

More about Chemistry...

Grants of interest -I

Dr. **Peter Zhang** was awarded an NSF grant in Chemical Catalysis. The title of the project is '*Metalloradical Catalysis for Stereoselective Radical Reactions*' and is funded at \$420K over three years.

Dr. **Randy Larsen** wrote, "This effort is a significant contribution to our department's burgeoning strength in the area of chemical catalysis. This effort overlaps with several broad areas of research within SNSM (Functional Materials and Drug Discovery) as well as Chemical and Biomedical Engineering and USF Health."

"Congratulations to Peter and his entire research team."

Grants of interest -II

Dr. **H. Lee Woodcock**, associate professor of chemistry received notification that his NSF grant entitled "*High-level QM/MM Free-Energy Calculations and Reaction-path Studies at Affordable Computational Cost*" at \$411K over three years.

Dr. **Randy Larsen** wrote "This project is part of the Computational group within the Department of Chemistry as well as the Computation and Modeling Interdisciplinary

Research Cluster within the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics."

"This project reflects a significant return on the investment made in computation and modeling within CAS over the past decade and is a reflection of the high level research taking place within SNSM in this critical area."

NSF Virtual Seminar

Dr. **Peter Zhang**, professor of chemistry, arranged for a special virtual seminar provided by the NSF Center for Selective C–H Functionalization (<http://www.nsf-cchf.com/>). It is the first symposia of a new symposium series "Virtual Frontiers in C–H Functionalization".

This symposium features four 20- minute talks from researchers focused on various aspects of C–H functionalization. It was held March 31 in CHE 201. In addition to the talks, there was an online chat room for viewers to send questions during or between the talk. The speakers were to be **Brian Stoltz**, **Corey Stephenson**, **Shannon Stahl** and **Christine Luscombe**, who are all major players in the field, according to research assistant professor Dr. **Xi Cui**.

8th Annual Celebration



Announcement for Wednesday March 18th

The 28th Annual Scholarship and Alumni Celebration was held March 18th in the Marshall Student Center Ballroom



Close-up of medallions given to Peer Leaders or Honor Roll recipients

Arrangements were made by Ms. **Kimberly Read**, Manager, Fiscal and Business Administration, with staff assistance. She was also responsible for the design of the trophies, the medallions, and the centerpieces.



Ms. Kimberly Read

Members of the Undergraduate Council (Dr. Scott Lewis; Chair) served as judges for the awards.

Over 150 guests signed up. Most ever.



Dinner was held in the Marshall Student Center Ballroom –a first

Chemistry Staff members who assisted that evening included Ms. **Ashley Dees**, Ms. **Debbie Gee**, Ms. **Lauren Albaum**, Dr. **Christina Nelson**, and Ms. **Kelly Pearson**.

The program

Dr. **Randy Larsen**, professor and chair, provided opening remarks.

Dr. **Kathie Seley-Radtke** (B.A.-B.S. '92), was the keynote speaker and recipient of the Outstanding Alumna Award.



Dr Seley-Radke during her presentation

Jamie Alvarez, M.D. was a co-recipient of the Outstanding Alumnus Award, but was unable to attend, owing to professional commitments.

Dr. Alvarez practices with the Southwest Neurological Associates in Fort Myers. At South Florida he earned a BS in Biology and a BA in Chemistry (1987) before receiving his MD from SUNY-Syracuse in 1992. He has written numerous abstracts and research papers in the treatment of various brain and nervous system disorders.



Dr. Alvarez

Some 89 students were named to the Honor Roll.



Trophies that were presented to scholarship and award recipients.

Some 22 scholarship and recognition awards were awarded to some 26 undergraduate students

The Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award went to **Scott Lewis** (Ph.D. '06), who joined our faculty as an assistant professor in 2013.



Dr. Larsen presents the award to Dr. Lewis

Senior chemistry major, Ms. **Fiona Kerns** received three awards.



Ms. Fiona Kerns

The Chemistry Advising Cadre was present in force.



Ms. Kristi Kirby, Ms. Apiatya Jackson, Ms. Natasha Dorman, Kelly Pearson, Ms. Ashley Dees, Lauren Albaum, Mr. Anthony Ianelli. “Rocky” was lying down on the job at the time.

Brant Tudor, departmental Webmaster, “went above and beyond as always.”

<http://chemistry.usf.edu/annualawards/index.aspx>

Some 21 persons were recognized for their financial contributions, as were eight corporate and organizational sponsors.

A special thanks is due to **B & O Photography** for volunteering their evening taking pictures for our memory books. Please see <http://bophotographystudio.com>

Finally we were delighted to have a special guest, Rocky the Bull, official mascot of USF wearing his chemistry white laboratory coat and greeting visitors and mingling.



“Rocky” the USF Mascot in a white lab coat showing the famous Bull sign.

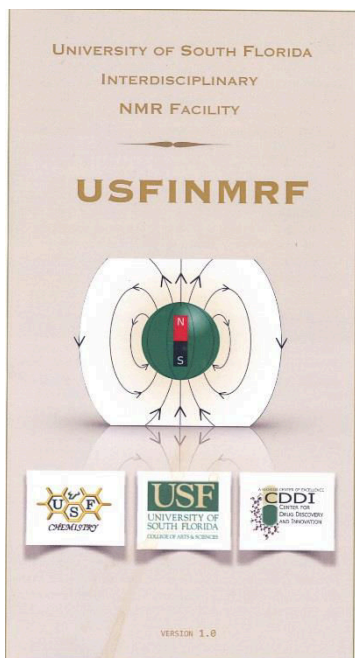
More about chemists

Publication information

Following a long USF tradition of editorial involvement, Dr. **Wayne Guida**, professor of chemistry, accepted an invitation to become a member of the Editorial Board of *Computational Drug Discovery*, whose members assist with policy decision and related editorial matters, including reviewing submissions. Kudos to him for his latest professional service activity.

NMR information

Dr. **Edwin Rivera** heads up the USF Interdisciplinary NMR Facility in the



Department of Chemistry. He prepared the brochure (above) that describes the Facility in all aspects. “It offers”, he writes, “NMR spectrometers from low to intermediate fields and from manual to high throughput operation modes.”

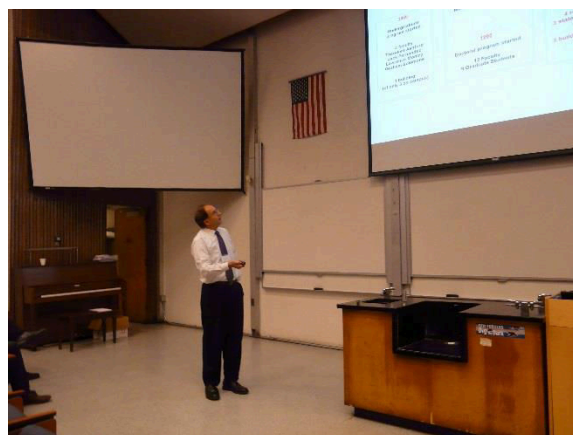
Castle Research Conference

The 13th Conference was held Saturday April 11th with about 150 persons in attendance.

A noteworthy feature was the representation from other colleges and universities, including FIU, UF, St Leo, Florida Southern as well as Vienna, Limerick, Alexandria U (Egypt) and two from Puerto Rico.

Dr. **Edward Turos**, USF professor of Chemistry, provided a much-appreciated

background on the interests and personality of Dr. Castle in welcoming participants to the conference.



Dr. Ed Turos (2014 picture)

The Plenary Speaker was **Ingrid Montes**, Ph.D., professor of chemistry and assistant dean, University of Puerto Rico (Rio Pedras, PR). Dr. Montes is also an ACS Director-at-Large.

Dr. Montes came early and signed up for a series of individual visits with graduate student groups the day before the meeting, and also was a luncheon guest of six groups of graduate students.

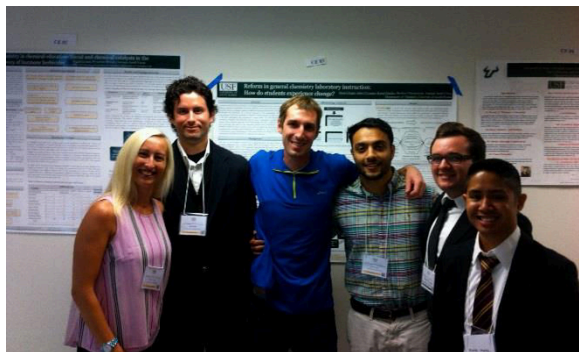


Dr. Ingrid Montes

The title of her address was “Synthesis, Characterization and Biological Applications of Ferricenyl Derivatives.”

Student participation was notable:

- 20 graduate talks
- 25 Graduate student posters
- 82 Undergraduate posters



Left to right: Megan Gower, Benjamin Brittain, Matthew Chrzanowski (Grad Student Collaborator), Ishan Chopra, John O'Connor, Romel Pancho.

The REU students pictured were supervised by Dr. Sandi-Urena.

A lot of persons helped make the Conference a true success:

Organizing Committee Members: **Darrell Cole Cerrato** (Chairman) **Jennifer Borja**, (Co-Chair), **Dr. Marie Bougeois**, **Catherine Costa**, **Dr. Christina Nelson**, **Alekhya Nimmagadda**, **Margarita Vanegas**, **Dan Utic**, **Justin White**, and **Kia Williams**.

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Julie Harmon**



Dr. Harmon

Supporting Faculty:

Dr. Kimberly Fields
Dr. Christina Nelson
Dr. Edward Turos
Dr. Carissa Vetromile

Staff members who assisted included Mrs. **Cheryl Graham**, Ms. **Linda Lowe**, and Dr. **Christina Nelson**.



From left to right: Kia Williams, Dr. Carissa Vetromile, Dr. Christina Nelson, Alekhya Nimmagadda, Jennifer Borja, Darrell Cole Cerrato, Dan Utic.

(Unfortunately not all of the committee members were available for the photograph)

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

The program cover design was created by Mr. **Christian Cioce**,

Five sponsors contributed to the success of the conference.

Box lunches were provided by the Tampa Bay Section of the American Chemical Society, Dr. **Kimberly Fields**, Chair.

Much praise is due the 35 judges from seven universities and some local industries. The judges were faced with significant challenges by the outstanding presentations.

USF Chemistry Society

At Engineering Expo



Chemistry Society members Cameron Weed, Gus Bora, and Juan Rodriguez working on Dragon's Breath experiment

USF Chemistry Society teamed up with USF AIChE (American Institute of Chemical Engineers), USF BMES (Biomedical Engineering Society), and the Chemistry Graduate Student Council for the 2015 Engineering Exposition on February 13th and 14th.

The theme this year was "Rediscovering Chemistry". The Chemistry Society won the *Crowd Favorite Award* this year. The Collaboration had several exhibits: liquid nitrogen ping pong ball explosion; liquid nitrogen balloons, peppers, bananas, and flowers; propane bubbles; dragon's breath - the dust explosion; iPhone microscope, and the iodine clock experiment. There were also several hands-on activities: Dry Ice bubbles, ferrofluid, and polymer putty.



After a day of volunteering at the Expo, Chemistry Society members posed for a group photo

Special kudos go to members of the Chemistry Society who held fundraisers to permit the awarding of a \$250 scholarship to a chemistry major, Ms. **Carrie Robart**.

Chemistry Graduate student Awards

The Chemistry Graduate Council selected the following students for annual awards (advisors are listed parenthetically)

George Bursa Award, \$1,000: Ms. **Danielle Demers** (Dr. **Bill Baker**) *Theodore and Venette Askounes Ashford Doctoral fellowship in Chemistry*; \$1500 Mr. **Phillip Hudson** (Dr. **Lee Woodcock**).

Barbara B. Martin Endowed Fellowship in Chemistry, \$1,000
Ms. **Sereya Murkhejee** (Dr. **Wayne Guida**)

Alexiou Award in Environmental Chemistry, \$500
Mr. **Matthew Knestrick** (Dr. **Bill Baker**)

Martin Travel Awards, \$300

Ms. **Danielle Demers** (Dr. **Bill Baker**)
Mr. **Douglas Franz** (Dr. **Brian Space**)
Ms. **Jacqueline Fries** (Dr. **Bill Baker**)
Mr. **Phillip Hudson** (Dr. **Lee Woodcock**).
Mr. **Matthew Knestrick** (Dr. **Bill Baker**)
Mr. **Jingyi Wang** (Dr. **Peter Zhang**)



Mr. Phillip Hudson, Ms. Jingyi Wang, Mr. Douglas Franz, anonymous editor, Ms. McCain, Ms. Danielle Demers, Ms. Jacqueline Fries, Mr. Matthew Knestrick

Scott Segro (B.A. '04; Ph.D. '10) has been with Metrohm USA for the past four years. The firm sells a variety of analytical testing equipment.

Dilogian Senanayake (M.S. '96) is living in Grand Forks, ND. He tries to supply students in several nations with testing kits for water or soil quality analysis. Pictured are kits used by a final-year student in Kenya.



Persons you may know

Laura Anderson (Ph.D. '09) and her husband became parents of a daughter, **Natalie Marie**, in March. Dr. Anderson is an instructor in chemistry.

Jason Hair (B.S.CHS '97) a former chemistry Webmaster and a long-time member of IT at USF was recently named Interim Director of USF Information and Technology.

Dr. **Roman Manetsch** (Faculty 2005-14) now at Northeastern University, Boston, was a welcome visitor at seminar Feb. 26th.

José Ors (Ph.D.'74), a faculty member in natural sciences at State College of Florida at Manatee-Sarasota was a welcome guest at the Castle Research Conference.

Adrian Villalta-Cerdas (PhD '14), instructor in chemistry and biochemistry at California State University Bakersfield, presented a paper at the March ACS meeting in Denver on his CSUB research.

Zhenqian Wang (Ph.D. '06) assistant professor of chemistry at South Dakota University spoke at departmental seminar March 12th. He wrote, "I was very pleased to see the campus and the department were in fantastic shape."

Dr. **Rong Zhang** (visiting adjunct) and her husband, Dr. **Shengqian Ma** (assistant professor of chemistry) became parents of their second son, **Evan Ma**, on March 9th.

Around the campus

Major donation

The University of South Florida announced on March 9th that the School of Mass Communications within the College of Arts and Sciences has been renamed after USF Alumnus and Trustee **Jordan Zimmerman**, the founder and chairman of Fort Lauderdale-based *Zimmerman Advertising*.

The renamed *Zimmerman School of Advertising and Mass Communications* was in recognition for his gift of \$10 million to the college, the largest gift to the CAS in its history.

“The gift will put the school on the map globally to attract advertising and mass communications students” said the news release.

Alumni Association

Barbara Martin and her husband were guests at the Alumni Association 2015 Brahman Bash –A Night on Bourbon Street - Mardi Gras style.



Photo credit: Photographer
Mr. Chris Thornton, *Tampa Tribune*

\$2,000 was raised for student scholarships.

Building change

The Life Sciences building was available in 1963, but was closed for occupancy a few years ago and was scheduled for demolition. Some challenges were how to cope with the asbestos problem (full body suits), and remove an elevator. The building was only two stories, not a great use of “the footprint”.

Plans for a future building have not been announced.

Now you see it



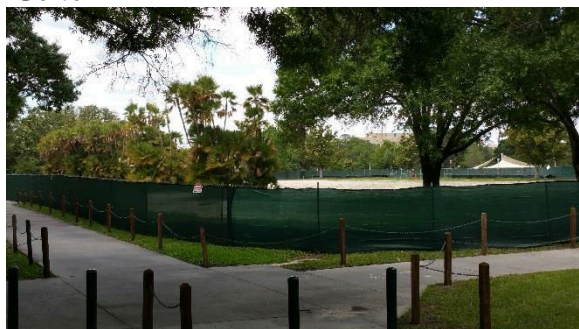
December 27, 2014

Going



Photo courtesy Dr. Wayne Guida

Gone



May 4, 2015; Photo by Mr. Roberto Avergonzado

Acknowledgments

We thank Mr. **Darrell Cole Cerrato** and Dr. **Christine Nelson** for helpful information and Photographer Mr. **Chris Thornton**, *Tampa Tribune* for permission to use a photograph. Dr. **Christina Nelson** provided useful Castle Conference copy. Our thanks to Dr. **Aleksandra Karolak** and Mr. **Roberto Avergonzado** and Dr. **Wayne Guida** for photographs.

Abbreviations

ACS American Chemical Society

CAS College of Arts and Sciences

SNSM School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

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 Web page.

News for us or comments?

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