards

Awardees: (front) Mr. Maknenko, Ms. Arjoon, Mr. Villalta-Cerdas Back: Ms Li, Ms. Barbeto, Mr. Dempsey. Photo credit: Ms. Aleksandra Karolak

The recipients (their advisors) and their plans are

Mr. Adrián Villalta-Cerdas (Dr. Sandi-Urena)- ACS Spring National Meeting, in Dallas, Texas, March 16-20.

Ms. Janelle Arjoon (Dr. Jennifer Lewis)- ACS Spring National Meeting, in Dallas, Texas, March 16-20.

Mr. Arthur Maknenko (Dr. Bisht)- National Experimental Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Conference in Boston, MA, March 23rd-24th.

Mr. Daniel Dempsey (Dr. Merkler)- 36th Steenbock Symposium, Enzyme Structure and Function, in Madison, WI, May 22 – 24.

Ms. Linda Barbeto (Dr. Leahy)- 2014 National Medicinal Chemistry Symposium in Charleston, South Carolina, May 18 – 21.

Ms. Yaqiong Li (Dr. Cai)- Gordon Research Conference in Ventura, CA, February 23 – 28.

New life for old metal…

Dr. Edwin Rivera (Director of USF Interdisciplinary NMR Facility) announced utilization of vintage magnets, including one that had been owned by the late Dr. Terence C. Owen (faculty, 1964-1998). Anasazi, a firm located in Indianapolis developed a system for their use in producing NMR spectra.

The day-long demonstration indicated how the converted systems can be used to give “hands-on NMR in undergraduate organic laboratories.”
**WOW**

Following a tradition of long standing a special event was held during the January 2014 WOW (Week of Welcome).

Hot drinks were welcome at a time still affected by the infamous polar vortex (see picture below). And members of the six-person advising cadre were present to provide helpful advice.

**Seminar refreshments return**

When Department seminars were at 4:00-5:00 pm, on Thursdays, it was customary to have refreshments at 3:30 pm.

When seminars were rescheduled for 9:30-10:30 am, the refreshments disappeared. But this semester the custom has revived, thanks to the efforts of the Council of Graduate Student And thanks to Dr. Randy Larsen, professor an chair, Department of Chemistry, donuts were also available part of this semester.

**Council members in action -II**

Chemistry Graduate Student Council Members (Photo credit: Ms. Adrienne McCain)

**Joey Gill** and **Wenyang Gao** shown during a fundraiser they coordinated with the REU Program during WOW.

**27th Annual Celebration**

The 27th Annual Scholarship and Alumni Celebration was held February 27th
Close-up of medallions given to Peer Leaders or Honor Roll recipients

Arrangements were made by Ms. Kimberly Read, Manager, Fiscal and Business Administration, with staff assistance. She was also responsible for the design of the trophies, the medallions, and the centerpieces.

Trophies that were presented to scholarship and award recipients.

Members of the Undergraduate Council (Dr. Milton Johnston, Chair) served as judges for the awards. Assistance was provided by the president of the Chemistry Society.

Over 150 guests were present. Most ever.

For the first time, all four levels of administration were present, President Judy Genshaft, Provost Ralph Wilcox, Dean Eric Eisenberg (accompanied by Dr. Lori Roscoe), and Dr. Randy Larsen.

Dr. Eric Eisenberg, Ph/D. Dean College of Arts and Sciences
Chemistry Staff members who assisted that evening included Ms. Ashley Dees, Ms. Debbie Gee, Mrs. Cheryl Graham, Ms. Kristi Kirby, Ms. Kelly Pearson.

Members of the USF Chemistry Society also provided assistance.

**The program**

USF System President Judy Genshaft provided opening remarks.

Dr. Judy Genshaft is the President and CEO of the University of South Florida system. Under her tenure, USF has been recognized as a top 50 research university and grown to be the 9th largest public research university in the nation providing more than $4.4 billion annual economic impact on the Tampa Bay region.

With campuses in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee, the USF System serves more than 48,000 students in more than 232 degree programs on the undergraduate, masters, specialist and doctoral levels, including the doctor of medicine and pharmacy.

**Suzette Marteny**, J.D. was the keynote speaker and recipient of the Outstanding Alumna Award. She is a registered patent attorney who practices primarily in the area of patent litigation.

Before graduating magna cum laude from USF, Suzi was a member of the USF Honors College, Phi Kappa Phi, Golden Key National Honor Society, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, among others. After graduation, Suzi worked as a QA/QC chemist for Shell Chemical, JMI Daniels Pharmaceuticals and Givaudan.

Her education and experience as a chemist ultimately lead her to pursue a legal career in which she assists companies and individuals in obtaining, leveraging and litigating patents, trademarks, copyrights and trade secrets.

Suzi has been repeatedly selected for recognition as one of Florida’s “Super Lawyers,” Florida Trend’s “Legal Elite,” and in 2009, was profiled as one of the Gulf Coast Business Review’s “Top 40 Under 40”. Recently, Suzi authored a chapter

Professionally, Suzi is active in the Ferguson-White Inns of Court; is past chair of the 13F Grievance Committee of the Florida Bar; and a member of the American Intellectual Property Law Association. She also serves on the board of Tampa Crossroads, a charitable organization that serves a variety of needs in the community.

Before opening MartenyLaw PLLC in 2009, Suzi practiced law at some of the largest and most prestigious law firms in the U.S., including Carlton Fields Jorden Burt, Akerman Senterfitt and Squire Sanders.

Dr. Marteny is married to Ken Evans and has two beautiful daughters, Tipper and Logan (“P’nut”).

Dr. Ralph Wilcox, Provost and Executive Vice President provided the closing remarks.

**News and updates**

**Persons you may know**

**Dr. Charles Asowata**, Lt Col, U.S. Army (B.A. 1980) is Director, CBRNE Analytical And Remediation Activity, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD.

**George Cobb** (Ph.D. ‘87) Professor and Chair, Department of Environmental Science, Baylor University became Chair-elect of the American Chemical Society (ACS) Division of Environmental Chemistry (January 1, 2014) having served as treasurer. The sequence involves a six-year commitment through Past-Chair.

The Division has almost 5,000 chemists and engineers and is celebrating its centennial anniversary, and Dr. Cobb will have the opportunity to help shape the next century’s activities of environmental chemistry in the United States.

Saw **Dr. Jack E. Fernandez** (faculty member, 1960-95; professor emeritus) and **Mrs. Sylvia Fernandez** at a dinner meeting of the USF Trail Blazers, CAS program featuring college faculty. They have been strong supporters of the program.

**Jhon Figueroa** (Ph.D. ’13) is employed at GE Health Care –Tampa.

**Emma Ferrell** (Ph.D. ‘10) and **Adam Schnitz** were married in November. She moved to a postdoctoral research position at Banner Health in February. She is working with Dr. **Salvo Oddo** on Alzheimer’s Disease.
Kimberly Fields (Ph.D. ‘10) visiting instructor was elected secretary of the Tampa Bay Section of the American Chemical Society.

Kerriann Greenhalgh (’04 &Ph.D. ’08), inventor and developer of “KeriCure “ an all natural skin protectant similar to a liquid bandage” is featured in USF Magazine (winter issue) in the Annual Research Report. The article describes the Background of the invention and the steps involved in bringing a product to market with the assistance of USF’s Technology Transfer Office, headed by Valerie McDevitt, J.D.

Dr. Greenhalgh, her invention, and her progress were also featured in a USF-based story in the Tampa Tribune on December 22nd [TBO.COM; TopPatent Holders/2012 Patents].

Duke D. Pooré, Major U. S. Army (Ph.D. ’96) is Deputy Commander, Forensic Drug Testing Laboratory, Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii.

Ms. Ashley Mullen (M.S. ‘03) is a specialist on the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) software projects at Bausch & Lomb, Tampa. Her time is divided between the IT and the Quality Control Chemistry Departments. Dr. Brian Space was her advisor.

Dr. Douglas Raber (faculty, 1970-1991) and his wife, Linda Raber, are co-authoring books. Their first “Face of the Earth” was released in 2012. The second “Sapphire Legacy” will appear soon (hard cover, paperback, and kindle editions). They own a small farm in West Virginia, and be careful if they ask you if you like tomatoes. For further information, see: [www.raberbooks.com]

Yixue Pan (M.S. ‘92) is in the Los Angeles area at Eurofins Eaton Analytical, where he is a software developer working on a LIMS data system and also doing some programming in lab support.

Dr. Richard H. Pierce, Jr (M.S. ’69) is now Associate VP of Environmental Health and Ocean Technology, as well as Senior Scientist and Program Manager, Ecotoxicology at Mote Marine Laboratory, Sarasota, Florida.

Alfred “Ben” Roney (Ph.D. ’06) is a Senior Software Engineer at The Mathworks in Natick, Massachusetts. His doctoral advisor was Dr. Brian Space.

Dilojan Senanayake (M.S. ’96), a former advisee of Dr. Robert Potter, sent an informative letter from North Dakota where he is gainfully employed.

Organic Chemistry, being used in the Department, is co-authored by T.W. Graham Solomons, Craig B. Fryhle, and Scott A. Snyder. The first edition authored by Dr. Solomons (alone) is now in the 11th edition.

Dr. Graham Solomons, a charter faculty member and professor emeritus, was an instructor in 1960 and retired as a full professor in 1990. He is also credited with having obtained the first research grant at USF.

He and Mrs. Judith Solomons attended the dinner. Dr. Solomons visited with faculty and students the next morning, and he hosted lunch for organic faculty members and other guests the next day.
Dr. Joseph Stanko (Faculty, 1973-2003) was present to introduce the recipient of the Joseph Stanko Inorganic Chemistry Award.

Carissa Vetromile (Ph.D.’11) stopped by for a visit with her mentor Dr. Randy Larsen in December.

Saw Dr. Jon Weinzierl (1973-08) retired biochemist at our favorite coffee place on a recent Sunday. Would have visited longer, but the owner of an adjacent parking area just started aggressively towing visiting cars.

Dr. Peter Zhang, Professor of Chemistry attended a joint research meeting in organic synthesis at Shanghai Institute of Chemistry (SIOC) in December as part of the ”Innovation Team International Partner Program” between SIOC and several USA laboratories. SIOC is regarded as one of the very best institutions in China for research in organic chemistry.

Obituary

“Dr. Winslow S. Caughey, 86, a professor emeritus in the department of molecular biology at Colorado State University, died in Hamilton, Mont. on February 25.”

Dr. Caughey was a professor of chemistry at USF 1969-1970. Additional information may be found in a more extensive obituary [C&EN, 91 50: 35 (2013)].

What did they do after?

For over 15 years, we have been trying to keep track of our chemistry alumni in what we call the “Tracking Project,” and the results may be found on our web page. Look for “Directory” and find either “Graduate Alumni” or “Undergraduate Alumni.” It is far from complete, but we lack the necessary resources to be as good as we would like to be. We value the help of loyal alumni in bringing us up to date.

Donors

The following is a list of gifts to the Department of Chemistry made July 1-December 30, 2013, as obtained from the College of Arts and Sciences office of Development. We are grateful for the support of alumni, faculty, friends staff, corporate and foundation donors listed here.

Laura Anderson, Ph.D.
Jon Antilla, Ph.D.
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Dr. Edward Turos,
Xing Wang, Ph.D.
Solomon Weldegirma, Ph.D.
Mrs. Louise Worrell
Peter Zhang, Ph.D.

**Around USF’s Tampa Campus**

**Research rating**

USF upped its rank as a research school, according to Dr. Paul Sanberg, USF senior vice president for research and innovation.

NSF reported that USF was ranked 43rd on a list of public and private universities in terms of spending money for research in 2012. USF was ranked 27th among public universities.

**Class of ‘63**

Students graduating in December 22, 1963 and April 1964 were designated members of USF’s Charter Class.

The USF Alumni Association has established the *Golden Guard Society* to recognize USF Alumni who have their 50-year graduation milestone. Annually members of the Guard are invited to an annual reunion at which a new class of alumni are formally inducted into the Society.

**Patricia S. Bradley**, the sole chemistry major of the class of ’63 was a long-time employee of OSHA with significant assignments including the task of insure compliance with OSHA regulations for one third of Texas, while stationed in Lubbock

**Since the Start**

The charter class numbered 2000 first-year students on a campus with four buildings and no sidewalks.

When they arrived for their reunion they came to a campus with 2,889 first-year students, a total of 41,344, with 297 buildings, ample grass and sidewalks.

**USF Unstoppable campaign**

The campaign organizers celebrated completion of the $600 million goal at a gala held November 15. Entertainment was provided by the Pointer Sisters.

That evening a second phase was announced to bring the total to $1 billion.

Mr. *Gordon Gillette* (President Tampa Electric & Peoples Gas) and Mr. *Tod Leiwke* (CEO Tampa Bay Lightning) will co-chair the second phase of *USF Unstoppable*.

**Jazz & Lunch Series**

The second of the Series organized by Ms. Karla Willman, (Assistant Director, Administrative Affairs) was held February 20th at the mini-park behind the USF Tampa Campus Library. Those attending
had a chance to hear pleasant jazz and to buy a delicious lunch for a bargain $6.00, as well as to meet and/or greet colleagues.

**Acknowledgments**

Information about Dr. Cobb from *ENV Notes*, the fall newsletter of the Baylor’s Department of Environmental Science. We are grateful for helpful text provided by Drs. Kimberly Fields, Santiago Sandi-Urena, Ed Turos, Ms. Adrienne McCain, Mr. Bill McCausland’96, Ms. Ann Serota, Ms. Karla Willman, Dr. Ralph Wilcox and, Prof. Peter Zhang.

Photographs courtesy of Ms. Mothershed and Ms. Aleksandra Karolak.

**News and feedback**

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[http://chemistry.usf.edu](http://chemistry.usf.edu)

**Webmaster:** Mr. Brant Tudor

**News:**

For past issues you may have missed, please see the departmental Web page.
News for us or comments?
Please write to: dfmartin@usf.edu
or share with the Webpage or with the Facebook.