

## **Chemistry Department- Recognition-I** (chronological order)

Congratulations to Dr. **Laura Anderson**, who was selected for a 2016-17 Fulbright U.S. Scholar grant. She will spend the spring semester of 2017 at two different universities in Colombia engaged in peer leading and project-based lab activities.

Dr. Anderson received her degrees from USF: a B.A. in 2004 and her Ph.D. in 2009 working with Dr. **Mark McLaughlin** in organic/medicinal chemistry.



Dr. Anderson

She became a visiting instructor in 2009 and a permanent instructor in Chemistry in 2013.

She was asked about her Fulbright plans: "In the U.S., the Peer-Led Team Learning (PLTL) pedagogical model has shown to improve learning and promote student retention in STEM fields, which is of high

interest in recent education policies in Colombia."

"As a Fulbright Scholar, I will have the opportunity to work in partnership with faculty members of the Chemistry Departments at the University of Quindío and the University of Valle to pilot the PLTL model in introductory chemistry courses. In addition, we will explore the basis of a reformed lab program based on collaborative Problem-Based Learning (PBL)."

## **Recognition-II**

Dr. **Bill J. Baker** ( professor of chemistry, director of CDDI) edited *Marine Biomedicine: From Beach to Bedside*, (594 pp) published by CRC Press. The book "features a holistic approach to address the full spectrum of marine drug discovery activities from sourcing biological samples through clinical trials."

The book " assesses current efforts in marine biomedicine and evaluated the implications of recent advances on the future of the field."

## **Recognition-III**

Dr. **Nathan Crain** (PI, Mechanical engineering) and Dr. **Julie Harmon** (Co-PI, professor of chemistry) were awarded a \$299,982 grant from the NSF Manufacturing Machines and Equipment (MME) program.



Dr. Julianne Harmon

Their project is entitled “Could Slower be Better? Assessing Sintering Time , temperature, and Area Tradeoffs in 3D Printing by Polymer Sintering.”

### ***Recognition-IV***

Dr. **Jim Leahy**, professor of chemistry, appeared on Fox 13 news on March 2. He visited with host Ms. **Laura Moody** and sorted out truth from fiction about certain chemicals in nail polish.

The concern was based on a published report concerning certain chemicals. As he noted they are only found in trace amounts, in nail polish and had not been demonstrated to be harmful to humans.

### ***Recognition-IV***



Dr. Leahy

His words and demeanor provided the necessary reassurance, and he was thanked for his efforts.

He continued a long-standing tradition of members of the chemistry department appearing on local TV to provide useful scientific information.

### ***Recognition-V***

Dr. **Jianfeng Cai** (associate professor) was the recipient of a sub-award through Moffitt Cancer Center as part of Dr. Said Sebti’s 1 R35 NIH grant. The total of Dr. Cai’s sub award is \$453,600 for a seven-year period.



Dr. Cai

### ***Chemistry Department Activities -I***

#### ***29<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship and Alumni Celebration***

The celebration was held March 2 in The Marshall Student Center.

#### **A reminder:**

“ The Department of Chemistry is dedicated to student success. We are committed to helping each student achieve academic excellence and realize their educational goals. Toward this, Chemistry recognizes through scholarships and awards the achievement of our students and alumni who have demonstrated outstanding performance in learning, research and service. Recipients are recognized at our annual Scholarship and Alumni Celebration.”

#### **Some special thanks to:**

Arrangements were made by Ms. **Kimberly Read**, Manager, Fiscal and Business Administration, with staff assistance.



Ms. Kimberly Read

She was also responsible for the design of the trophies, the medallions, and the centerpieces.



Medallions given to Peer Leaders and Honor Roll recipients

She was assisted by Dr. **Christina Nelson**, Dr. **Carissa Vetromile**, **Kelly Pearson**, and **Cheryl Graham** in the preparation of the event.

**Lauren Albaum**, **Natasha Dorman**, **Anthony Iannelli**, and **Xavier Ramos** also helped the evening of the banquet.

Mr. **Brant Tudor**, Department Webmaster, served as roving photographer.

**.The program:**

Dr. **Wayne Guida**, professor and interim chair, provided opening and closing remarks.

Dr. **David J. Austin** (B.A/M.A '89) was the keynote speaker and recipient of the *Outstanding Alumnus Award*.



Dr. David J. Austin speaking

Dr. Austin earned a Ph.D. (Emory, 1993), was a American Cancer Society postdoctoral fellow with Professor **Stuart Schreiber** at Harvard (1993-96), then became a chemistry faculty member at Yale (1996-2005) before joining Rib-X as director of medicinal chemistry.

He is now an attorney practicing intellectual property litigation in several chemistry and technical areas.

**Awards and recognition:**



Some of the Honor Roll awardees

There were 27 student awards & scholarships. Some 110 students were named to the Honor Roll.



Trophies that were presented to scholarship and award recipients.

The Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award went to Dr. **Jeffrey Raker**, who joined our faculty as an assistant professor in 2013.



Dr. Guida and Dr. Raker

### **A reminder:**

The first celebration was organized by Dr. **Stewart Schneller** with the help of Ms. **Dyane Chapman** and was held April 18, 1988.

## **Activities -II**

An undergraduate Scientific Computing Workshop was held at USF March 5<sup>th</sup> under the leadership of Dr. **Arjan van der Vaart** (associate professor of chemistry). The workshop was held in cooperation with Eckerd College, The University of Tampa, and New College of Florida.

Those participating as instructors included Drs. **Inna Ponomareva** (Physics), **Wayne Guida** (Chemistry), **David Rogers**



Participants

(Chemistry), **Tony Pham** (Chemistry), **Tony Green** (Research Computing) as well as graduate students Mr. **Brant Tudor** (Chemistry) and Mr. **Joseph Gonzalez** (Physics).

The program was part of Chemistry's NSF MRI Grant [with Drs. **van der Vaart**, **Space**, **Ponomareva** (Physics), **Oleynik** (Physics), and **Bhethanabotla** (Chemical & Biomedical Engineering)].



Dr. Van Der Vaart

## ***Activities- III Castle Student Research Conference***

The 14<sup>th</sup> Conference was held Saturday April 2 with about 180 persons in attendance in honor of the Dr. Raymond N. Castle (1916-1999) who was a chemistry distinguished research professor (1981 - 1999 with a short break). This was a celebration, as well, of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. He was a generous contributor to programs that brought distinguished chemists to USF (the Castle lecturers).

We are reminded, “The Raymond N. Castle Student Research Conference was initiated as a means to encourage undergraduate and graduate students to present their scientific data in a friendly atmosphere. The Castle Conference is organized by the students and provides the opportunity for young scientists to develop the necessary communication skills to excel in the future.”

The Plenary Speaker is a grandson, Dr. Steven L. Castle, professor of chemistry and biochemistry, Brigham Young University and associate director, Simmons Center for Cancer Research Brigham Young University . He spent 1986-1989 and 1992 at USF as a summer research assistant with his grandfather.



Dr.Castle

The title of his address was “New Strategies for the Synthesis of Unusual Peptides.”

Student participation was notable as

- 12 Graduate talks
- 25 Graduate student posters
- 57 Undergraduate posters

A lot of persons helped make the Conference a true success, including the following

*Organizing Committee Members:* **Darrell Cole Cerrato** (Chairman ) **Adam Hogan, Alekhya Nimmagadda, Sri Nimmagadda, Ankush Kanwar, Zachary Schultz, Brant Tudor, Rebecca Vaclav, Olapeju Oyesiku**  
*Faculty Advisor:* **Dr. James Leahy**

*Supporting Faculty:*  
**Dr. Carissa Vetromile**  
**Dr. Kimberly Fields**  
**Dr. James Leahy**  
**Dr. Christina Nelson**  
**Dr. Edward Turos**

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

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

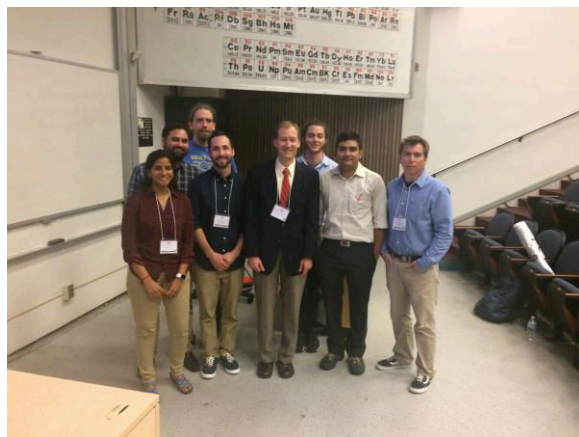
The program cover design was created by Mr. **Adam Hogan** and Mr. **Geoffrey Gray**.

Four 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 26 judges from USF and three organizations. The judges were faced with significant challenges by the outstanding presentations.

**By tradition: A participant picture:**



Left to right: (Front) Alekhya Nimmagadda, Zachary Schultz, Dr. Steven Castle, Sri Nimmagadda, Cole Cerrato (Back) Ankush Kanwar, Adam Hogan, Douglas Franz

### ***Student Awards***

*Theodore and Venette Askounes Ashford  
Doctoral Fellowship in Chemistry*

**Fiona Kearns, Boliang Dong**

*Barbara B. Martin Endowed Fellowship in  
Chemistry*

**Li Ye**

*Alexiou Award in Environmental Chemistry*

**Emre Seyyal**

*The George Bursa Award*  
**Alekhya Nimmagadda**

*Martin Travel Awards*  
**Fiona Kearns**  
**Anne-Claire Limon**  
**Li Ye**  
**Matthew Knestrick**

These were presented on Thursday April 21<sup>st</sup> following Department Seminar.



(from left) Dr. Turos, Ms. Kearns, Mr. Knestrick, Ms. Ye, Ms. Limon, Dr. Guida.

### ***Council for Graduate Students***

#### **Seminar coffee**

Council graduate students have restored the tradition of coffee prior to Chemistry departmental seminars. This means that dedicated persons get up early to start the perking process prior to the start of seminar at 9:30 am.

And on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, bagels were available: Food for thought, food for the body.

### ***Tampa Bay Section –ACS***

**Kimberly Fields** (Ph.D.'10), permanent instructor in chemistry, who also serves as faculty advisor to the Chemistry Society.



Dr. Fields

She organized a full program for The Tampa Bay Section in her role as Section Chair, which included “Chemists Celebrate Earth Day”, “You be the Chemist Challenge” and the annual Sections Awards Dinner on Wednesday May 11<sup>th</sup>.

### ***News and updates re: persons you may know***

**Adrian Villata-Cerdas** (Ph.D. '14) was one of four invited speakers at the March 2016 ACS National meeting (San Diego) participating in a seminar, “New and Noteworthy Chemical Education Research 2014-2015.”

**William Maza** (Ph.D. '13) was a visitor at The Castle Student Research Conference April 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Adrienne McCain** graduate secretary's last day was March 11<sup>th</sup>. She left to go to England where she was scheduled to be married and remain for the remainder of her life.

**Dilojan Senanayake** (M.S.'96) sent Easter greetings from North Dakota where he says that it is getting warm. And he may have a previously undiscovered talent.

Dr. **Jerome Williams**, associate professor, St. Leo University attended the Castle Research Conference.

## ***Obituary***

“He was born in Omaha, Nebraska on March 24, 1968 to Hector G. Dueno and Fabia Baer Dueno. “

After attending Florida State University, and the University of Central Florida, he earned his doctorate in chemistry at USF.



Dr. Dueno

He was a tenured professor of chemistry at Bainbridge State College where he organized the running club, the kayak club, and the chess club. Eric published a number of chemistry papers as well as a chemistry textbook.

Dr. **Kirpal Bisht** commented, “Eric was a very intelligent, hardworking nice person. I remember good times and many discussions we had when he was in my labs. He was one of the most hardworking graduate students in my labs and essentially completed his research work in just two years and he published nice papers.”

He was highly regarded by those who knew him at USF and elsewhere.

## ***Record-setting President***

President Genshaft is the longest serving of Any president in the history of USF her term of office started July 5, 2000. Her contract was renewed by the Board of Governors following current policy.



Dr. Judy Genshaft

She was quoted as saying, “ USF is in my DNA”

## ***USF System Facts 2015-2016***

### **Data of potential interest**

#### Students

- Fall 1960 – about 2,000
- Fall, 2015 48,783

#### Buildings

- Fall, 1960: four
- Fall, 2015: 295 (257 USF)

Total Square feet: 11,227,026

Acreage: 1,657 (system) 1,562 (USF)

Instructional Staff: 1,996 (system) 1,786 (USF); distinguished university professors: 47

University Support Personnel: 2020 (System, full time); 1,893 (USF)

### ***What did they do after?***

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. Can you help?

## ***Donors***

The following is a list of those who made gifts to the Department of Chemistry, July 1-December 30, 2015, as provided by the College of Arts and Sciences Office of Development. We are most grateful for the special support of the alumni, faculty, friends, staff, corporate and foundation donors listed here.

### **Donors to Department of Chemistry July 1 – December 31, 2015**

#### **Individual Donors**

Laura Anderson, Ph.D.

Roberto K. Avergonzado

Maria Azorin-Blanco and Rafael Blanco, M.D.

William Brown, Jr., M.D. and Ellen Brown

Jianfeng Cai, Ph.D.

Daniel Cruz-Ramirez de Arellano, Ph.D.

Juan R. Del Valle , Ph.D.

Theresa Evans-Nguyen, Ph.D.

Ioannis Gelis, Ph.D.

Cheryl Rochelle Graham

Vivian and Lawrence Greenwald

Wayne Charles Guida, Ph.D. and Natalie Guida



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Ushiri Kumarihamy Kulatunga, Ph.D.

Mohanraja Kumar, Ph.D. and Amudha Athiyappan

Randy W. Larsen, Ph.D.

Jennifer E. Lewis, Ph.D.

Shengqian Ma, Ph.D., Rong Zhang Ph.D.

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Adrienne Nicole McCain

Suzanne Rogers Moore & Robert Potter Ph.D.

Christina Darpino Nelson, Ph.D. and Thomas Nelson, Jr.

Wally E. Pagan

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Adrian Villalta-Cerdas, Ph.D.

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### **Corporate Donors**

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### ***Acknowledgments***

“USF System Facts 2015-2016” information was obtained from a document of that name produced by the Office of Decision Support.

Pictures of Drs. Guida, Cai, and Van Der Vaart courtesy Mr. **Brant Tudor**.

Awards quote from Ms. **Kimberly Read**.

Donor list courtesy of Ms. **Ann Serota**, CAS office of Development.

Castle quote from Chemistry Web page.

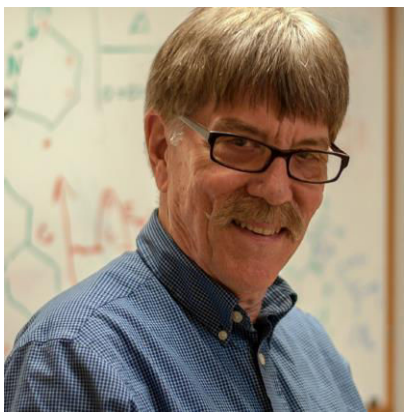
Helpful statistic, Ms. **Rosie Lopez**, Provost’s office.

Dr. Dueno’s obituary and picture, courtesy of **Ralph Salvatore** (PhD. ’01) who has been Dean of Arts and Sciences, and Professor of Chemistry, Pueblo Community College, Pueblo, CO for three years.

Helpful Castle Student Research conference information by Dr. **Christina Nelson** and Mr. **Darrell Cole Cerrato**.

## **Feedback**

*Interim Chair’s Address:*



Dr. Guida

Dr. Wayne C. Guida  
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University of South Florida  
4202 East Fowler Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33620-5205

**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](mailto:dfmartin@usf.edu)

or share with the Webpage or with the Facebook.

