

Good news for Chemistry

New faculty

The Department is fortunate that five chemists have become faculty members.

The group includes *permanent instructors*



Dr. Anderson



Dr. Cruz-Ramirez

Dr. Laura Anderson and Dr. Daniel Cruz-Ramirez de Arellano.



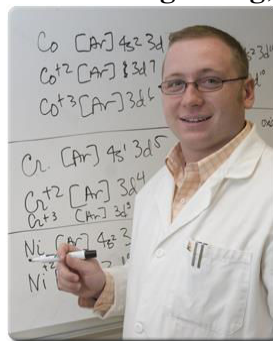
Dr. Lewis



Dr. Rogers

The group also includes four *assistant professors*, e.g., **Dr. Scott Lewis** and **Dr. Jeffrey Raker**, members of the Chemical

Education Research group, **Dr. David Rogers**, who is a member of the Physical/Computational Chemistry group, and **Dr. Xing Wang**, a biomaterials chemist.



Dr. Raker



Dr. Wang

The background of each may be found in the Faculty Directory on the Department Web page.

We welcome all these colleagues and hope to introduce them in more detail in time.

RIP Dr. Robert S. Braman (1930-2013)

Dr. Larsen was informed August 26 of the death of Dr. Braman (USF Chemistry 1967-2003).

He commented, "Bob was one of the builders of our department with a career at USF spanning 36 years! I, for one, am grateful for

all those who came before me and made the department the kind of place I wanted to be!”



Dr. Braman and visiting students during a tour of selected laboratories as part of a 1990 Open House

Dr. Braman specialized in clever methods for determining the concentrations of species of an element, e.g. dimethyl mercury, monomethyl, mercury (II), and mercury (I) species. He and **Craig C. Foreback** (Ph.D. ‘73) studied phosphate in sea water. They noted that most studies tended to produce high results because the standard colorimetric method also included any arsenate present.

He and a colleague bid on a proposal from the Westinghouse Savannah River concerning the possible contamination of certain areas. They were able to underbid the amount available, and won the contract that allowed three years. The problem was solved in one year saving a lot of money for the US Government.

His analysis of phosphoric acid leaving a phosphoric acid plant to a firm removing any uranium versus the phosphoric acid sample returning after treatment revealed a small difference that resulted in a large loss considering the volumes involved, and again led to action to save money.

His research was also supported by EPA and various firms.

He was also a Lt. Col U.S. Army reserves, where he served in military intelligence. [His obituary was published in the *Tampa Tribune* on September 1, cf. TBO.com]

Persons you may know

Giordano da Silva (B.A. ’02; Ph.D. ’07) is an assistant professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at the University of Texas Health Center (Houston).

Previously, he held an NIH fellowship at Rice University working with Dr. **Graham Palmer** focusing on spectroscopic and physio-chemical studies of trans-membrane proteins from the cytochrome b561 family.

His current focus will be on optogenetics by engineering and characterizing some new rhodopsins for applications/therapies.

Kerriann Greenhalgh (B.A. ’04; Ph.D. ’08) is the founder of KeriCure, Inc. This firm was created to commercialize/develop “topical products designed to improve healing, prevent and treat infection and reduce scar formation.”



Dr. Kerriann Greenhalgh

A recent feature article in the business section of the *Tampa Bay Times* listed “10 businesspeople to watch in latter 2013”

Dr. Greenhalgh was Number 2. **Governor Scott** was Number 3.

She was also featured on WUSF-FM’s “University Beat” on November 5th.

We saw **Thomas Jackman** (Ph.D.’76) and **Steve Hendrix** (Ph.D.’90) when we were at **Dr. Braman’s** funeral. Both are associate professors of chemistry at the University of Tampa.

Suzette Martiney, J.D. (B.A. ’00) has been a partner and chair of the Intellectual Property Group of England Fisher, attorneys, St. Petersburg. More recently she re-established her own law firm.

Dean F. Martin (Faculty, 1964--) was recently appointed by **Dean Eric Eisenberg**, Ph.D. to a two-year term as one of 10 members of the Dean’s Council of the College of Arts and Sciences.

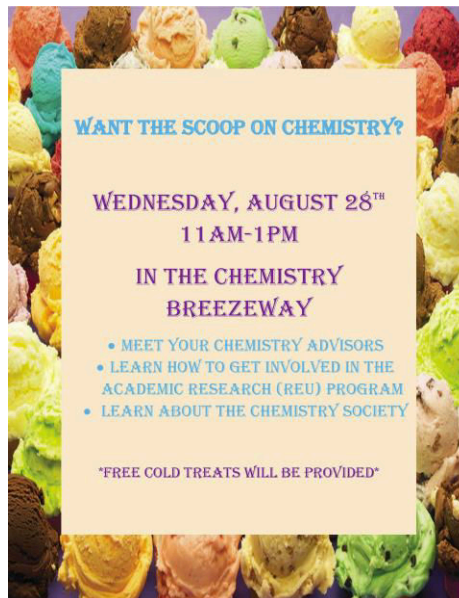
Inside the Department

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

Week of Wonder (WOW)

Many students still feel lost during the first week of classes, but stations and informed persons are available to direct them to the Chemistry Building and other important locations during WOW.

But the creative Chemistry Advising Cadre goes a step further and provides advice and course guidance (see announcement).



Announcement by Ms. **Christina Nelson**, Academic Services Administrator

And in addition to providing helpful advice and food for thought, delicious ice cream



Ms. **Kelly Pearson** (left) and Ms. **Nina Oliver** (Photo courtesy Ms. **Adrienne McCain**) was also available from members of the advising cadre.

Summer REU (cont.)

The summer NSF REU Chem-Seed program was successfully completed with a poster

session held in association with other REU programs from across the campus.

The top three winners were 1st prize Ms. **Fiona Kerns** (USF), 2nd prize Ms. **Amber Hughes** (Florida Gulf Coast U.), and 3rd Prize Mr. **Vincent Fuillerat** (Polk State College). Checks for \$100, \$50, and \$25 were presented to the First, Second, third Prize recipients, respectively, using donated funds.

Academic Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) fundraiser

The first and second weeks of the Fall semester, the Academic REU (Dr. **Sandi-Urena**, Director) partnered with the Chemistry Society and the Chemistry Graduate Students Council for a collaborative fundraiser. Dr. **Vicki Lykourinou** was an invaluable contributor in the organization of this event. The fundraiser consisted in collecting cash donations; donors were presented with new lab goggles suitable for undergraduate chemistry laboratories.



Dr. Sandi-Uena



Dr. Lykourinou

The Academic REU will use the money raised to fund travel awards to support students attending scientific meetings. This term the recipients of the REU Travel Awards are Mr. **Thiago Arzua** (Professor **P. Zhang**), Ms. **Solianna Herrera** (Professor **L-J. Ming**), Mr. **Patrick McKen** (Dr. **Sandi-Urena**) The three students will

attend the Southeastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society (SERMACS), Atlanta, GA, November 12-16, 2013.

The Academic REU is open to all undergraduates, and currently there are 57 students registered (Fall 2013). The number of travel awards will be increased in the near future.

New Seminar Series

This semester saw the start of an event called "*Inspire-Chem Research Seminar Series for Undergraduates*". These seminars are talks especially prepared for undergraduates that will be given by chemistry faculty members.

"We seek to inspire our students to pursue careers in the chemical sciences and to get interested in chemistry in general," said Dr. **Sandi-Urena**. Speakers were Dr. **Ed Turos** (Nov. 1) and Dr. **James W. Leahy** (Nov 8).



Dr. Turos



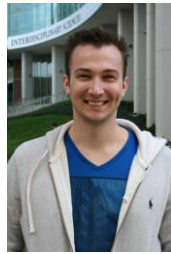
Dr. Leahy

These talks were not hard-core chemistry; the goal was for students to have a conversation with the speakers. All students taking chemistry courses were invited.

Graduate students Mr. **Parker Huhta** and Ms. **Siqi Sun** were the volunteer organizers.



Ms. Sun



Mr. Huhta



Ms. Graham



Ms. Lowe

Pot Luck Social

A potluck social was held on the afternoon of November 1st. Now that we are at the largest size we have

Good food was had by all attending.



Announcement by Ms. Nicole Robinson



Picture courtesy Ms Adrienne McCain

been in 39 years, these gatherings are important for maintaining essential camaraderie among the faculty, staff, and students who support the many department activities in areas of teaching, research, and service. We are grateful to Ms. **Cheryl Graham** who coordinated donations and Ms. **Linda Lowe** who did the extra purchasing.

Campus News --- past and future...

President Genshaft's fall address

Included was the good news that USF received a record \$413,631,188 in research funding during the 2012-2013 academic year. This was an increase of one percent over the previous year "a significant achievement in the light of the current slow-down in federal funding resulting from the budget sequestration."

[N.B. Research funding for 1994-95 was \$104 million]

Celebration at Castor Beach

Castor Beach, located adjacent to Castor dormitory was recently refurbished to

provide a fun atmosphere for students, faculty, and staff.

An event for the USF community was held September 12th to celebrate the recent changes to the beach. We appreciate the good work of USF Facilities Management.



Celebration announcement

WUSF Celebration

WUSF held a formal celebration of the 50th year of broadcasting on Friday September 13th. The original signal covered the USF Tampa campus, Fowler to Fletcher and not much more. The studio was in a room in the basement of the Library building (now SVC, the Student Services building). And it was a student-run operation, which was later transformed to a more traditional operation.

Barbara and Dean Martin were among those invited to the celebration brunch. Members of the WUSF Staff were at various tables and several described the achievements that had been made: WUSF Public Media now has broadcast studios in

three locations – Tampa, Sarasota, and St. Petersburg. WUSF 89.7 is a news and information station with all night jazz, WSMR 89.1 and 103.9 is an all classical station and WUSF TV now broadcasts four channels. These and many more achievements were described by Ms. **JoAnn Urofsky**, VP, and General Manager. **President Judy Genshaft** offered a special toast at the brunch.



Early days at WUSF-FM

Faculty-Staff Fund Drive

A kick-off luncheon was held September 24th as a formal start to this year's annual drive to encourage faculty and staff to donate to funds that support students and staff members. Last year some 2,900 persons in the USF System were involved to give a record 42% participation.

For the third year in a row, over 90% of the chemistry faculty and staff members participated.

Campus mystery.

Arms of two faculty members with tattoos advertising national Public Radio:

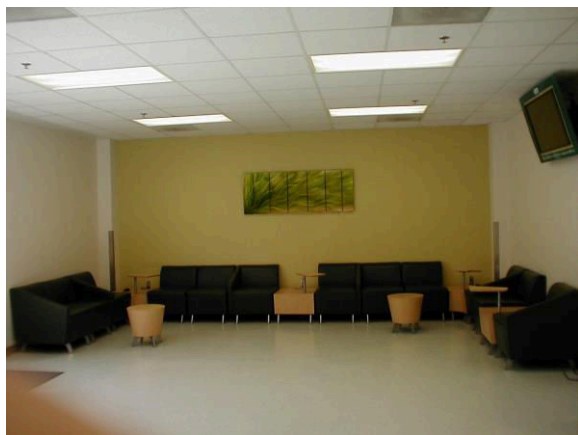


The tattoos last a week; the impact of their financial support is much longer.

SCA artwork

The lobby area of the Science Center (second floor) recently received a few enhancements. An accent wall was painted a shade of gold, and a metal art piece was installed on the wall to provide a pop of color and interest.

We are grateful for “administrative support”, skilled Physical Plant personnel, and Ms. **Sandy Lovins**, VP, Administrative Services.



Our in-house art critic pronounced it “stunning”.

Library Hours

“This August, when USF students returned to school, they got the news that the Library’s heavily-used 24-hour-a-day, 5-day-a-week operating schedule would cease as a result of funding cuts. The Library was slated to close at midnight and open at 7:30 am during the week. The news did not sit well with the thousands of students who rely on overnight hours to accomplish their schoolwork.”

“A Facebook group was begun to discuss strategies for getting those overnight hours back. Late-night sit-outs were planned so that students could show their support for the

Library hours while studying out in front of the building. “

“A letter-writing campaign to USF President **Judy Genshaft** was orchestrated. While USF administrators and Student Government worked toward a solution for keeping the Library open overnight during the current academic year, students of all stripes shared their passion for the USF. “

“Before long, a resolution was reached that allowed the USF Tampa Library to stay open during those cherished overnight hours.”

News and feedback

Chair’s Address:

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Web page:

<http://chemistry.usf.edu>

Webmaster: Mr. Brant Tudor



Mr. 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.

Acknowledgments:

We are grateful to those persons who have helped with this issue, including, Ms. **Cathy Coccia**, Mrs. **Barbara B. Martin**, Ms. **Adrienne McCain**, Ms. **Christina Nelson**, Dr. **Santiago Sandi-Urena**, Ms. **Eileen Thornton**, Ms. **Karla Willman**, Dr. **Richard Zare**.

We gratefully acknowledge the permission of Ms. **Eileen M. Thornton**, Asst. Director, Communications and Marketing USF Libraries, to abstract the story of USF student passion for the Library's 24/5 hours.