

By the way

The size of the Autumn issue [12(4)] got to be so large that it was taking time to be sent through the Internet, so it was closed early and some autumn events are included in this issue.

Good news for Chemistry

Faculty recognition –Dr. Ma

Dr. **Randy Larsen** announced that Dr. **Shengqian Ma** had a manuscript appear in the prestigious *Nature Communications*! His article entitled "Mercury nano-trap for effective and efficient removal of mercury(II) from aqueous solution" with coauthors **Baiyan Li**, **Yiming Zhang**, **Dingxuan Ma**, and **Zhan Shi** appeared in the November 20th issue.

"The work demonstrates unprecedented mercury uptake from aqueous solutions and is a landmark study in the use of porous materials for the sequestration of environmental toxins from the environment," wrote Dr. **Larsen**.

Faculty recognition --- Dr. Baker

Prof. **Bill Baker** was named an AAAS Fellow and was cited for his distinguished contributions to the field of natural products chemistry, particularly for studies of the chemical ecology of Antarctic ecosystems

and discovery of new chemical entities for the treatment of human disease.

He is the fourth USF chemist to be named an AAAS Fellow.

Staff recognition - Dr. Nelson

We're certain Dr. **Randy Larsen** especially enjoyed making this special announcement (December 2).

"As you may or may not know many of our senior staff members are enrolled in doctoral programs in Education/Academic Administration (**Kim Read**, **Debbie Gee**, and **Christina Nelson**). This exemplifies the professionalism and motivation of our departmental staff and is one of the many contributors to the success of our program."



Dr. Nelson

"I am honored to report that our own Christina Nelson [academic services administrator] successfully defended her doctoral dissertation entitled "Relationship

between First-Generation College Students' Expectations for Experiences with Faculty and Student Success after the First Year" within the Curriculum and Instruction program with emphasis in Higher Education Administration."

Faculty recognition - journal cover

Dr. Larsen called attention to a cover of *Journal of Computational Chemistry* (2014 32, 2297-2004) featuring an article by Dr. **Arjan van der Vaart** and his graduate advisee, Ms. **Aleksandra Karolak** [Pictured below with copy of cover] that is concerned with computational studies of DNA flexibility using a new "coarse grained approach." It is thought that the efforts described "should lead to faster and more robust computational modeling of DNA and DNA-protein interactions."

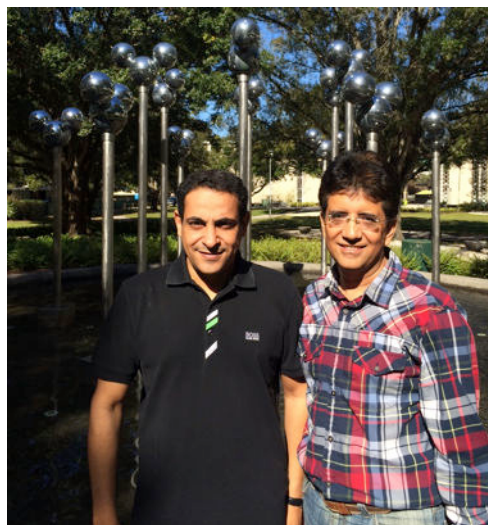


Dr. van der Vaart, Ms. Karolak (Photo courtesy of Ms. Karolak)

Faculty recognition – sabbatical visitor

Talal F. Al-Azemi (Ph.D. '02) is currently on a sabbatical leave working with his doctoral supervisor, Dr. **Kirpal Bisht**, in his laboratories for the academic year 2014-15.

Dr. **Al-Azemi** is currently an associate professor of organic chemistry at the Kuwait University, Kuwait. He served as the director of the Consultations and Training Office (CTO) at Kuwait University from 2012-2014. He is a member of the Kuwait Chemical Society, the advisory committee for the *Journal of Kuwait Chemical Society*, the American Chemical Society, and the Academy of Science for the Developing World (TWAS).



Dr. Al-Azemi and Dr. Bisht

His research interests include (1) synthesis of environmentally friendly biodegradable polymers, (2) Design and synthesis of new polymeric materials for industrial, agricultural, and medical applications; and (3) synthesis of well-defined supramolecular artificial receptors.

Faculty recognition --- new funding

Dr. **Randy Larsen** announced (January 5) that Dr. **David Merkler** (professor of chemistry) has been awarded an NIH R15 Award entitled "Subtraction Lipidomics". The project is funded at the level of \$230,129 Direct Costs or over \$320K Total Costs over two years.

Faculty recognition- Election-I

Dr. **Kimberly Fields** was elected Chair of the Tampa Bay Section, ACS

Dr. Fields received her B.S. in chemistry from University of Central Florida and her Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of South Florida. After teaching at Polk State College and Florida Southern College, she returned to the University of South Florida in 2011 as a chemistry instructor.



Dr. Fields

She has been a member of ACS for 10 years and is an active co-adviser for the Chemistry Society, which is the ACS student-affiliate group at USF. She enthusiastically participates and helps to organize various service and STEM outreach events like National Chemistry Week, Earthday, Science for Every Student, MOSI events, and the Great American Teach-In.

She also does hands-on food chemistry experiments to stimulate interest in the sciences with majors and non-majors as a Housing and Residential Education Faculty Fellow at USF.

She actively served the local ACS chapter in 2014 both as secretary and as a co-organizer of the spring awards banquet. As chair, she looks forward to continuing to invigorate the local section, make connections between academia and industry, promote excellence

in chemistry education, and promote a positive image of chemistry to the Tampa-Bay region.

Faculty recognition- Election-II

Dr. **Jennifer Lewis**, was elected Chair-Elect of the Tampa Bay Section, ACS. Dr. Lewis, a chemistry faculty member since 2001 is professor of chemistry and associate chair.

She has been active in the ACS Division of Chemical Education, having served as a member of the Executive committee, chair of the New Member Committee, and several other committees.



Dr. Lewis

Dr. Lewis said that she is looking forward to taking an active role in planning activities that will continue to build interest in chemistry and in the local section.

Advanced degree recipients

Recipients of advanced degrees in chemistry completed in time for the December 2014 commencement are listed below with the names of their advisors (in parentheses).

Sameh Elsaidi, Ph.D. (Dr. **Zaworotko**/ Co-major professor Dr. **Brian Space**).

Todd Gatlin, Ph.D. (Dr. **Sandi-Urena**).



Dr. Elsaidi



Dr. Gatlin

Joseph Gill, Ph.D. (Dr. Peter Zhang)
Alaa Hashim, Ph.D. (Dr. Li-June Ming)



Dr. Joseph Gill



Dr. Alaa Hashim

Michael McLean, M.S. (Dr. Abdul Malik)
Mona Mohamad Ph.D. (Dr. Zaworotko/
Co-major professor Dr. Brian Space).



Mr. Michael McLean



Dr. Mohammad

Xiaoying Xu, Ph.D., (Dr. Jennifer Lewis)



Dr. Xu

Faculty/Staff Recognition

Faculty Honors and Awards Reception

Ms. Kristi Kirby (Chemistry advising cadre) was the recipient of an Outstanding Undergraduate Advising Award at the November 17th reception. She is a senior academic advisor and an Academic Foundations instructor.



President Genshaft, Ms. Kirby, Provost Wilcox
Photo courtesy Ms. Aimee Blodgett

Around the Plaza

Furniture in place



Living room furniture in place

In case you wondered why the light-weight plastic furniture stays in place, our roving reporter has the answer. He saw Physical Plant men with the furniture upside down, pull a plug, and pour bags of sand inside. The furniture is solidly in place.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon

The Thursday before Thanksgiving our

staff appreciation luncheon was held in the Chemistry conference room. This semi-annual event had food ordered by guests



Some staff members and hosts
Photo courtesy Mr. Roberto Avergonzado

from a menu of a local Chinese restaurant, then delivered to CHE 205. The faculty couple, who were hosts, were grateful to Ms. **Linda Lowe** for coordinating the event.

Travel Awards

The Graduate Council voted to award four of our students Martin Travel Awards this time in order to attend the spring national ACS Meeting in Denver: **Jennifer Borja**, **Yaqiong Li**, **Hasnaa Mouttaki**, and **Haifan Wu**.

Mr. Wu was away. Ms. **Adrienne McCain** is the graduate secretary, Dr. **Ed Turos**, professor of chemistry, serves as chair of the Graduate Council, whose members selected the recipients.



Ms. Li, Ms. McCain, Dr. Turos, one of the donors, Ms. Mouttaki, and Ms. Borja [Photo: Ms. McCann]

WOW

Chemistry Academic Advisors hosted a WOW (Week of Welcome) event on 7th, January 2015 in The Plaza. They handed out hot chocolate or tea and cookies to students



Arial view of students and advisors
[Photo: Dr. Christina Nelson]

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

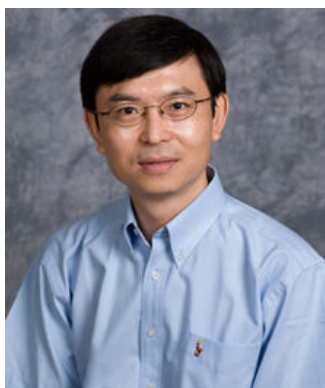


Advisors on a cool day: Kelly Pearson, Anthony Iannelli, Kristi Kirby, Ashley Dees, and Laura Albaum [Photo credit:Dr. Nelson]

Faculty travels

Dr. Peter Zhang

Dr. Zhang (professor of chemistry) was invited to attend the Symposium of Chiral China 2014 in Hefei, China between September 28 and October 1, 2014. He delivered a plenary lecture entitled “Metalloradical Catalysis for Asymmetric Organic Synthesis”.



Professor Zhang

Dr. Bill Baker

Dr. Baker, professor of chemistry, is spending a year on leave at the National University of Ireland Galway, in the

beautiful old city of Galway. He returns for short visits associated with CDDI activities.

Council of Graduate Students activities

Now we are 50

Members of the Council, having read our Department History realized that the Department was formally created in the fall of 1964, having been a *program* previously arranged for commemorative tee shirts. They include the message “Chemistry, Est. 1964” on front

On the back is the name STANNUM (aka. tin) and below the number 50, which is both the number of the anniversary and atomic number of tin.



Wearing the new tee shirts are Mr. John Dillashaw (L) and Ms. Elizabeth Yancey (R). Mr. Garrett Craft is in the middle.

The picture shows three Council members who participated in a chili cook-off on November 12th.

Student Support

The Council provided an additional \$75 to each student who received a Martin Travel Award to defray cost of attending the Spring meeting of the American Chemical Society in Denver.

Special Recognition

Kudos to Organic TAs

A special thanks to Organic Chemistry Teaching Assistants, **Jeanine Yacoub, Linda Barbeta, Lucas Parvin, and Faez Mahzamani** who have been helping in the USF Academic Success Center tutoring organic undergrads. They have been noted as doing a great job communicating in a friendly and approachable manner as well as being extremely knowledgeable about organic chemistry. Kudos to all of them for doing a great job this term and contributing to the success of our undergraduate students.

USF Orientation Partner Award

Undergraduate Advisor, **Anthony Iannelli** was presented with the "Partner Award" for meeting and exceeding all standards from USF Orientation. Our thanks to him for representing our Department in such a positive way.



Mr. Iannelli

Persons you may know

Ms. **C. Natasha Dorman** joined our Undergraduate Chemistry Advising Team on December 16th. We are happy that she has joined the Department.

Maria Gallardo-Williams (Ph.D. '99) Teaching assistant professor and Director of undergraduate organic Laboratories at North Carolina State, planned to stop by for coffee accompanied by her two sons on her way to celebrate Thanksgiving with her parents- in-law. Unfortunately, her flight was seriously delayed, and we missed what would have been a welcome reunion

We saw Dr. **Leon Mandell** and Dr. **Sara Mandell** at the Trail Blazer dinner and program November 13th.

Charles Norris (Ph.D.'95), assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Findlay updated us on his professional activities and goals recently.

Duke D. Pooré, Major. U.S. Army (Ph.D. '96) received his second Army Commendation Medal. This one for "meritorious service while serving as Deputy Commander, Forensic Toxicology Drug Testing Laboratory, Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii."

He was specifically cited for "providing exemplary support as an expert witness in over twenty-five disciplinary hearings and through leading cost-savings, process improvement initiatives within the unit."

At present he is stationed at Fort Meade (MD) in the Forensic Toxicology Drug Testing Laboratory as Deputy Commander.

Dr. **Stewart Schneller** (Faculty, 1971-94; Chair, 1986-94), former Dean of Sciences and Mathematics at Auburn University and now professor of chemistry & biochemistry was pictured with his students in an advertisement sponsored by Auburn appearing in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Adrian Villalta-Cerdas (Ph.D. '14) a faculty member at Cal. State-Bakersfield finished his first quarter as a faculty member, took the time to make a much-appreciated donation to Chemistry and make a touching dedication to a faculty member.

Campus changes...

Student memorial

The new Student Memorial on Crescent Hill was unveiled on Monday, November 10th. It features a fountain, reflecting pool, and black granite wall that honors those who died during the time they were enrolled at USF. Also engraved are the names of those students and alumni who died while serving in the military.



Photo courtesy Ms. Aimee Blodgett

Those cutting the ribbon at the dedication included President **Judy Genshaft**, Student Body President **Jean Cocco**, and others

involved in the planning and creation of the memorial.



Photo courtesy Ms. Aimee Blodgett

Fall commencement

The 104th commencement convocations for the USF System were held December 12,13,14 with 4,700 graduates representing 47 states and 90 nations and leading to 274,000 alumni.

Winter Courses

USF launched its new fully online Winter Session. The courses ran December 15, 2014 and ended January 2, 2015.

Cindy DeLuca assistant vice provost at USF Innovative Education noted “These online courses can help students increase or reduce their course loads, complete a pre-requisite, or elective requirement, or even explore new interests.”

She also noted that USF is the first state university in Florida to offer a fully online Winter Session option for students.

Now you see it, now you don't

One of the older buildings on campus, the two-story Life Sciences was scheduled to be demolished and to be replaced with a much taller building using the same "footprint".



Before in preparation for demolition (Dec.27, 2014)

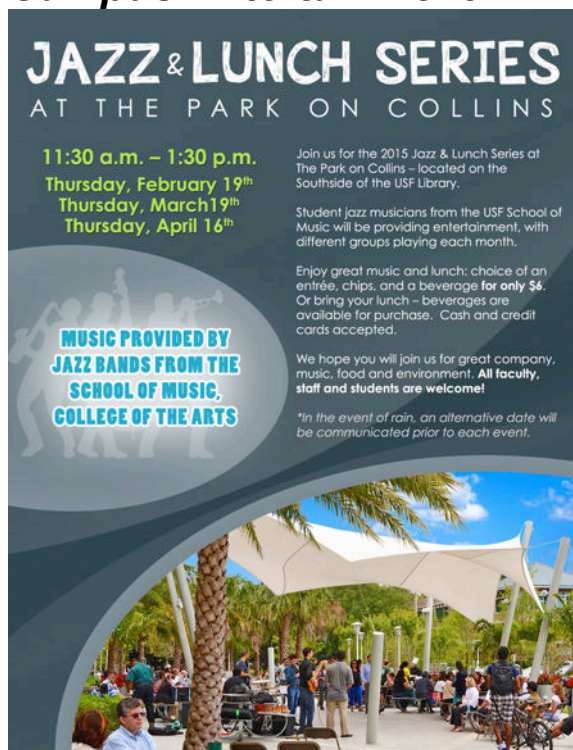
Info seen at the Rec Center

The *USF Cricket Club*, founded in 2008, was named Club of the Month in December.

The Club was named National champions in 2014 by American College Cricket.

We were reminded that cricket is the world's second most popular sport (after soccer).

Campus Entertainment



JAZZ & LUNCH SERIES
AT THE PARK ON COLLINS

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Thursday, February 19th
Thursday, March 19th
Thursday, April 16th

Join us for the 2015 Jazz & Lunch Series at The Park on Collins – located on the Southside of the USF Library.

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

Enjoy great music and lunch: choice of an entrée, chips, and a beverage for only \$6. Or bring your lunch – beverages are 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 event.*

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

Food for the soul, food for the body. Our thanks to Ms. **Karla Willman**, assistant director, Administrative Services.

Donors

The following is a list of those who made gifts to the Department of Chemistry, July 1-December 30, 2014, as obtained from the College of Arts and Sciences Office of Development.

We are grateful for the special support of the alumni, faculty, friends, staff, and corporate and foundation donors listed here

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Medical Center downtown

If approved by the Florida Board of Governors, USF plans to co-locate the Morsani College of Medicine and the USF Heart Institute to a one-acre plot generously provided by Mr. Jeff Vinik (Tampa Bay Lightning owner).

This would place faculty, students, and researchers in close proximity to Tampa General Hospital, which is used as USF's teaching hospital, as well as a short walk to USF's Center for Advanced Medical Learning and Simulation (CAMLs).

[Taken from an article written by President Genshaft and published in the Views section of the Tampa *Tribune*, December 14th, 2014]

Abbreviations

ACS, American Chemical Society
CDDI, Center for Drug Design and
Innovation, a Florida Center of Excellence

News and feedback

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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 with the Facebook.

Acknowledgments

We thank Ms. **Aimee Blodgett** for helpful photographs. Thanks to Ms. **Adrienne McCain** for keeping track of graduate student progress. We thank Ms. **Ann Serota**, Development Office assistant, for providing the names of the helpful donors. Thanks to Dr. **Christine Nelson** for helpful news items. This is the 49th issue that has benefitted from **Mrs. Barbara Martin's** proof-reading.