More about Chemistry…

Dr. Wayne Guida, professor and chair, has had the personal and professional pleasure of announcing good news concerning funding:

Funding –I

Professor Bill Baker, who along with Dr. Michael Teng (Molecular Medicine) have received a grant of $200 K from the Florida Department of Public Health to identify antiviral agents effective in combating Zika. The title of the grant is “Rapid Identification of Natural Products with Antiviral Activity Against Zika Virus.”

Funding –II

Prof. Brian Space received a grant through the NSF XSEDE program for use of computational resources. The award will support ongoing work in the Space laboratory on “Simulations of Gas Sorption in Metal-organic Materials.” The estimated value of the award is over $60K.

Funding –III

Dr. Mildred Acevedo-Duncan received a 151,300 grant continuation from the William and Ella Owens Medical Research Foundation for her project titled "Effects of ICA-1 on Glioma Proliferation.”

Recognition- I

A paper co-authored by Dr. Xiadong (Mike) Shi and his students was featured as cover art in a February edition of Chemical
Communications. Their contribution is entitled “Accessing alternative reaction pathways of the intermolecular condensation between homo-propargyl alcohols and terminal alkynes through divergent gold catalysis.”

Recognition- II

Jackie Fries (Ph.D., 2016) and Professor Bill Baker were honored on April 3rd at the national American Chemical Society meeting (San Francisco) for having published in Organic Letters, the most read paper of 2016 of All ACS’s 58 publications.

Bill “skyped” in from Antarctica to participate in the event.

The topic was covered in the winter issue of The newsletter.

Published in May 2016, the article garnered Over 40,000 views (downloads) by The end of December 2016.

For the sake of comparison 10,000 downloads is considered to be a highly read publication. And four months into 2017, the total is over 90,000.

Castle Research Conference

The 15th Conference was held Saturday March 25th with about 150 persons in attendance.

“The Raymond N. Castle Student Research Conference was initiated as a means to encourage undergraduate and graduate students to present their scientific data in a friendly atmosphere. The Castle Conference is organized by the students and provides the opportunity for young scientists to develop the necessary communication skills to excel in the future.”

A noteworthy feature was the representation from other colleges and universities, including contributions from different departments of USF, UCLA, University of Vienna, and three from Puerto Rico.

Dr. Rigoberto Hernandez, was the plenary speaker. He is the Gompf Family Professor in the Department of Chemistry at The Johns Hopkins University. He has been Director of the Open Chemistry Collaborative in Diversity Equity (OXIDE)
Since 2011, and has been notably active in ACS, now servicing on the ACS Board of Directors (2014-2019)

His creative and energetic presentation dealt with aspects of transition theory.

Student participation was notable as

- 12 graduate talks
- 23 Graduate student posters
- 49 Undergraduate posters

A lot of persons helped make the Conference a true success including the following:

Organizing Committee Members:

- Mr. Adam Hogan and Mr. Douglas Franz (Co-Chairs)
- Mr. Geoffrey Gray, Ms. Alekhya Nimmagadda, Mr. Chavis Stackhouse, and Mr. Brant Tudor.

Faculty Advisors were Dr. Kimberly Fields and Dr. James Leahy (below).

Organizing Committee Members:

Mr. Adam Hogan and Mr. Douglas Franz (Co-Chairs) Mr. Geoffrey Gray, Ms. Alekhya Nimmagadda, Mr. Chavis Stackhouse, and Mr. Brant Tudor.

Faculty Advisors were Dr. Kimberly Fields and Dr. James Leahy (below).

Judging: Credit the 33 judges from eleven organizations.

Web support was provided by Mr. Brant Tudor.

Sponsors Tampa Bay section of the American Chemical Society, USF Research and Innovation, USF College of Arts and Sciences, Pro-Copy.

Participants represented a variety of organizations, including the University of Florida, Eckerd College, Florida Polytechnic University, University of Tampa, University of Central Florida, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, Florida Southern College, All Saints Academy, and Bristol-Myers Squibb, and, of course, the Tampa Bay Section, ACS.

ACS Tampa Bay Local Section meeting was held during the lunch hour and open to all. The meeting was presided over by Section Chair, Crystal Saut, and included on-screen/oral reports from the section officers, both a novel and highly informative approach.

Chemists as Judges

On March 28th, the following Chemists served as judges at the 62nd State Science and Engineering Fair of Florida in Lakeland Florida: Drs. Jhon Figueroa, Kenyon Daniel, and Wayne Guida (each judged different categories). Dr. Figueroa judged the Junior Chemistry category, Dr. Daniel was responsible for judging Biomedical and Health Science category, and Dr. Guida judged for the Senior Chemistry category.

Some 12-15 projects were reviewed in the morning by each judge and then a similar number were re-reviewed in the afternoon: a focus group and an orbit group. Projects in
the focus group were selected for awards, whereas re-review of projects in the orbit group allowed the judges to spend more time with the students to suggest ways in which their studies could be improved.

**Martin Lecturer**

The 2017 Lecturer was Professor Cherie Yestrebsky, Chair, UCF Chemistry, who presented “Using Chemistry and Creativity to Solve Environmental Remediation Problems” She received her doctorate from USF in 1994. Dr. Chris Clausen (UCF) and Dr. Dean Martin (Faculty, 1964--) were her doctoral co-advisors.

The 30th Annual Scholarship and Alumni Celebration was held April 19th in the Marshall Student Center Ballroom

**Coordination**

Arrangements were made by the Chemistry Office Staff, and Ms. Kaitlyn Kroner served as the lead for this event working closely with Ms. Christine Goldstein and Ms. Lanie Funaro from the College of Arts and Sciences Conference and Planning Office.

Chemistry staff who assisted that evening included Ms. Leigh Ann Blackwell, Mr. Ryan Jahn, Ms. Cheryl Graham, Ms. Erin Ives, Ms. Kaitlyn Kroner, Dr. Christina Nelson, as well as Ms. Kelly Pearson, lead Chemistry advisor.

Mr. Brant Tudor served as Web master.

Mr. Rion Sabean was the photographer.

**Program**

Dr. Wayne Guida, professor and chair, provided opening remarks. Dr. Glenn Alan Gates was the keynote speaker and recipient of the Outstanding
Alumnus Award. He was a doctoral advisee of Dr. Julie Harmon and received his Ph.D. in 2001.

He is presently a conservation scientist in the division of conservation and technical research of Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, MD.

His visual presentation with accompanying comments was interesting, informative, and inspirational.

Awardees

Twenty-three scholarship and recognition awards were awarded to undergraduate students.

The Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award went to Dr. Rong Zhang, an instructor who teaches some very large STEM course sections.

The USF Chemistry Lifetime Achievement Award was presented by Dr. Guida to Dr. Dean F. Martin, who became a faculty member in 1964, and was granted emeritus status in 2006. He has remained active in the department since. Both he and his wife, Barbara Martin, were recognized at their table for joint contributions.

Some 170 students were named to the Honor Roll of achievement.
Awards/Recognition –I

Two Chemistry graduate students were awarded an NSF graduate research fellowship.

Ms. Fiona Kearns is a member of Dr. Lee Woodcock’s research group.

Mr. Alfredo Peguero-Tejada is a member of Dr. Arjan van der Vaart’s research group.

Awards/Recognition –II

Annual awards were presented April 20th

Theodore and Venette Askounes Ashford Doctoral Fellowship in Chemistry
Adam Aboalroub and Briana Aguila

Barbara B. Martin Endowed Fellowship
Olapejeu Bolarinwa

Alexiou Award in Environmental Chemistry
Douglas M. Franz

The George Bursa Award
Elizabeth Yancy

Martin Travel Endowment Awards
Yassin Elbatrawi
Anne-Claire Limon
Jacob Mayers
Andrew Shilling,
Bo Song
Santana Thomas

In the Department -II

Persons you may know

Dr. Mildred Acevedo-Duncan, research professor, was a guest presenter at the February 10th meeting of the (CAS) Dean’s Advisory Council Meeting. Her talk was entitled “In-vivo Effects of ICA-1 on cancer xenografts.”

Maria Gallardo-Williams (Ph.D. ‘ 99), at North Carolina State is the founding editor of the Department of Chemistry newsletter. In addition, she is Teaching Associate Professor and Director, Organic Chemistry Teaching Laboratories.

Ms. Lorene Hall-Jennings, former Chemistry staff member, recently spoke with Dr. Steven Grossman (faculty 1981-2011), retired biochemist. He is doing well and living in Hernando County.
Jacqueline L. Fries (von Salm) (Ph.D. 2016) is with CoreRxPharmaceuticals, according to an item published in the April 24th issue of C&CN showing her at the ACS Booth at the National meeting in San Francisco.

Dr. Dean F. Martin (Faculty, 1964-) and Mrs. Barbara B. Martin received download information about Column Chromatography, which they edited in April 2013. IN TECH (open) reported 30,000 cumulative downloads had made by March 4th; 40% in the top five countries.

Dr. Rong Zhang (instructor) received a USF STEM Ed Travel Grant to attend the Sixth Annual Peer-Led Team Learning International Society Conference. The meeting will be held in Chicago June 1-3. She will share teaching experiences with the peer-leading in Chemistry courses she has taught.

Obituary

Dr. George R. Jurch, Jr., 82, retired chemistry professor, who served as a member of the organic chemistry division 1966-1997, passed away January 18th. He is survived by his beloved wife, Molly, three children, eight grandchildren and two grandchildren.

Dr. Wayne Guida wrote, “I took George’s Physical Organic Chemistry course and he was a first-rate teacher and researcher.”

Campus News…

Update

“The USF System is home to a student body of nearly 50,000 representing 130 different countries.”

The USF Unstoppable Campaign has made it possible to award $426,478 in donor-funded scholarships to 357 students in the USF College of Arts and Sciences last year.

About USF –I

Dr. Judy Genshaft, USF System President, is the recipient of the Donna Shavlik award at ACE2017.
This award “honors an individual who demonstrates a sustained commitment to advancing women in higher education through leadership and career development, campus climate and mentoring.”

“Throughout her career, Dr. Genshaft has provided invaluable leadership though her insights and dedication to promoting and supporting women on campus an in the community.”

About USF –II

USF System President Judy Genshaft has looked ahead to some major changes in USF’s downtown campus.

“Co-locating our medical school and heart institute will attract more top-tier students and cardiovascular researcher and energize our intent to bring more biotechnology, biomedical, and pharmaceutical firms to this region.”

The future downtown home of USF Health Morsani College of Medicine and Heart Institute will be in a $152.5 million building that will anchor the $3 billion development project spear headed by Strategic Partners.

It is estimated that the USF facilities will accommodate 2,275 faculty, staff, and students when it opens late in 2019.

About USF –III

Engineering EXPO

The purpose of the EXPO is to “bring technology out of the classroom and into the sunshine. This year’s annual event was held February 17-18. It was crowded for good reason: 10,000 visitors. In 2016, 5,000 and in 2015, 4,000, according to a member of the security staff.

The Chemistry Society was out in full force with members wearing white lab coats while in their exhibit area. Dr. Kimberly Fields serves as Club advisor.

About USF –IV

USF Tree Campus Designation

USF as honored with a 2016 Tree Campus Recognition award by the Arbor Day Foundation. USF’s commitment to “effective urban forest management” satisfied five criteria, including having a tree-advisory committee and dedicated annual expenditures for the Campus tree program.

About USF –V

Fulbright Scholars Program

USF was rated the top producer of Fulbright Scholars with 12 for the 2016-2017 period. Ohio State U. and Penn State (University Park) were second, tied at ten each.

Dr. Darlene DeMarie was appointed to the position of USF Faculty Fulbright Advisor by Dr. Roger Brindley, USF System Vice President, USF World. Her appointment began in February 2014.
About USF –VI

Technology and Innovation (Vol. 18, number 4) provides a history of the National Academy of Inventors that was founded at USF, authored by Arthur Molella (Smithsonian Institution). The NAI was created as a result of a luncheon invitation issued by Paul Sanberg, M.D., Ph.D., USF senior v.p for research, innovation and economic development. When some 100 colleagues showed up, the NAI was started.

The editor says, “It’s a good read.”

Abbreviations

ACE American Council on Education
NAI National Academy of Inventors
NSF National Science Foundation
XSEDE Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment

Acknowledgments

Fulbright Scholars announcement appeared in the daily version of the Chronical of Higher Education on February 19th.

Downtown building plans from Tampa Bay Times, Business section, page 1, February 26, 2017.

Castle Conference material obtained from the Department Web page, from the conference program, and from committee members.

Background about the “most read” article courtesy Professor Bill Baker.

ACS Tampa Bay Local Section information provided by Ms. Crystal Saut.

Helpful input from our fine alumni.

Dr. Joseph Stanko for a copy of Dr. Jurch’s obituary.

Our outstanding Webmaster for his expertise and patience.
News and feedback

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

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News for us or comments?
Please write to: dfmartin@usf.edu or share with your favorite faculty or staff member.