

## Chemistry Graduates

In May, five graduate students earned advanced degrees. The graduates (and their advisors in parentheses) are listed below:

### Doctoral graduates

- **Seyedmorteza Hosseyni** (Dr. Xiaodong “Mike” Shi)
- **Ning Ma** (Dr. van der Vaart)
- **Emre Seyyal** (Dr. Abdul Malik)
- **Li Ye** (Dr. Scott Lewis)



Dr. Hosseyni



Dr. Ning Ma



Mr. Avergonzado



Dr. Seyyal



Dr. Li Ye

### MS Graduate



Ms. Courtney Smith

## Out and About...

### Staff Appreciation Luncheon

This semi-annual event was held at the Top of the Palms restaurant in the Marshall Center on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Attending were 13 Chemistry Staff members, including one alumna, and the emeritus faculty member host. The purpose was to share company, and as well to show appreciation to a truly outstanding staff cadre.

Mr. **Roberto Avergonzado** (academic program specialist and grade manager) coordinated the arrangements.

### Annual symposium

The annual symposium: “Frontiers of Drug Discovery and Infectious” was held in USF’s IRD building on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The event is hosted by the USF Center for Global Health & Infectious Diseases Research (College of Public Health) and the USF Center for Drug Discovery and Innovation.

Invited speakers were Drs. **Mark van der Giezen** (University of Exeter), **Daniel**

**Neafsey** (The Broad Institute), **Paul Dunman** (University of Rochester), and **James Leahy** (USF Chemistry, CDDI).



Dr. Leahy

“The symposium highlights and promotes ongoing collaborative research projects in Drug Discovery in Infectious Diseases at USF.” It also integrates faculty from about six USF departments.

Students were encouraged to present posters, and a certain number led to “turbo talks”, i.e., short presentations selected from poster abstracts submitted by student and post-doctoral researchers.

### ***USF Chemistry in Florence***

Dr. **David Merkler**, professor of chemistry, coordinated chemistry offerings in Florence, Italy for the fourth time.



Dr. Merkler

He will be joined by Dr. **Kimberly Fields** for the second time and Dr. **Kirpal Bisht** for the first time.



Dr. Fields



Dr. Bisht

Course offerings for term B (June 25-August 4) include:

Organic Chemistry I, Dr. Bisht  
Organic Chemistry II, Dr. Fields  
General Biochemistry, Dr. Merkler  
Historical Perspectives of Chemistry,  
Dr. Lucca Pedocchi, FUA  
Physician Observation , Dr. Janna Merrick

The Science in Florence Program is hosted by USF World.

### ***News and feedback***

#### ***2017 Tampa Bay ACS Awards Banquet***

This annual event was held on May 10<sup>th</sup> at USF to honor outstanding students as well as long-term ACS members.



Mr. **Ron Federspiel**, a long-time staff member and a long-time supporter of the

Faculty/Staff fund campaigns received a 50-year membership certificate.

Dr. **Robert P. Bates**, University of Florida, presented an informative and lively lecture on food science, chemistry, and safety.



Centerpiece

Unique centerpieces were created for the occasion by Dr. **Kimberly Fields** using one-liter flasks with internal lighting.



A portion of those present



Some honored student posters

Ms. **Crystal Saut** is the 2017 TB-ACS Section Chair.

## ***In the Department –I***

### **Academic Year End Event**

This renewal of a long-lost tradition was held May 4<sup>th</sup> at Lettuce Lake Park, and offered food, refreshments, and outdoor activities.



Ms. Kroner

It was coordinated by Ms. **Kaitlyn Kroner**, academic program specialist.



Drs. Ushiri Kulatunga, Rong Zhang, and Shengqian Ma

About 50 faculty and graduate students took advantage of a fine location, good food, good company, and really good weather.



Lab staff: Norma Figueroa, Chris Marelli, and Wally Pagan

### It was good for chemistry duos



Drs. Dimitra Keramisanou and Ioannis Gelis



Graduate student Aaron Clark and his spouse, Jade



Undergraduate Chemistry advisors:  
Xavier Ramos and Becky Cooperman

## *In the Department –II*

### *STEM Awardee*

Dr. **Kimberly Fields**, instructor, has been honored as one of four USF recipients of the annual STEM Institute Scholars Teaching Award.

The decision was made by the USF STEER leadership team.

As a recipient of the STEM Institute Scholars Teaching Award she will receive a \$2000 award, funding to present her work at the 2018 Sunshine State Teaching and Learning Conference in Saint Petersburg Beach, and serve as an ambassador of excellent STEM teaching.

### *Fulbright Awardee*

Instructor **Laura Anderson** (Ph.D. '09) is serving in Colombia at the Universities of Quindio and Valle, her host institutions. She is sharing her expertise in Peer-Led Team Learning as developed in Chemistry at USF.

She, and other Fulbright faculty were present at a Fulbright Awards Ceremony at the National Museum of Colombia.



Welcoming ceremony with Fulbright faculty (President Santos is 4<sup>th</sup> from the left).

Also pictured (above) is the President of Colombia, **Juan Manuel Santos**. He received the Nobel peace prize in 2016 for pursuing the end of the Colombia's civil war with FARC.

The new label (please see close-up picture) shows regions with colors from red (less efficient more dangerous) to green (more efficient, safer) easy for students to recognize the warning.



Dr. Anderson's initial presentation

She is also pictured giving the introduction to the PLTL presentation at the Universidad del Quindío.



Safety label

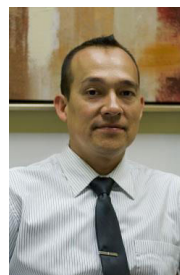
Dr. Figueroa noted that, according to some studies, in a regular science building the consumption of energy assigned to the hoods is between 40% and 70% of the total energy consumed. He hopes this approach will help the economy of the university, as well as improve our safety practices in the teaching labs.

In addition, Mr. **Nainan Desai**, assistant director of Physical Plant is developing a project in which the hood will shut down automatically if no one is using it.

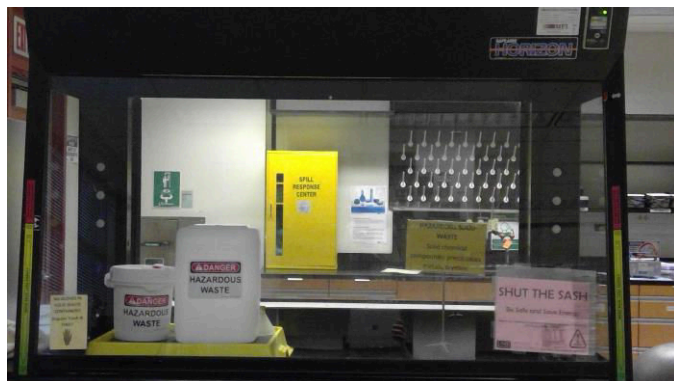
### ***In the Department –III***

#### ***Lab safety***

As part of an initiative to increase safety and decrease energy consumption when using the hoods in our teaching labs, Dr. **Jhon Figueroa** relabeled the marks on the hoods with new color code stickers.



Dr. Figueroa



Open hood; note strips on far left and far right

The test was done for the BSF 151 hoods, and now is waiting for funds to couple the system in all hoods in NES.

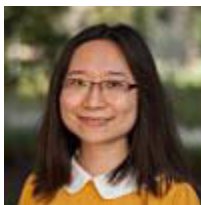
Dr. Figueroa serves as Department Safety Coordinator and undergraduate Laboratory Manager.

## *Persons you may know*

Dr. **Charles Brandenburg** is the Research Director for Organic and Biochemical technology for Corning, Incorporated. He was a USF undergraduate 1988-2002.

Dr. **Morteeza Hosseyni** (above) will be a Postdoctoral research associate in the research group of Dr. **Yoshito Kishi** (Morris in the Chemistry Department at Harvard University

Ms. **Ying He** received the first place award in the poster contest of the FAME 2017 meeting May 4-6. She is an advisee of Dr. **Mike Shi**.



Ms. He

Dr. **Ning Ma** (above) is a post-doctoral researcher in Dr. Valdehi Nagarajan's research group at City of Hope in Los Angeles.

Ms. **Courtney Smith** (above) will continue Ph.D. Studies at Scripts Institute working in Professor **Phil Baran's** research group.

Dr. **Li Ye** (above) is a tenure-track assistant professor in Chemical Education at California State University-Northridge.

## *About USF*

### *Commencement*

President **Judy Genshaft** presided at three commencement ceremonies on May 5<sup>th</sup> and three on May 6<sup>th</sup>. A total of about 6,000 degrees were conferred, 4500 at the Tampa Campus. All 50 states and 150 nations were represented, as well as 39 commissioned officers and 216 veterans.



Dr. Judy Genshaft

### *Creativity*

**Paul Sanberg**, M.D., Ph.D., Senior VP for Research and Innovation, shared information from the Milken Institute, regarding top universities for commercialization of discoveries.



Dr. Sanberg

USF ranked 19<sup>th</sup> of the top 25; University of Florida was 3<sup>rd</sup>, University of Central Florida was 22<sup>rd</sup>. Omitting non-public

institutions, USF ranked 10th. Of non-AAU, USF ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Commercialization will become increasingly important for universities as financial support by most state legislatures continues to diminish.

Related to this: The Top 100 Worldwide Universities granted U.S. Utility Patents in 2016 was announced by the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) and the Intellectual Utility Property Owners Association (IPO).

USF ranked #11. The University of California System was #1 and MIT was #2. The University of Florida was ranked #18, and the University of Central Florida ranked #41. USF ranked fifth among American public university

Dr. Sanberg said, “The patents our universities produce represent important processes, products and treatments which provide significant societal benefit as well as generate job creation that sustains and helps grow our local, regional and global economy.”

## **Abbreviations**

**ACS** (American Chemical Society)

**AAU** Association of American Universities

**AME** (Florida Annual Meeting and Exposition)

**PLTL** (Peer-Led Team Learning)  
**STEER** (Systemic Transformation of Education through Evidence-Based Reforms)

## **Acknowledgments**

Drs. **Kimberly Fields**, **Kirpal Bisht**, and **David Merkler** wish to acknowledge the help and support of **James Pulos** and **Amanda Maurer** at USF World.

Dr. **Kimberly Fields** for helpful leads and features.

Office staff members **Leigh Ann Blackwell**, **Eric Ives**, **Kaitlyn Kroner** for helpful information and copy-checking help.

**Barbara Martin** and Dr. **Wayne Guida** for helpful advice.

*Web page:*

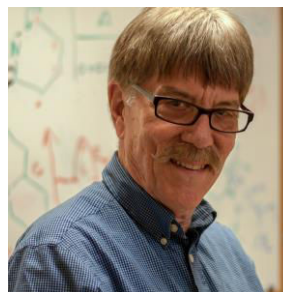
<http://chemistry.usf.edu>

*News for us or comments?*

Please write to: [dfmartin@usf.edu](mailto:dfmartin@usf.edu)

Or share with the Webpage or with the Facebook.

*Chair's Address:*



Dr. Wayne Guida  
Professor and Chair  
Department of Chemistry-CHE 205  
University of South Florida  
4202 East Fowler Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33620-5205

***Webmaster:*** Mr. Brant Tudor



Mr. Tudor

***News:***

For past issues you may have missed, please see the departmental Web page.