

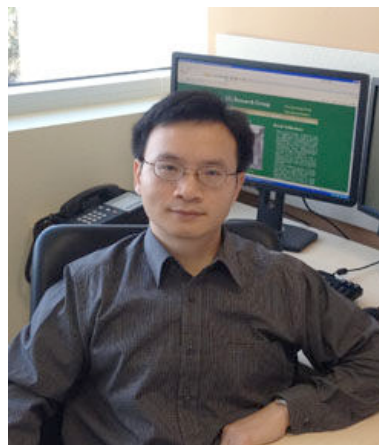
Good news for Chemistry

Dr. **Randy Larsen** announced that Dean **Eric Eisenberg** granted permission for Chemistry to initiate a search for four new faculty members in **Porous Materials** (associate or full professor level), **Medicinal Chemistry** (associate professor) **Analytical or Bioanalytical** (assistant professor), as well as **Materials** (bio -materials, catalysis, etc. at the assistant professor level). Search committees have been appointed for each area, and the appropriate advertising steps were taken. We are grateful for the support of Provost **Ralph Wilcox**.

More good news for Chemistry

Faculty Awards -I

Dr. **Randy Larsen** announced “ Dr. **Shengqian Ma** has been notified that his Department of Energy Research and Development award is to be funded! The project is being supported through the Nuclear Energy University Program. The project is entitled '*Functionalized Porous Organic Polymers as Uranium Nano-Traps for Efficient Recovery of Uranium from Seawater*' and is funded at \$399K over three years.”



“This work highlights the outstanding research taking place within the Department of Chemistry and SNSM! It is very exciting to see the high levels of research being produced by our young faculty as well as our senior colleagues!”

Faculty Recognition

From FLORIDA’s BioPulse (August 18th) a list of “cutting edge” scientists who have the most influence on their fields includes 15 researchers in Florida.” “One of the 15 named was **Shengqian Ma, Ph.D.**, a USF assistant professor of chemistry, who studies the potential use of nanoscopic spaces in porous materials for a host of applications in energy and the environment, including removing contaminants from water and air. He is originally from China.”

WOW

Chemistry Academic Advisors hosted a WOW (Week of Welcome) event on Wednesday August 27th in the CHE

Breezeway (aka The Plaza). They handed out bottled water and candy to students

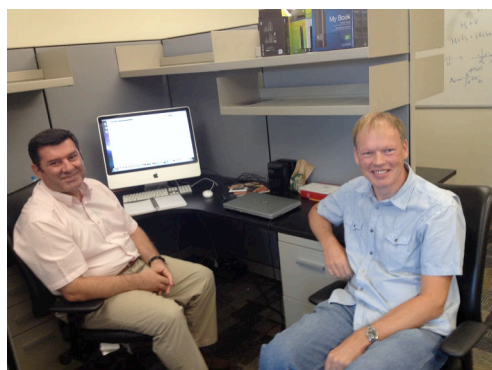


Anthony Iannelli, Kelly Pearson(leader), Lauren Albaum, Ashley Dees, Kristi Kirby

while marketing the research experience for undergraduates (REU) program and also answering questions about chemistry degrees.

Visiting Faculty member

Dr. **Hiqmet Kamberaj** is working on a collaborative project in Dr. **Arjan van der**



Dr. Hiqmet Kamberaj and Dr. van der Vaart
(Photo courtesy Ms. Aleksandra Karolak)

Vaart's laboratory. Dr. Kamberaj is an associate professor in the Faculty of Engineering of the International Balkan University at Skopje, Macedonia.

He is an expert in computational physics/chemistry and developing new enhanced sampling and analysis methods.

He also worked as a post-doctoral fellow in Dr. van der Vaart's laboratory at Arizona State University before Dr. **van der Vaart** (associate professor of chemistry) joined USF.

Chemistry in Florence

Dr. **David J. Merkler**, professor of chemistry, successfully spent Summer term B associated with his "Science in Florence" program, a program put together in collaboration with Dr. **K. Kenneth Caswell** (USF-Sarasota Manatee) and two colleagues at USF World, **James Pulos** (Associate Director of Education Abroad) and **Amanda Maurer** (Director of Education Abroad). Drs. Merkler and Caswell team-taught two courses in Florence, Italy: BCH 3053 (Introductory Biochemistry) to 13 students and CHM 4070 (Historical Perspectives in Chemistry) to 8 students.

The courses were taught in a modern classroom, the Michelangelo room in the Palazzo Doni (Via Magliabecchi, 1), space provided by the Florence University of Arts (FUA). The classroom was located in historic old-town Florence, 1 block north of the Arno River. For those familiar with Florence, their classroom was about a 10 minute walk southeast of the Ponte Vecchio.

Dr. Merkler indicated that the experience was grand in every way: a small group of interested and engaged students, opportunities to work one-on-one with all the students, great support from FUA staff, scheduled weekend trips to Venice and Rome, opportunities to interact with colleagues at the University of Florence (Dr.

Claudiu Supuran) and the Endocannabinoid Research Group in Naples (Dr. **Vincenzo DiMarzo**), and living for 6 weeks in historic Florence.

Anyone interested in being involved with USF World and the Study Abroad Program should contact Dr. Merkler.



Dr. Merkler

Student Government Award

Ms. Jennifer Borja, graduate student in Chemistry received a \$500 travel award from the USF Student Government



Ms. Jennifer Borja

Conference Presentation Grant Program. It will enable her to attend and present at SERMACS in Nashville.

Council of Graduate Students activities

- **Welcome gathering**

The Council sponsored a welcome gathering for new graduate students, faculty, and staff in the Marshall Center on August 21st.

- **Seminar coffee**

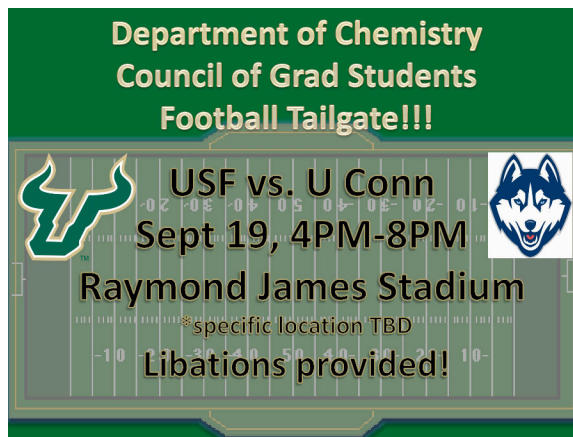
Give a round of applause for the Council members (persons for others) who arrive early and prepare coffee for Thursday morning seminar attendees.



Photo courtesy Ms. Jacqueline Fries

- **Tailgate activities**

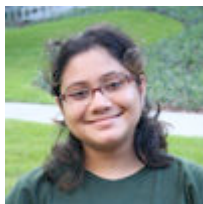
Academe is at a time when many athletic programs are noting a serious reduction of student attendance at athletic events, even during winning seasons.



The Council is trying to help make a difference with this notice to students, staff, and faculty.

- **The travel project**

Council members decided to have a fund-raising to assist a graduate student’s travel to a scientific meeting. It was announced at seminar (September 25th) that Council members raised \$300 which will support the attendance of **Sreya Mukherjee** at the SERMACS meeting in Nashville where she will present a paper.



Ms. Mukherjee

The Plaza Dedication

A plaza in the breezeway area of the Chemistry building on the USF Tampa Campus was created in recognition of the USF Lakeland Campus that was closed in 2012. "The Plaza," as it is called, is another great outdoor space for students, faculty and staff to "hang out."

Funded by the USF Lakeland Student Government, The Plaza recognizes the important contributions USF Lakeland made to the USF System. It provides the USF Lakeland graduates a place on the Tampa Campus that they can return to and remember their time at the University.

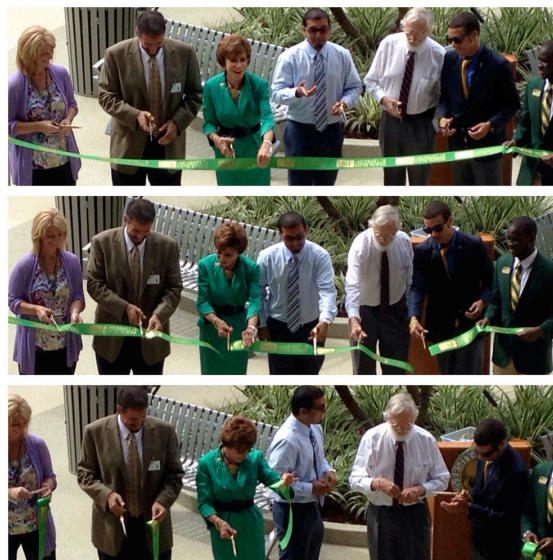
The vibrant outdoor destination features new benches, tables with cheerful umbrellas (in USF green and gold), bright planters containing beautiful flowers, new landscaping, a cool "living room" area, and a lighted digital display with rotating "USF Spirit" messages that appear on the east side of the elevator wall. Colored concrete and

pavers add interest and another pop of color to the space.



A "living room" area

Below are ribbon-cutting photos taken at the dedication of The Plaza on September 16th.



Ribbon cutting by (l to right) Ms. Sandy Loving (VP Administrative Services), Mr. Michael Ballaster (a USF architect), USF System President Judy Genshaft, Mr. Abdool Aziz (VP Senate), anonymous *News* editor, Mr. Jean Cocco (Student Body President), and Mr. Keiva Yearwood (a USF Ambassador). Photos courtesy Ms. Adrienne McCann.

The history of the development of The Plaza was given by several speakers, including USF System President Judy Genshaft, who

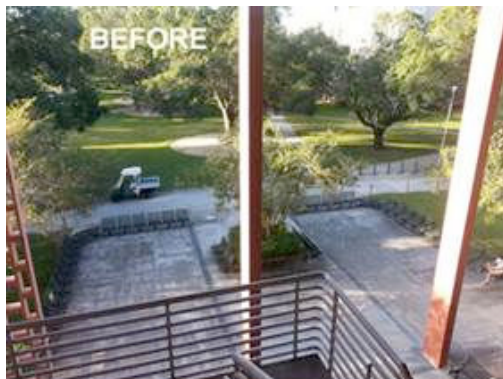
noted that 6,000 USF Lakeland students received USF degrees in a 10-year period.

An essentially helpful feature includes the addition of two Solar Dok tables with umbrellas. These tables provide electricity "off the grid" day or night with outlets for using or charging cell phones, laptops, and tablet computers.



East Solar Power- Dok

Please note the before and after contrast!



Kudos to those associated with the long-term planning and execution of the project. They include Ms. **Sandy Lovins**, Vice President, Administrative Services, Ms. **Karla Willman**, Director, Administrative Services, as well as Mr. **Michael Ballester**, Architect/Project Manager, and Ms. **Sarah Baynard**, Manager, Physical Plant, the 25th Lakeland Student Council Administration,

and the current USF Tampa Student Government Administration.



Persons you may know

Wen-Shan (Vanessa) Chang (M.S. '10) visited September 17th, coming from Taiwan where she is employed by Nafertine Biotechnology Co, Ltd, located in Fengyuan, near Tichung, Taiwan. She serves as the firm's representative for its emerging nano-fertilizer products.



Ms.Chang with advisor and Mrs. Barbara Martin

Saw Dr. **Leon Mandell** (Dean, 1984-90; Faculty, 1984- 00) and his wife, Dr. **Sara Mandell**, at the Trailblazer dinner September 18th.

Mr. **Neel Nabar** (B.A. '12), an Honors College graduate, did his honors thesis in chemistry. He is now a medical student at Thomas Jefferson University Medical

College, and is on leave at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, in the Laboratory of Immunoregulation working under Dr. **Anthony Fauci**,

Good to hear from Dr. **W. Karl Olander** (M.S. '68), retired co-founder of ATMI and key developer of new business ventures.

Anil Kumar Patri (Ph.D.'99) having served as Deputy Director and Principal Scientist of the Nanotechnology Characterization Laboratory at the National Cancer Institute for a decade is now on the regulatory side of matters as Director, NanoCore, at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.



Dr. Patri

More Meetings

South America

The ACS sent Dr. **Santiago Sandi-Urea** to the Latin American Chemistry Congress visiting Santiago, Chile and Lima, Peru as part of the trip (October 13-17). He also co-organized an International Symposium on Chemical Education Research as part of this Congress. He also managed to find funds to take eight American undergrads who assisted at the Chemistry Festival on October 14th in Peru. This outreach event targets K-12 kids. Dr. Sandi-Urea noted that one of the eight was USF student, Mr.

Carlos Romero, who attended the Festival and the Congress and also presented a poster on his REU work.



Dr. Sandi-Urea

In Memoriam

We were saddened to learn that **Anthony J. Girgenti**, 76 (M.S. '68; Ph.D.'72) died on October 18, 2014. He had been certified by the American Board of Clinical Chemistry and has served as a clinical chemist at St Joseph Hospital (Tampa) for 35 years, where he was loved and respected by co-workers. His generosity to many causes, including the Department of Chemistry, was typical of him.

Library changes...

Some 18,000 students a day spend time in the library. 300 more seats were provided for those who need to study and collaborate. The Tampa campus library was at 120% of capacity, so one could see students sitting on the floor, especially on the second floor.

“The USF Tampa Library has a new first floor! Not just cosmetic, the renovations add a substantial number of seats in students’ favorite study spots, tons of new outlets and open-use student computers as well as an all-new Digital Media Commons

where students can use multimedia-equipped workstations to create videos, brochures, or websites for their class assignments.” --- Library blog



Library services desk

At the Grand Opening, held August 27th, guests included USF System President **Judy Genshaft**, Provost **Ralph Wilcox**, and Student Body President Mr. **Jean Cocco**.



Digital media commons desk

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

Needed a book while the third floor was under renovation last summer? An e-mail to the Library's Web page would have saved possible injury 'cause the desired book was retrieved and delivered to the check-out desk.

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

Need tutoring? The Provost has strongly supported the SMART Center on the second floor that is well designed to enhance learning success by students.

Faculty-Staff Fund Drive

The 40th annual fund drive was formally started September 30 in the Marshall Center with a highly creative pseudo-Hollywood Awards presentation. “Best Supporting Actor Award” for extended service as an area representative went to the longest serving faculty member in Chemistry and the **anonymous editor**.



President Genshaft, editor, Barbara Martin, Rocky
Photo courtesy Aimee Bloggett

This is the start of his fifth year and past service was characterized by Chemistry's per cent participation typically in the 90s, a measure of the dedication of the outstanding staff and faculty of our outstanding Department.

News and feedback

Chair's Address:

Dr. Randy Larsen
Department of Chemistry-CHE 205

University of South Florida
4202 East Fowler Avenue
Tampa, FL 33620-5205
rlarsen@cas.usf.edu

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

This is the 48th issue that has benefitted from Mrs. **Barbara Martin**'s proof-reading. Our thanks to Ms. **Eileen Thornton**, USF Tampa Campus Library for helpful information about library enhancements. Ms. **Karla Willman** provided helpful copy and "before and after" photos of The Plaza.