

Good news for Chemistry

Faculty hires

Two visiting instructors will fill the two new permanent instructor positions this fall and four additional tenure track faculty applicants have accepted formal offers of employment – two in chemical education, one in computation physical chemistry, and one in materials science.

Zaworotko appointed DUP

Dr. Randy Larsen announced (May 3rd) “Please join me in congratulating **Mike Zaworotko** for being named a USF Distinguished University Professor! This is an outstanding honor and recognizes what we in chemistry have known for years is Mike’s outstanding contributions to the Department, the College of Arts and Sciences, the University of South Florida and the scientific community as a whole.”

Provost **Ralph Wilcox** wrote “The DUP Recommending Committee described Dr. Zaworotko’s record as outstanding on several dimensions. He is a leading researcher in the field of metal organic materials and crystal engineering. He ranks among the top 20 of the most highly cited chemists in the world during the 2000-2010 window by the Institute of Science Index-Web of Science. He has published 275 papers (35 of which have more than 100 citations), two books, and eight book chapters. His work has been presented at

over 150 conferences and he has been issued 16 patents. Grant support for his research has come from a Global Partnership Award from the King Abdulla University of Science and Technology, NSF, NASA, and the Department of Energy.... In service to the discipline, he chaired the Department of Chemistry from 1999 to 2008, leading it to a significant enhancement in national visibility through grant awards and publications. He was the founding editor of the journal *Crystal Engineering* and has served on the editorial boards of other important journals. Dr. Zaworotko is, as one of his outside reviewers put it, “a truly creative and prolific scientist of international renown” and thus clearly merits the committee’s full support for the honor of “Distinguished University Professor.”

Honorary Degree Awarded to a Chemist.



President Judy L. Genshaft, Dr. Gregory Teague (Faculty Senate President), Dr. Joseph S. Francisco, Dr. Ralph Wilcox (Provost and Executive Vice President). Photograph courtesy of Ms. Entela Balliu.

Dr. Francisco, William E. Moore Distinguished Professor of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and Chemistry at Purdue University received the D.Sc. (*hc*) at a December commencement ceremony held on December 15, 2012

26th Annual Scholarship & Alumni Celebration

This was held February 19th in the Marshall Center Ballroom with some changes.

- New sponsor-supported: Element Tables were available ranging from Oxygen (\$50) to Platinum (\$400).
- Recipients of named awards (e.g., the **Jeff C. Davis** Physical Chemistry Award) received \$200 and a gift certificate from John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

The Outstanding Alumni Award went to **John D'Angelo**, J.D., M.D. (B.A. '03) Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at West Virginia University, who also served as keynote speaker.

Students who were recognized included **Mr. Roy Elias**, who received three awards (T.C. Owen Biochemistry Award, American Institute of Chemists Award, and the Dean Martin Outstanding B.A. Chemistry Award).



Dr. Mohanraja Kumar, Dr Vicky Lykouriniou, Mr. Elias, Dr. Wayne Guida . The three faculty members were the award presenters.

This is perhaps only the second time since 1988 that one student has received this many awards.



One of the table centerpieces showing a treasured student; (Designs by **Ms. Read**.)

We are grateful to **Ms. Kimberly Read**, Manager, Chemistry Fiscal and Business Administration, who was the Program Organizer.



Ms. Read

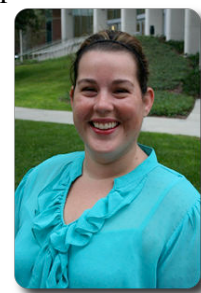


Ms. Graham

Ms. Cheryl Graham, **Ms. Victoria Mothershed**, **Ms. Christina Nelson** and **Ms. Kelly Pearson** assisted with the day of set up and reception seating table at the banquet, and Ms. Mothershed (*vide infra*) was the banquet photographer.



Ms. Nelson



Ms. Pearson

Eleventh Castle Conference

“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.”

Graduate and undergraduate students from the University of South Florida and surrounding universities and colleges participated in the 2013 Castle Conference. Some 17 graduate students contributed research talks, and there were 19 posters by graduate students, and 75 posters were from undergraduates.

The conference was named after Dr. Raymond N. Castle (1916-1999). He was a Distinguished Research Professor of Chemistry (1981-99). A distinguished heterocyclic chemist, he was the founder of the *Journal of Heterocyclic Chemistry*. He and his wife, Ada, provided the funds that supported the Castle lectures (*see* Department History).

This year's plenary speaker was **Sir Fraser Stoddard**, Board of Trustees Professor of Chemistry, Northwestern University.



Sir Thomas Stoddard

The title of the lecture was “Mingling Art with Science”.

Our thanks to the committee members:

Student leaders and organizers were: **Danielle Demers and Joseph (Joey) Gill** (Co-Chairs), **Christian Cioce, Michael Doligals, Rosemary Li, Jordany Maignan, Hasnaa Mouttaki, Ranjani Muralidharan, Siqi Sun, Christie Tang, Brant Tudor, Justin White, Christi Whittington, Kia Williams.** **Dr. Ed Turos** and **Dr. Patricia Muisener** served as faculty advisors.

Annual Awards

Annual awards were given at the last seminar of the academic year (April 25th)

The George Bursa Award: **Christi Whittington**; Theodore and Venette Askounes Ashford Doctoral Fellowship in Chemistry: **Wenyang Gao**; Barbara B. Martin Endowed Fellowship in Chemistry: **Tarah Word**; Alexiou Award in Environmental Chemistry: **Ranjani Muralidharan.**



Mr. Gao, Ms. Word, the Martins, Ms. Muralidharan, Ms. Whittington

Martin Travel Awards: **Ge Bai, Jacqueline Fries, Ranjani Muralidharan, Adrian Villalta-Cerdas, Christopher Witkowski**



Mr. Bei, Ms. Muralidharan, the Martins, Mr. Villalta-Cerdas, Mr. Witkowski, Ms. Fries

Spring Graduates

Among the 1018 masters and 198 doctoral and specialists degrees:

M.S. degree: **Matthew Kaplan** (Dr. Antilla)



Mr. Kaplan

Ph.D. degree recipients:

Courtney DuBoulay(Dr. Guida), **Parul Jain**(Dr. Harmon), **Bernard Knudsen**(Dr.



Dr. DuBoulay



Mr. Knudsen

Harmon), **William M. Maza**, (Dr. Randy Larsen), **Jingran Tao** (Dr. Zhang), **Sai Vankayala** (Dr. Guida)



Dr. William M. Maza



Dr. Jingran Tao



Dr. Sai Vankayala

Inside the Department

Our Department has immense responsibilities of teaching, research, and service, of course, but some time is set aside for personal relationships and recognition of achievements.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon

A semi-annual appreciation luncheon, sponsored by a faculty couple, was held May 2nd. Guests were given menus to Chopstix, a nearby Chinese restaurant, and the meals of their choice were delivered to the Chemistry conference room.



Staff luncheon guests

Appreciation is extended to **Ms. Linda Lowe**, who coordinated the event and arranged for delivery of the food.



Ms. Lowe

Potluck Gathering

Department members were invited to participate in a Potluck gathering on May 7th



Announcement by Ms. Kimberly Read

Ms. Cheryl Graham coordinated the donations, and staff members **Mr. Roberto Avergonzado**, **Ms. Linda Lowe**, **Ms Adrienne McCain** **Ms., Samantha Santos-DaSilva** assisted.



At the outset; photo courtesy of Ms. McCain



Ms. McCain



Ms. Santos -DaSilva

Dr. Randy Larsen noted "It was a great way to wind down the semester! The turnout was great and I think a good time was had by all!!"

We have grown

With new hires, we are the largest we have ever been in terms of faculty, staff, and post-doctoral associates

- Non-tenure 14
(instructors and research assistant professors)

- Tenure/Tenure Track..... 29.5
- Staff members..... 12
- Advisors..... 6
- Undergrad. student assistants 6
- Post-doctoral associates..... 20
- Graduate students..... 135
- Chemistry majors..... >3000

Award to Mr. Avergonzado

Mr. Roberto Avergonzado, departmental Academic program specialist, was presented with a USF Staff Senate *Quiet Quality Award* on April 16th. This award is judged by an awards committee of the Senate based on a candidate's qualities including



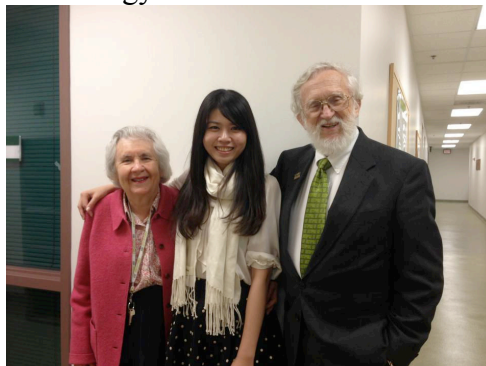
Mr. Avergonzado and the Quiet Quality Award Chair, Ms. Yvonne Frank

conscientiousness, professional manner positive attitude and interpersonal relationships, work performance, responsibilities, team-oriented qualities, and suggestions the nominee makes that are helpful in alleviating problems or saving money/time in the work area.

Persons you may know

Jesse S. Binford, Jr. (Faculty 1961-'03) and his wife **Lolita** are living in Austin, Texas. He recently had an operation to remove a benign brain tumor, and has fully recovered, according to **Dr. Joseph Stanko**.

Wen Shan (Vanessa) Chang (M.S.'2010) visited us during Chinese New Year from Taichung City, Taiwan where she is manager of International Sales for a new fertilizer product for Nafertino Biotechnology Co. Ltd.



Vanessa Chang with the Martins

Paul C. Grivas (B.S. Chemistry '98) is an attorney with the Grivas Law Group of Bradenton. He earned a M.P.H from USF in 2001 and a Ph.D. in toxicology (USF) in 2007, and a J.D. from Florida State (2007).

Suzette Martiney, J. D. (B.A.'00) of Englander Fischer, a St. Petersburg law firm and her husband visited campus (February 21st) as guest of the College of Arts and Sciences to attend a lecture by guest speaker Dr. Helen Fisher ("Gender Differences in the Brain"). This was part of the frontier Forum series sponsored by USF Phi Beta Kappa Alumni Faculty.

And an announcement we received said Englander Fischer intellectual property attorney, **Suzette Marteny**, joins attorneys from SNR Denton, Sidley Austin, Banner & Witcoff, among others in co-authoring the new e-book, *IP Law For Business: Protecting Yourself & Your Company*. Suzi's chapter focuses on how companies can gain and maintain a competitive advantage through protecting and leveraging their intellectual property assets.

Duke D. Pooré (Ph.D. '96), Major, U.S.A. just completed the Intermediate Level Education Course of the U.S. Army General Staff College.

Dr. Robert Potter (Faculty (1984-), Professor of Chemistry and Associate Dean, Graduate and Undergraduate Studies, College of Arts and Sciences, was the official welcomer at the 26th Annual Scholarship & Alumni Celebration.

Dr. Joseph Stanko (Faculty 1973-'03) attended the 26th Annual Scholarship & Alumni Celebration and was a Carbon- level supporter.

Saw **Mr. Paul Tate** (M.S.'02) during a Spring Break morning in USF's Recreation Center where he was scheduled to play racquetball. He has a tenure-track position at Hillsborough Community College teaching general chemistry

We saw retired faculty member **Dr. Jon Wenzierl** and **Dr. Susan Wenzierl** having coffee on a recent Sunday morning. They had returned from an extensive Asian tour, including three days at Angkor Wat where they ascended the top of several temples, and Xi'an, where they saw China's famous Terra-Cotta Army Warriors that had been dug up from pits in which they had been buried.

A study in *Environmental Science and Technology* (DOI:10.1021/ws303981m) notes that the statues may need protection from visitors.

Faculty-Staff Fund Drive

An annual drive to encourage Faculty and Staff to donate to funds that support students and staff members was successful. Last year, Some 2,800 persons participated and

\$1.3 million was raised. For the fourth year in a row over 90% of the Chemistry faculty and staff members participated.

Campus info 2012-13 ...

- 41,047 students on the Tampa campus
- 47,647 students in the USF System
- 58% female
- 9,028 grad students in the USF System
- Doctor of Medicine students: 553 (45% female)
- New First-Year Students:
Average school GPA 3.94 (Tampa)
Reside in on-campus housing 82%

Campus changes --- past and future...

Library changes...

At a reception in February, William Garrison, Dean of USF Libraries, gave us some surprising data.

Over 2 million students a year spend time in the library. Recently, 300 more seats were provided for study and collaboration in the library. Still, the Tampa campus library is full on most evenings.

Thirsty? There is a Starbucks facility to the right as you enter, one of the busier ones in the US—it is the highest grossing Starbucks in Florida, perhaps even in the Southeast.

Too busy to go to the library to check a reference in a journal? Over 4,300,000 successful full-text article downloads occurred last year *via* lib.usf.edu.

Looking for a job? The Career Center now staffs a Job Shop just inside the main entrance, close to the coffee shop.

Need tutoring? Provost Wilcox is among the many champions of the SMART Lab on the second floor that is well designed to enhance learning success by students, and work in concert with Tutoring and Learning Services.

Looking for a job? There is now a Career Center just inside the main entrance, close to the coffee shop.

News and feedback

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Webmaster: Mr .Brant Tudor



Mr. Tudor

News:

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

News for us or comments?

Please write to: dfmartin@usf.edu or share with the webpage or with the Facebook page.

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to **Ms. Victoria Mothershed** for a number of photographs. This is the 41st issue that has benefitted from **Mrs. Barbara Martin's** proof-reading.



Ms. Mothershed