

## Faculty Activities

### NIH Award

Dr. **Wayne Guida** congratulated Dr. Jim Leahy and Dr. Yu Chen (Dept. of Molecular Medicine) for having received a R21 NIH grant, “Novel Inhibitor Discovery Against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* PBP3”.



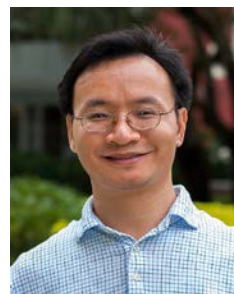
Dr. Chen



Dr. Leahy

Dr. Chen will serve as PI and Dr. Leahy as Co-PI.

Drs. **Brian Space** and **Shengqian Ma** each received DOE grants from the Fuel Cell Technologies Office within the Department of Energy (DOE).



Dr. Ma

This was in response to a funding announcement titled “Fiscal Year 2019 Commercial Trucks and Off-road Applications FOA: Natural Gas, Hydrogen, Biopower, and Electrification Technologies”.



Dr. Space

Each award was funded at \$800,000 and USF received two of the eight awards this round.

### DOE Awards

Dr. **Wayne Guida** wrote, “This is an amazing accomplishment for these two very talented scientists.”

The research projects funded are: . Dr. **Brian Space**: “Uniting Theory and Experiment to Deliver Flexible MOFs for Superior Methane (NG) Storage” and Dr. **Shengqian Ma**: “Metal-Organic Frameworks Containing Frustrated Lewis Pairs for H<sub>2</sub> Storage at Ambient Temperature”

### ***Tenure and promotion***

Three colleagues were granted tenure and promoted from assistant professor to associate professor:

**Dr. Ionnis Gelis**



*First appointed:* August 2012  
*Field:* Structural Biology

**Dr. Xiaopeng Li**



*First appointed:* August 2016  
*Field:* Supramolecular Chemistry

**Dr. Jeffrey Raker**



*First appointed:* August 2013

*Field :* Chemical education

### ***Summer 2019 Graduates***

On August 3, five graduate students received advanced degrees. The graduates (and their advisors in parentheses) are listed below:

#### ***Doctoral graduates***

**Dr. Adam Aboalroub (Dr. Ioannis Gelis)**



Dr. Aboalroub

**Dr. Briana Aguilla ( Dr. Shengqian Ma)**



Dr. Aguilla

**Dr. Linda C. Barbeto (Dr. James Leahy)**

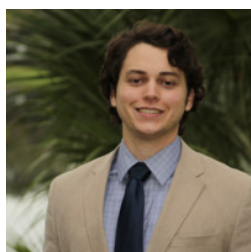


Dr. Barbeto



Dr. Acevedo-Duncan

Dr. **Douglas M Franz** (Dr. Brian Space)



Dr. Franz

Dr. **Zachary Schultz** (Dr. James Leahy)



Dr. Shultz

## ***Persons You May Know***

Dr. **David Merkler**, professor, was elected to the College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Council in May.

Dr. **Mildred Acevedo-Duncan**, research professor, attended the World Cancer Action meeting in Valencia, Spain May 8 and 9 to chair the sessions and present "Preclinical Testing of ICA-1; A Potent Protein Kinase C- $\alpha$  inhibitor as a Potential Anticancer Drug."

Dr. **Frederick W. Shull** (B.S. 2009) earned a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in 2014.

## ***How many substances?***

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, CAS registered the 150<sup>th</sup> unique chemical substance.

CAS, a division of the American Chemical Society provides scientific information services including Sci-Finder and patent searching

It took 40 years (2005) until the first 25 million substances were registered with an identifying number for retrieval.

50 million substances have been registered in the last five years!

## ***Chemistry classes in Italy***

Continuing a tradition of over half a decade started by Dr. **David Merkler**, chemistry faculty offered courses in Florence, Italy during academic Term B,



Dr. Merkler

This will be the sixth time for Dr. **David Merkler**, professor of chemistry, who served as coordinator and taught biochemistry.



Dr. Fields



Dr. Bisht

Dr. **Kimberly Fields**, who taught three times before, offered Organic Chemistry I. Dr. **Kirpal Bisht** taught Organic Chemistry II, having taught twice before.

The Science in Florence Program is hosted by the Education Abroad Office of USF World.

## ***Donors to the Department***

**January 1 to June 30, 2019**

### **Individual Donors**

Frank K. Abong  
Laura Anderson, Ph.D.  
Bill J. Baker, Ph.D. and Jill Baker  
Kirpal S. Bisht, Ph.D.  
Sherrisse Kelly Bryant, Ph.D.  
Karissa N. Budnack  
Jianfeng Cai, Ph.D.

Henry L. Cassady  
Matthew R. Casto  
Martin and Michele Cox  
Daniel Cruz-Ramirez de Arellano, Ph.D.  
Kenyon G. Daniel, Ph.D.  
Edita and Ismet Dautovic  
Guy W. Dayhoff II  
Juan R. Del Valle, Ph.D.  
Joanne Donovan  
Yassin Mahmoud Ahmed Elbatrawi  
Theresa Evans-Nguyen, Ph.D.  
Jhon J. Figueroa, Ph.D.  
Eric D. Gardner  
Ioannis Gelis, Ph.D.  
Graciela M. Goicoechea  
Wayne Guida, Ph.D. and Natalie Guida  
Lorene Hall-Jennings and Thomas Jennings III  
Sebastian Hermida-Velasquez  
Laura R. Jenkins  
Maureen Johnston and Milton Johnston, Jr., Ph.D.,  
Jeffery J. Kaiser  
Samuel B. King  
Ushiri Kumarihamy Kulatunga, Ph.D.  
Randy W. Larsen, Ph.D.  
James Leahy, Ph.D. and Ellen Leahy, Ph.D.  
Scott E. Lewis, Ph.D.  
Xiaopeng Li, Ph.D.  
Susan E. Love  
Shengqian Ma, Ph.D. and Rong Zhang, Ph.D.  
Abdul Malik, Ph.D. and Afroza Begum  
John L. Martin  
Bruce F. Martin  
Barbara Martin and Dean F. Martin, Ph.D.  
Mark A. McLaughlin, Ph.D.  
Gerhard G. Meisels, Ph.D. and Sylvia Meisels  
David J. Merkler, Ph.D. and Kathy Merkler  
Suzanne Rogers Moore and Robert L. Potter, Ph.D.  
Van Le Phuong Nguyen  
Charles Eric Nyberg  
Liliana Perdomo  
Mary E. Pfaefflin

Lexia Quinlisk  
Jeffrey R. Raker, Ph.D.  
Mark A. Ruscitti  
Lisa A. Ruscitti  
Frances and Martin Salo  
Ralph N. Salvatore, Ph.D.  
Ramesh Sedhain  
Xiaodong M. Shi, Ph.D.  
Samir Giriya Kumar Shrivastava  
Joan Stanko and Joseph Stanko, Ph.D.  
Craig Stella  
Kaung Su Khin Zaw  
Angelo L. Troncoso and Delia-Maria Troncoso  
Nancy Weyl, M.D., Ph.D.  
Lukasz Wojtas, Ph.D.  
Henry Woodcock III, Ph.D.

### **Corporate Donors**

Enteris BioPharma, Inc.  
FHL Foundation, Inc.  
Fridman-Hellman Foundation  
IKA-Works, Inc.  
Kimberly Clark Professional  
Pro Copy, Inc.  
The Bradley Zankel Foundation, Inc.  
William and Ella Owens Medical Research Foundation

We are sincerely grateful for the support the Department has received

## ***USF News***

### **Donation**

Dr. **Judy Genshaft** and her husband, **Steven I. Greenbaum**, will donate \$20 million toward a new honors college building in her name.

The South Florida gift is a contribution towards a \$47 million five-story building

that will be named the Judy Genshaft Honors College.



Genshaft Honors College proposed structure

The building will have classrooms, offices, study areas, and event spaces.

According to a *Chronicle* article, this gift could be the “biggest made by a chief executive while still in office.”

USF Also announced that it would re-name a street after Dr. Genshaft. “USF Maple” that passes near the location of the future honors college will be renamed “USF Genshaft Drive.”

### **Gala**

Dr. **Judy Genshaft**, honored at her retirement gala June 1<sup>st</sup>, announced that she and her family will donate \$3 million more to endow the deanship of the Honors College.

## **Highlights 2000-2019**

USF received Preeminent Status (6/28/18), one of three Florida state universities, and the first to have earned the designation by satisfying metrics.

#### **Four-year graduation rate**

- 2000: 20%
- Now: 60%

#### **Total Student head count**

- 2000: 35,728
- Now: 50,755

#### **Total Alumni**

- 2000: 167,210
- Now: 340,000

#### **Annual Research Expenditure**

- 2000: \$172 million
- Now: \$568 million

### ***New Administration***

Dr. **Steven Currall** USF's seventh president assumed office July 1<sup>st</sup>. He had announced that this appointment would be his "great life mission."

He was provost and vice president for academic affairs at Southern Methodist University.



Dr. Currall

Previously he worked at the University of California, Davis, an AAU member, serving as the chancellor's senior advisor for strategic projects and initiatives, dean of the graduate school of management. During his time in California, Currall was also vice

chair of the board of directors and member of the executive committee for the 10-campus University of California system's Global Health Institute.

His experience includes positions at AAU institutions Rice University, the University of Chicago and Cornell University. On an international level, Currall spent time at University College London, serving as a professor and founding chair of the department of management science and innovation in the faculty of engineering sciences, where he was also a vice dean.

A psychological scientist, Currall has received more than \$21 million in research grants, and taught for nearly three decades on organizational psychology topics such as innovation, emerging technologies, negotiation and corporate governance.

Dr. Currall was lead author of a book on university-business-government collaboration,

He has served on several editorial review boards, and he is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

He and his wife, Dr. Cheyenne Currall, are living in the President's house on campus, better known as the Lifsey House to engage more with the USF community.

More extensive biographical information about the Curralls may be found in the summer issue of *USF Magazine*.

### **Commencement**

The 118<sup>th</sup> Commencement, Summer 2019, was held on the Tampa Campus, August 3<sup>rd</sup>,

Dr. Steve Currall presiding for his first time as USF president. The 3,200 graduates represented 48 states and 79 nations.

## **USF Innovation Enterprise**

**Paul R. Sanberg**, Ph.D., D.Sc., (Senior VP for Research, Innovation & Knowledge Enterprise), President and Founder of the National Academy of Inventors, shared information about utility patents.



Dr. Sanberg

The National Academy of Inventors announced (June 4<sup>th</sup>) the top 100 worldwide universities granted U.S. utility patents in 2018.

The seventh annual report is a compilation of data obtained from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The rankings of selected organizations are listed below.

1. University of California System
8. Harvard University
16. University of South Florida
19. University of Florida
33. Florida International University
69. The Florida State University
75. University of Central Florida

## **Acknowledgments**

Highlights: *USF Magazine*, Summer  
Living alumni: Mr. **Bill McCausland**  
Donation: *Chronicle of Higher Education*,  
**Steven Johnson**, May 22. *Tampa Bay*

*Times*, **Megan Reeves**, May 23. **Kirby Wilson**, June 3.

Dr. Currall's background: USF news release.

**CAS**: C&EN, June 3, p 43 (Linda Wang)

Florence information: Ms. **Paige Romero**

Doctoral information Ms. **Sylvia Onac**,

Tampa Library.

Chemistry doctoral graduates: Ms **Kaithlyn Kroner**

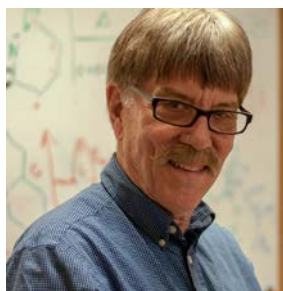
## **Abbreviations**

**NIH**: National Institutes of Health

**PI**: Principal Investigator

## **News and feedback**

### ***Immediate past Chair:***



Dr. Wayne C. Guida  
Professor and Chair  
July 1, 2015-August 6, 2019

### ***Interim Chair:***



Dr. Jim Leahy  
Professor and Interim Chair  
August 7, 2019 -

Department of Chemistry-CHE 205  
University of South Florida  
4202 East Fowler Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33620-5205

**Webmaster:** Dr. Douglas M Franz



Dr. Franz

He was a member of Dr. **Brian Space's** research group working in the area of computational chemistry.

**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](mailto:dfmartin@usf.edu)