

From the past...

“We have an opportunity to start something new and great here.”

-Dr. **John S. Allen**, first USF President.
September, 1960

Art & Research + Chemistry

Mr. **Adrian Villalta-Cerdas**, a doctoral candidate, wrote “Undergraduate and graduate students were asked to submit an image and descriptive caption that conveys their research work in the Department of Chemistry at USF. The images and descriptions provided a way to see through the eyes and lenses of chemistry students what chemistry research means. “

Four chemistry students were honored in the Spring 2014 photo contest: **Solianna Herrera, Justin Moses, Alaa Hashim, and Alexander Schoedel**. Winners received

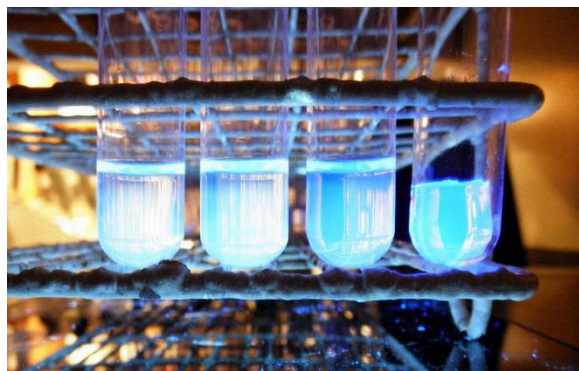


Photo credit: Solianna Herrera

Chemistry books, including one by Dr. **John Emsley**.

Congratulations to the winners! And kudos to Mr. **Villalta-Cerdas**, who coordinated the contest.

Pictures provided by the winners may be found throughout the newsletter.

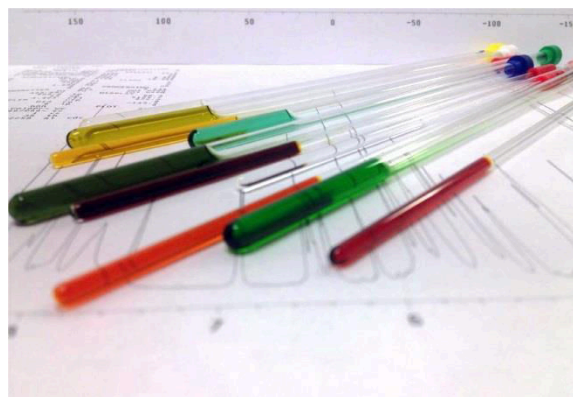


Photo credit: Alaa Hashim

Spring Graduates ***Masters***

(Graduate, degree, advisor):

Ms. **Kristin Costelow, MA**, Dr. **Bill Baker**

Mr. **Christopher Jones, MA**, Dr. **Mike Zaworotko, Dr. Ma**

Mr. **Jason Cruce MA**. Dr. **Bill Baker**;
Ms. **Josanne-Dee Woodroffe**, Dr. **Mark McLaughlin**

Mr. **Shi-Yuan Zhang, MS**, Dr. **Mike Zaworotko, Dr. Ma**

Doctorates

(Recipient, advisor)

Dr. Pankaj Jain (Dr. Jon Antilla)

Dr. Andrii Monastyrskyi (Dr. Manetsch)

Dr. Ranjani Muralidharan (Dr. Li)



Dr. Monastyrskyi



Dr. Muralidharan

Dr. Shruti Padhee (Dr. Cai)

Dr. Katherine Parra Pulido (Dr. Guida)



Dr. Padhee



Dr. Parra Pulido

Dr. Wenfeng Wang (Dr. Rudy Schlaf);



Dr. Wenfeng Wang

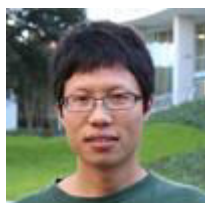


Dr. Schoedel

Dr. Alexander Schoedel, **Dr. Shi-Yuan Zhang**, and **Dr. Zhenjie Zhang** (advisors
Dr. Zaworotko, and **Dr. Shengqian Ma**).



Dr. Shi-Yuan Zhang



Dr. Zhenjie Zhang

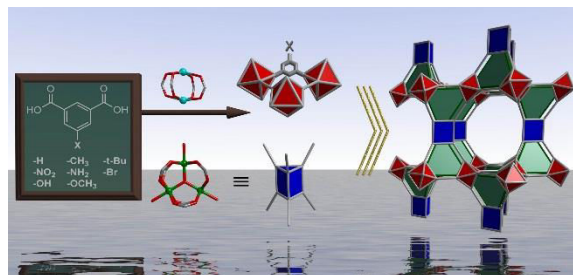


Photo credit: Alexander Schoedel

Chemistry Kudos

Goldwater Scholarship

Dr. **Randy Larsen** wrote that Ms. **Fiona Kearns** was awarded a prestigious *Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship* (one of three from USF). She is an undergraduate researcher in the laboratory of Dr. **H. Lee Woodcock** in the area of computational chemistry.

"The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship Program was created to encourage outstanding students to pursue careers in mathematics, the natural sciences, or engineering and to foster excellence in those fields. In awarding scholarships, the Foundation Board of Trustees will consider the nominee's field of study and career objectives and the extent to which that individual has the commitment and potential to make a significant contribution to his or her field."

The Goldwater Scholarship is given to 300 students nationwide each year, and covers expenses including tuition, fees, books, and room and board, up to a maximum of \$7,500 per year.

USF led all 12 universities in the State University Systems for the number of national student awards.

It should be noted that Provost Ralph **Wilcox** created an Office of National Scholarships directed by Dr. Linda Lucas. The office, which is housed in the Honors College, seeks to match national student awards with outstanding students.

Chemistry in Italy

Dr. **Ken Caswell** and Dr. **David Merkler**, professor of chemistry, received official notification that their “Science in Florence” program has been accepted. They will be teaching BCH 3053 (Introductory Biochemistry) and CHM 4070 (Historical Perspectives in Chemistry) in Florence, Italy in Summer B.



Dr. Merkler

Dr. **Merkler** said that he and Dr. **Caswell**, (former instructor in Chemistry) have already been approached by Dr. **Margit Grieb** (USF professor of German) to help put together a “Science in Germany” program for the summer 2015.

USF has had a long standing set of courses in Germany as part of the Study Abroad initiative and there has always been student interest in adding chemistry to the German program.

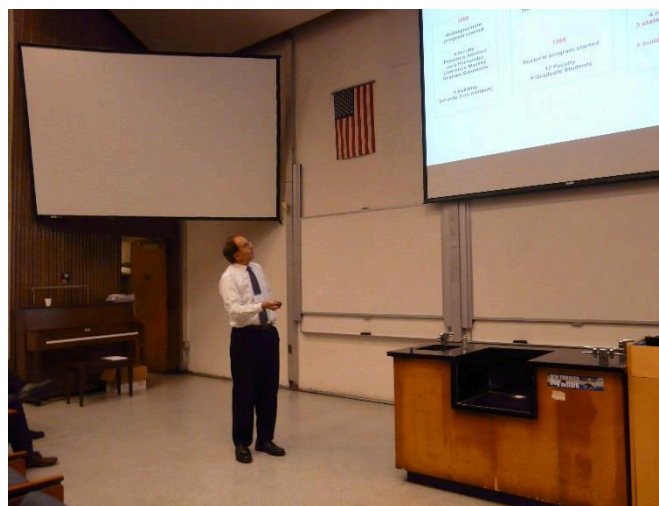
Castle Research Conference

The 12th Conference was held Saturday April 12th.

There was an increase in participation with 22 graduate student talks, 24 graduate student posters, and 58 undergraduate student posters. There were 175 in attendance.

Another noteworthy feature was the fine participation by students from UCF, UF, FIU, and USF colleges of Marine Science, Medicine, and Pharmacy, as well as chemist participants from the ACS Tampa Bay Section, James A. Haley Veteran’s Hospital, Moffitt Cancer Center, Florida Southern College, Saint Leo University, University of South Florida-St. Petersburg, and University of Tampa.

Dr. **Edward Turos** provided a much-appreciated background on the interests and personality of Dr. Castle in welcoming participants to the conference.



Dr. Ed Turos

The Plenary Speaker was Dr. **George Christou**, Russell Drago Chair of Chemistry and Distinguished Professor at the University of Florida.



Dr. Christou (second from right) with Organization team members

A lot of persons helped make it a true success:

Committee members: **Joseph Gill (Chair), Jennifer Borja, Cole Cerrato, Chris Cioce, Danielle Demers, Wenyang Gao, Jacqueline Fries, Parker Huhta, Yujuan Liu, Hasnaa Mouttaki, Sri Nimmagadda, Christie Tang, Justin White, Elizabeth Yancey.**

Faculty Advisor: Dr. **Laura Anderson** as well as the *Supporting Faculty:* Drs. **Kimberly Fields, Julio Garay, Vicky Lykourinou, Li-June Ming, Patricia Muisener, Santiago Sandi-Urena, and Edward Turos.**

Staff members who assisted included Mr. **Roberto Avergonzado**, Ms. **Debbie Gee**, Mrs. **Cheryl Graham**, Ms. **Christina Nelson**, Ms. **Kimberly Read**, and Ms. **Brenda Simmons.**

Web Support was provided by Mr. **Brant Tudor.**

Eleven sponsors contributed to the success of the conference.

Lunch was provided by the Tampa Bay Section of the American Chemical Society.

Much praise is due the 36 judges who were faced with significant challenges by the outstanding presentations.



Award recipients

Annual Awards

These awards are announced at the last seminar of the year. The awardees this year are:

George Bursa Award: Hasnaa Mouttaki

Theodore and Venette Askounes Ashford Doctoral Fellowship in Chemistry: Matthew Chrzanowski, Yaqiong Li, Jacqueline Fries

Barbara B. Martin Endowed Fellowship in Chemistry: Kristen Jeffries

Alexiou Award in Environmental Chemistry: Tony Pham

Martin Travel Awards: Danielle Demers, Kristin Jeffries, Yujuan Liu, Christopher Witowski

Information courtesy of Dr. **Ed Turos**, Chair of the Graduate Council, and Ms. **Adrienne McCain**, Graduate Secretary.



Recipients plus Dr. Turos (left), Ms. McCain and Dr. Martin (7th and 8th from left)

More about Chemistry...

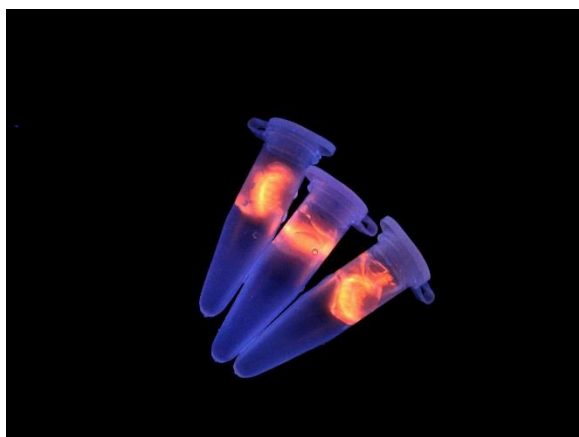


Photo credit Justin Moses

Council of Graduate Students

This group, formed this year, strives “to give voice to the interests of chemistry graduate students by representing the academic, social, and cultural aspects of the graduate school experience.” The Council “is attempting to bridge the student-faculty gap by providing a forum where discussion of relevant issues can occur.”



(From left) Elizabeth Yancey, Christopher Witowski, Matthew Knestrick, Jennifer Borja, Jhon Figueroa, Wenyang Gao, Hasnaa Mouttaki, Matthew Chrzanowski, Jacqueline Fries, Perry Mitchell, Joseph Gill

Further information may be found on our Web page under **Graduate**.

Members are to be commended on their initiative, as well as their obvious and important service functions in behalf of The Department.

Would you believe?

CHM. 3610 (Intermediate Inorganic Chemistry) used to fit in a two-door room, i.e., 50 seats. This semester, though, Dr. Randy Larsen taught the 120 student class in the Ashford lecture hall (CHE 100) which holds 202.

A picture of the room is presented as part of the visual tour on our web page.

Having 3000 chemistry majors makes a difference.

End of the term

Staff Appreciation Luncheon

A semi-annual luncheon, was held May 6th in appreciation of the hard work done by Staff members and to recognize their vital role in the operation of the department. Guests were given menus to *Chopstix*, a nearby Chinese restaurant, and the meals of their choice were delivered to the Chemistry conference room. About 15 Staff members were able to attend.



Appreciation is extended to **Ms. Linda Lowe**, who coordinated the event and arranged for delivery of the food. **Mr. Roberto Avergonzado** photographed the group and helped in other ways.



Ms. Lowe



Mr. Avergonzado

The luncheon was sponsored by a faculty couple.



Our Thanks to Ms. **Kimberly Read** for her creative announcement of a social event of faculty, staff, and graduate students following the last Faculty meeting of the year.

Ms. **Cheryl Graham** coordinated food donations. Staff members, including Mr. **Avergonzado**, Ms. **Lowe**, Ms. **Debby Gee** Ms. **Adrienne McCain**, Ms. **Christina Nelson**, Ms. **Kimberly Read**, and Ms. **Samantha Santos-DaSilva**, managed to move food from Chemistry reception to NES 3rd floor, despite construction on the ground floor.

News and updates re: Persons you may know

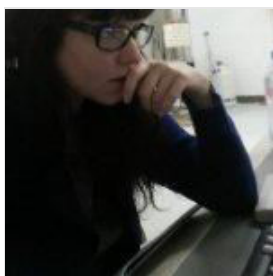
Michelle Cortes-Salva (Ph.D. '11) is a IRTA postdoctoral fellow at the National Institute of Mental Health at Bethesda, MD

At a recent manual meeting of the Florida Academy of Sciences **Melissa Derby** (B.A. '95 and Ph.D.'02) was present. She continues to serve as a professor for Kaplan, but she is also working toward a master's degree in Industrial Design.

Saw Dr. **Leon Mandell** (Dean, 1984-90; Faculty, 1984- 00) and his wife, Dr. **Sara Mandell**, at the Trailblazer dinner April 10th.

Jaime Noguez (Ph.D. 2010) is an Asst. Director of Clinical Chemistry Case Medical Center and Asst. Prof., Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Dr. **Bill Baker** was her doctoral mentor.

Lauren O'Donnell (B.A. '09) is a graduate research assistant in chemistry at the University of Miami.



Ms. O'Donnell

Alexander Schoedel (Ph.D.'14) will be a post-doctoral associate working with Prof. **Omar Yaghi** at UC-Berkeley.

We also visited with **Jerome Williams** (B.S. '88, Ph.D. '97), associate professor at Saint Leo University, where the enrollment in chemistry has quadrupled since he joined the faculty.

Saw Dr. **Mike Zaworotko**, now on the faculty of Limerick University, when he attended graduate commencement the evening of May 3rd for the hooding of two of his doctoral advisees.

Zhenjie Zhang (Ph.D. '14) is a postdoctoral associate with Prof. **Seth Cohen** at UC-San Diego.

OBITUARY

Dr. Jesse Stone Binford, Jr., 85, died at his home in Austin, Texas on March 27, 2014, having been preceded in death on February 6, 2014 by Lolita Binford, his beloved wife of 58 years.

He was a faculty member in chemistry 1961-2003, retiring as a professor emeritus.



Dr. Binford in early 1990s

He was educated at Rice (BA 1950; M.A., 1952) and Utah (Ph.D., 1955) where his mentor was Dr. Henry Eyring, noted physical chemist. Dr. Binford was a faculty member at the University of Texas and College of the Pacific before joining USF in the second year of operation.

Jesse was dedicated to the three faculty functions of teaching, research, and service. He was an outstanding teacher at both the general chemistry level and in teaching thermodynamics. His contributions in demonstrations remain with us as CDs. He coordinated the general chemistry program for several years. And he arranged for the excellent periodic table in 100 CHE (and may be seen on the virtual tour of our web page). His research in microcalorimetry was noteworthy for its usefulness and uniqueness.

He served on a variety of committees in chemistry, in the college, and in the faculty

senate. His impact was felt off-campus as well in his church-related activities that included visiting African-American homes and reading to children in homes where this was not being done.

Jesse was noted for his cycling enthusiasm. He rode from his home to campus (and back) every day. He was a pioneer in this respect, even before there were bicycle racks, and once received a ticket for parking his bicycle in his laboratory (See *History*, chapter 6). He served as faculty advisor to the USF Bicycle Club, and led President Castor (a weekend, on-campus cyclist) and others the ten miles to a Tampa city council meeting to show the need for bicycle lanes that were slowly added.

We mourn his loss, but we can be grateful for his presence in our lives.

Across Campus...

Thanks Ms. Willman

Our thanks to Ms. **Karla Willman** (USF Assistant Director for Administrative Services) for arranging three monthly Jazz & lunch gatherings. Good food, good jazz, good fellowship (and at an improved location at Collins Park just behind the Library).

JAZZ & LUNCH SERIES
AT THE WEST POND PAVILLION

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
January 23
February 20
March 20
April 17

Join us for the 2014 Jazz & Lunch Series at the West Pond Pavilion – located on the west side of campus in the College of The Arts district.

Student jazz musicians from the USF School of Music will be providing entertainment, with different groups playing each month.

Enjoy great music and lunch (four delicious offerings), plus your choice of chips and beverage for only \$6. Or bring your lunch – beverages available for purchase. Cash and credit cards accepted.

We hope you will join us for great company, music, food and environment. All faculty, staff and students are welcome!

**In the event of rain, an alternative date will be communicated prior to each date.*

MUSIC PROVIDED BY
JAZZ BANDS FROM THE
SCHOOL OF MUSIC,
COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Women's Soccer

It was a both a personal and professional pleasure to learn that in addition to having one of its best seasons on the field this year, the women's soccer team earned the NCAA Team Academic Award.

“The team excelled in the classroom, posting a collective GPA of 3.20 that was well over the required minimum of 3.0 needed to be eligible.”

Ms. **Denise Schilte-Brown** is the team's coach.

Commencement

The 102nd Commencement Convocations were held Friday May 2 and Saturday May 3rd. A total of 6431 degrees were conferred in the USF System of three locations.

On the Tampa campus, five ceremonies were held to accommodate 5547 degrees (4213 bachelors, 1140 masters, and 194 doctoral). Each ceremony was expected to have between 800+ and 950+ graduates, according to Commencement Coordinator, Ms. **Entela Balliu**.

A significant difference this year was a ban on students taking “selfies” and/or performing fraternity dances as they walked across the platform to shake hands with President **Judy Genshaft**. She, by the way, has had a policy of stopping to have her picture taken with students. But “selfies” can seriously delay other students, according to the dean for students.

News and feedback

What did they do later?

For over 15 years, we have been trying to keep track of our chemistry alumni in what we call the “Tracking Project,” and the results may be found on our web page. Look for “Directory” and find either “Graduate Alumni” or “Undergraduate Alumni.” It is far from complete, but we lack the necessary resources to be as good as we would like to be. We value the help of loyal alumni in bringing us up to date

Acknowledgments

Plaza information from the *Tampa Tribune* April 20, 2014. Also, commencement information from Ms **Entela Balliu**. Castle conference info from Dr. **Laura Anderson**. Photographs courtesy of Ms. **Aleksandra Karolak**. Ms. **Karla Willman** provided helpful copy and the conception plan for *The Plaza*. Mrs. **Barbara B. Martin** proofread copy.

Chair’s Address:

Dr. Randy Larsen
Department of Chemistry-CHE 205
University of South Florida
4202 East Fowler Avenue
Tampa, FL 33620-5205
rlarsen@usf.edu



Dr. Larsen

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 on Facebook.