

## Faculty Recognition

### Award - I

Dr. **Rong Zhang**, Instructor, was the recipient of a 2017-2018 Teaching Award at the annual Faculty Honors and Awards reception November 14<sup>th</sup>. She also received a one-time cash bonus of \$2000.



Provost Wilcox, Dr. Zhang, President Genshaft

### Award - II

An announcement from Dr. Randy Larsen, Associate Dean, CAS office of Research and Scholarship (Nov 27<sup>th</sup>):

“I would like to share some good news for Chemistry! Our Chair, Wayne Guida, has

been elected as an AAAS Fellow in the Chemistry Section.”

*Citation: For distinguished contributions to computational biochemistry, particularly for developing MacroModel molecular modeling program, and structure-based drug discovery and design of enzyme inhibitors of therapeutic relevance.*



“Wayne joins Bill Baker (2014), Jennifer Lewis (2017), and Dean Martin (emeritus, 1983) who are also AAAS Fellows in Chemistry.”

Dr. Guida’s research primarily involves computational biochemistry applied to enzyme inhibitor design, protein and peptide conformation studies, as well as structure-based drug design. His lab focuses on a

multidisciplinary approach to the discovery of new medicines for the treatment of cancer and infectious diseases.

His career has spanned both academia and industry. He served as Executive Director of Biomolecular Structure, Lead Finding, and Computing at the Novartis Institute for Biomedical Research (formerly CIBA-Geigy Pharmaceuticals) where his work resulted in one of the first-ever successful examples of the use of Structure-Based Drug design in drug discovery.

This groundbreaking application led to the development of clinically tested inhibitors of purine nucleoside phosphorylase. Dr. Guida went on to serve as President and CEO of Schrödinger, where he and his team were able to commercially develop MacroModel, a pioneering computer simulation program for molecular modelling of organic compounds and biopolymers that he helped to develop as a Senior Research Associate at Columbia University.

### Award -III

Dr. **H. Lee Woodcock** (assoc. prof) was the 2018 Outstanding Global Research Award . The award was presented by USF World in recognition of exceptional work that enhances USF's mission as a global research university.



Dr. Brindley, Dr. Woodcock, President Genshaft

Dr. Woodcock won this award based on both his efforts to co-lead an international team

that focused on *Characterization and engineering of a plastic-degrading aromatic polyesterase*, and his long-term international collaboration that has been very successful in terms of both publications and external funding.

## Staff Recognition

### Recognition award

Ms. **Kaitlyn Kroner** won the College of Arts and Sciences individual Performance Bonus Recognition Award on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Kaitlyn was recognized for her extraordinary work as an Academic Program Specialist in the Department.



Mr. Brent Smith presenting the Award

### Appreciation luncheon

Continuing a tradition of perhaps a decade, the semi-annual Staff Appreciation Lunch was held December 4<sup>th</sup> at the Top of the Palms restaurant in the Marshall Center.



Mr. Ryan Jahn, the Host, Dr. Christina Nelson, Mr. Matt Casto, Mr. Roberto Avergonzado, Ms. Kaitlyn Kroner, Ms. Karissa Budnack

## **Seminar Series**

### **Schneller Legacy Lecture**

Dr. **Sarah E. Reisman**, professor, Department of Chemistry, Cal Tech spoke October 25<sup>th</sup>.

“Necessity is the Mother of Invention: Natural Products and the Chemistry They Inspire.”

Dr. Schneller was present for the lecture and related activities. Dr **Stewart Schneller** and wife, Mrs. **Aina Schneller** were part of the USF community from 1971 to 1994.



Dr. Schneller and Dr Reisman

Professor Schneller rose through the academic ranks and was appointed full professor in 1978. He served as chair of the USF Chemistry Department (1986 -1994) prior to his moving to Auburn University as Dean of the College of Sciences and Mathematics and Professor of Chemistry

and Biochemistry. In 2010 he stepped down as Dean and continued an active teaching and research role in Auburn’s Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

## **Persons You May Know**

**Willman Beaumont** (M.S.1980) J.D.,LLM is an attorney, who is practicing IP law with an emphasis on patents. His areas of specialization include chemistry, biotech and pharma. Current projects involving commercial start-ups include a new method of making diamond under ambient conditions, treatments for progeria, and for Alzheimer’s disease. He, of course, would be interested in assisting any USF chem alums with any IP matters. His practice is with Juneau & Mitchell PLLC in Alexandria, Virginia.

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Dr. **Jeff C. Davis** (Faculty 1965-98; Chair 1978-82; 1995-98) and his wife, **Sylvia**, living in Sonoma County, California had a narrow escape from the current fire. It stopped within yards of their neighborhood, and they had harrowing escape from the area.

Dr. **Mick Perez-Cruet** (M.S.,1986) has published a textbook, *An Anatomical Approach to Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Thieme Publishers, 2018).

He is vice-chairman, director, and professor of the Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery and Spine Program at the William Beaumont School of Medicine, Oakland University, Auburn Hills, MI.

Mr. **Dilojan Senanayake** (M.S., 1996) wrote that he is living in Grand Forks, but has had a six-day-a week job 65 miles away in Thief Falls, MN.

He still manages to do soil and water testing in states, MN, ND) as well as in Kenya. He assists North Dakota farmers by soil and water testing.

Dr. **Stewart Schneller** (please see above) was named a 2018 AAAS Fellow in the Chemistry Section.

Dr. **Solomon Weldegirma**, Chemistry Instructor, is serving as a Fulbright Fellow in Ethiopia. And we asked him for an update.

He is now in Bahir Dar University's chemistry department. This semester he is working with two sections of organic chemistry students and is planning to incorporate four green experiments into the curriculum.



Dr. Weldegirma and a group of his students are happy to get the final product in the green nitration of toluene experiment.

In mid-November, he presented a seminar "Integration of Green Chemistry into the Organic Chemistry curriculum." to the

chemistry department faculty and graduate students.

He wrote, "Two weeks ago, I shared my experience from USF and on my Fulbright program to an audience of Ethiopian scientists who would like to collaborate with US institutions."

## **Student Activities**

### **Student ACS Chapter**

Dr. **Wayne Guida** announced that Chemistry's Student ACS Chapter was selected to receive an Honorable Mention for activities conducted during 2017-2017.

Congratulations to those involved in this team effort that included advisors Drs. **Kimberly Fields, Daniel Cruz-Ramirez and Jhon Figueroa.**



Dr. Fields



Dr. Cruz-Ramirez



Dr. Figueroa

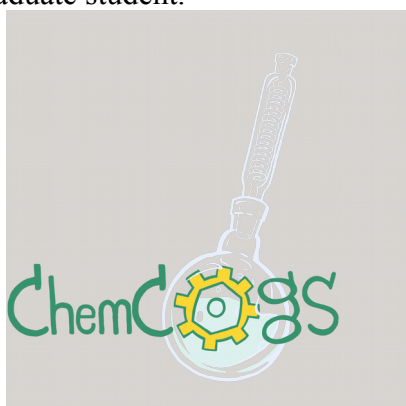
The 2018 USF Chemistry Society Chapter president, Ms. **Anna Hemminger** was described as “an organized, upbeat joy to work with and a social upbeat whiz.”



Ms. Hemminger

### Council of Graduate Students Logo

The design for the T-shirt was created and drawn by Mr. **Zachary Magnuson**, a first-year graduate student.



Ms. **Brianna Aguila**, a senior, arranged for the orders and purchasing. Both are members of Dr. **Shengqian Ma**'s laboratory.

## Fall 2018 Graduates

In December, six chemistry graduate students received advanced degrees. The graduates (and their advisors in parentheses) are listed below:

### Doctoral graduates

Dr. **Ryan Anderson** (Dr. **David Merkler**)

Dr. **Le Meng** (Dr. **Abdul Malik**)



Dr. Anderson



Dr. She

Dr. **Fengyu She** (Dr. **Jianfeng Cai**)

Dr. **Ma Su** (Dr. **Jiangfeng Cai**)



Dr. Meng



Dr. Su

### Masters Graduates

**Victoria Izumi** (Dr. **John Kooman**)  
**W. Gunatilleke** (Dr. **Shengqian Ma**)



Ms. Izumi



Ms. Gunatilleke

## Honorary Degree

Dr. **Melanie Sanford**, became the ninth chemist to receive an honorary degree from USF when it was awarded to her at the 118<sup>th</sup> Commencement on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

She is University Professor and an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Chemistry at the University of Michigan.



Provost Wilcox, Dr. Sanford, Mr. Hal Hullis (member of the Board of Trustees), President Genshaft

Dr. Sanford is a nationally recognized scientist who has made outstanding contributions to the fields of organic and inorganic chemistry and has been a strong supporter of women in science.

## Publix on Campus

On December 6, “Publix Super Market opened the doors to its newest store at the University of South Florida – the company’s

first location on a college campus and a major milestone for the university.”



Opening ceremonies

“USF System President **Judy Genshaft**, along with Tampa Mayor **Bob Buckhorn** and Publix executives helped kick off the opening ceremony.”

“Over the past decade, we have worked hard to transform the University of South Florida into a vibrant living-learning environment that fully supports the needs of our students, both inside and outside the classroom,” said President Genshaft. “We are so pleased to officially open the Publix store at USF, the first of its kind on a college campus.”

She added that it marked “the beginning of a transformational new chapter.”

It is located at Fletcher Ave and USF Palm Drive near “The Villages, and is” the first of its kind on a college campus.”

A special feature is the location of the Deli in the center making Publix subs more accessible.

Employment opportunities for students are indicated: of 140 “associates”, 50 are USF students.

## WOW -January 2019

A Week of Welcome event was held Wednesday January 9<sup>th</sup> in the Chemistry Breezeway. Goodies were available.



Announcement

Chemistry Team Advisors, **Adelia Douglas, Durand Capers, Lauren Harris, Ashley Sowell,** and **Megan Stowe** were present.

They were joined by interested students and faculty.

### Bullet Points about USF

- **42, 803** total students (**6,300** on campus (most ever).
- Students hail from every state and more than **145** countries
- **And...**

**#1. Best College for Veterans** (Military Times, 2017)

**#1. Black Student Success** (Florida)

**# 1 “Overall Student Success”** (Among 1,100 Public Research and Doctoral Universities (Eduventures, 2016)

**#5. Among American Public Universities Generating New US Patents; 11<sup>th</sup> Worldwide** (National Academy of Inventors, 2017) in America (Best Colleges, 2015)

### More about USF (2017-2018)

- USF received Preeminent Status (6/28/18)

### USF News



### Update

Dr. **Judy Genshaft** wrote in USF (the official Magazine of the USF Alumni Association (Winter issue);

“The University of South Florida is on a trajectory unlike ever before in its history.... We are reaching milestones once reserved for universities twice our age.... We continue to make groundbreaking strides in research, student success, teaching and community impact.”

### USF System Consolidation

The USF Consolidation Planning, Study, and implement Task Force was estab-

lished legislatively pursuant to 1004.335(1) Florida Statutes to develop recommendations to improve service to students by phasing out the separate accreditation of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg and the University of South Florida Sarasota Manatee.

This means that by July 1, 2020 USF must be operating under a single, unified accreditation.

A series of key milestones is available.

## USF Innovation Enterprise

**Paul Sanberg**, M.D., Ph.D., (Senior VP for Research, Innovation, and Knowledge Enterprise), serving as Chair, Advisory



Dr. Sanberg

Board, Florida Inventors Hall of Fame, presided at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Induction Ceremony & Gala on September 7, 2018 at the Hilton Tampa Downtown.

## Acknowledgments

The Oracle September 6, 2018 (Vol 56, No 4) for information on “A new look for USF.”

Dr. **Christina Nelson**, Chemistry’s Director of Academic Programs and Student Affairs for news and for reviewing this issue.

Mr. **Ryan Jahn** for the photograph on p.2.

Dr. **Joseph A. Stanko** for information concerning Dr. **Jeff Davis**.

USF Tampa Florida, *2018-19 Bullet Points*

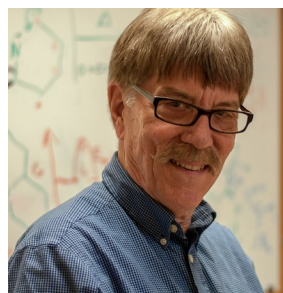
Commencement picture courtesy Ms. **Sarah Riordan**, Director of Commencement & Director Fiscal and Business Administration.

Publix story, USF Press release.

*The Grinnell Magazine* (Winter 2018) Re: Dr. **Mick Perez-Cruet** ‘83

## News and feedback

*Chair’s Address:*



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Professor and Chair  
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4202 East Fowler Avenue  
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—

*Webmaster:* Mr. **Doug Franz**



Mr. Franz



Doug is 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)  
or share with the Webpage or with the Facebook.

