



USF Chemistry NEWS

News of Interest to
Friends of the Department of Chemistry
University of South Florida

Volume 17, No 6
Winter2019/2020

Florida's only Metropolitan Preeminent
Research University

Faculty Recognition

NIH Awardees

Dr. **Jianfeng Cai** (Professor of Chemistry)
and Dr. **Xingmin Sun** (Professor of



Dr. Cai



Dr. Sun

Medicine) were awarded a \$1.8+ million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for the project entitled "Novel Polymer Biomaterials Combating *C. difficile* Infection." The project

was slated to start in September and continue until August 2024.

The Cai Lab is "a synthetic inorganic and organic materials research group focusing on task-specific design and functionalization of advanced porous materials."

The Sun Lab (<http://www.sunlab-usf.com>) focuses on the pathogenesis of *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI) and development of novel preventive and therapeutic agents against CDI.

Faculty Achievement Awardees

Two chemistry faculty members were named 2019 Faculty Achievement Awardees. They were formally recognized at a ceremony on October 21st.

Dr. **Xiaopeng Li** (Associate Professor) and Dr. **Lee Woodcock** (Associate Professor) were selected to receive Outstanding Research Achievement Awards from the USF Office of Research and Innovation. Awards were presented at a luncheon on October 21st.



Dr. Li



Dr. Woodcock

Dr. Li wrote, “We are a synthetic inorganic and organic materials research group focusing on task-specific design and functionalization of advanced porous materials.”

Dr. Woodcock commented “Our research is focused on developing and employing computational methodology to solve critical problems at the interface of biophysics, medicine, and material science. Our two main foci are (1) elucidating, characterizing, and engineering novel enzymes that biodegrade plastics and (2) developing accurate and robust methods for simulating biomolecular systems.”

Guest Lecturer

Dr. **Shengqian Ma** (Professor) served as the 2019 Gordon Lecturer at Miami University (Oxford, Ohio) . He presented the lecture on September 26th. It is his graduate alma mater.



Dr. Ma

The announcement we received from a faculty member said, “Fantastic Seminar today. Wonderful to see our alumni achieve such phenomenal success.”

Dr. Ma also serves as the Director of the SMMARTT Research Center.

Seminar – same and different

This will be the next-to-last term of service for Dr. **Theresa Evans-Nguyen** (Assistant Professor) who will have coordinated 55



Dr. Evans-Nguyen

seminars starting in the Fall 2012 and ending Spring 2020.

The Coffee Service before seminars, a long tradition, has continued, and it is appreciated.



It brings persons together before the start of a seminar and adds to the social and physical warmth. Kudos to Mr. **Guy Dayhoff**, graduate student, NSF Fellow, and provider.



Mr. Dayhoff

The Chemistry Council of Graduate Students (CCoGS) hosting a departmental BBQ at USF Riverfront Park on Friday November 22nd from 2pm-7pm.

The faculty, staff, students, undergraduate researchers, friends and family were all invited and encouraged to attend. Mr Dayhoff serves as president of CCoGS.

Graduates

In December, a record 17 graduate students are scheduled to receive advanced degrees. The graduates (and their advisors in parentheses) are listed below:

- The graduates and their advisees in parentheses are listed below

- **Dr. Abdulaziz Alanazi** (Dr. Randy Larsen)
- **Dr. Raja Reddy Bommareddy** (Dr. Mildred Acevedo-Duncan)



• Dr Alanzi



Dr. Bommareddy

- **Dr. Darrell Cole Cerrato** (Dr. Li-June Ming)
- **Dr Ying He** (Dr. Xiaodong Shi)



Dr. Cerrato



Dr. He

- **Dr. S.M. Insul Islam** (Dr Li-June Ming and Dr. Jainfeng Cai)



Dr. Islam



Dr. Lemus



Dr. Rivera



Dr. Shilling

- **Dr. Andrea Lemus (Dr. James Leahy)**
- **Dr. Ann-Claire D. Limon (Dr. Bill J. Baker)**
- **Dr. Rainer Metcalf (Dr. Wayne Guida)**

- **Dr. Sylvia Singh (Dr. Jainfeng Cai)**
- **Dr. Bo Song (Dr. Xiaopeng Li)**
- **Dr. Lei Wang (Dr. Xiaopeng Li)**



Dr. Lemon



Dr. Metcalf



Dr. Singh



Dr. Song

- **Dr. Brian O’Flynn (Dr. Bill J. Baker)**
- **Dr. MD Tawabur Rahman (Dr. Scott Lewis)**



Dr. O’Flynn



Dr. Rahman



Dr. Wang

- **Dr. Alejandro Nicholls Rivera**
- **(Dr. Shengqian Ma)**
- **Dr. Andrew Shilling (Dr. Bill Baker)**

MA Recipient

Mr. Christopher Johnson (Dr. Wayne Guida)



Mr. Johnson

Persons you should know

Barrett G. Johnson (M.S. '66) first graduate degree recipient in chemistry, earned his J.D. and practices law in Tallahassee, where he is an attorney with Johnson and Associates. His advisor was Dr. **Terrence C. Owen (dec)**.

Former president Dr. **Judy Genshaft** and Dr. **Ralph Wilcox**, Provost and Executive Vice President, were pictured at the 6th



Annual Florida Inventors Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Gala on September 20th .

Dr. **Jhon Figueroa**, who is Safety Coordinator and Laboratory Manager, will be serving our nation in the Middle East. He is a U.S. Navy officer, and the deployment is for 300 days. He will be leaving the first week of 2020 and will return on the second week of December 2020.

Ms. **Wen-Shan (Venessa) Chang** (M.S. '04) visited November 22. She is with Nafertine Biotechnology, Ltd, Tengyuan, Taiwan. Her advisors were Drs. Martin and Bisht.

USF News

Moving up

- *US News & World Report* gave a new ranking for USF 44 (up from last years' 58) USF is 7, FSU is 18; UF is 1.
- The net cost for a four-degree was \$7,130.
- Freshman retention rate:91%
- 4-year graduation rate :75%; 6-year rate 62%
- Baccalaureate degrees awarded in areas of strategic emphasis: 65%

Inauguration

The investiture ceremony for Dr **Steven Currall**, seventh USF president was held the afternoon of Thursday, November 14th in the Yuengling Center on the Tampa Campus.



President Steven Currall

Platform party included two former presidents Dr. **Judy Genshaft** (term: 2000-2019) and Dr. **Betty Castor** (term: 1994-19990).

A significant, and interesting introduction was provided by Sir **Malcolm Grant**, former **President** and Provost, University College London, at which Dr. Currall had spent time.

Guests included more than 150 delegates from colleges and universities from around the world.

Dr. Currall was formally installed and presented with the chain of office by Board of Trustees Chair **Jordan Zimmerman**.

The address that followed was remarkable for the range of information about USF, its mission, students, activities, plans for the future, as well as for a notable use of visual information.

Immediately after the ceremony the Campus and Community Inauguration Reception was held at the Muma College of Business Atrium.

USF Enterprise

Paul R. Sanberg, M.D., Ph.D., D.Sc. (Senior VP for Research, Innovation & Knowledge Enterprise) and President and Founder of the National Academy of Inventors, shared information the USF Enterprise.



Dr. Sanberg

The Enterprise

- sustains more than 4,000 public and private jobs. (up 35% from 2016).

- returns \$71 million in tax revenue to local, state, and federal coffers.(up 37% since 2018) .
- returned \$548 million to the immediate Tampa Bay region.
- Created jobs, and of those created by USF Innovation statewide, 82% are in the knowledge-based services sector

Obituary

Joan Ann Stanko,

October 8, 1940-September 22, 2019

She was the beloved wife of Dr. **Joseph Stanko**, retired Associate Professor to whom she had been married for 57 years.

They started married life when Joe started graduate work in chemistry at the University of Illinois Urbana- Champaign, and she worked as a secretary at a local sports goods store.

Later she and Joe moved to Penn State, State College, where he was an Assistant Professor. .In 1973 they moved to Florida , he as an USF Associate Professor, and she as an Executive Secretary in the General Counsel's office at USF, prior to her retirement.

She was the mother of three sons, and had five grandchildren. She was also a religious woman of great personal courage and convictions. She will be missed by many.

Acknowledgements

Mr. **Brant Tudor** provided assistance with a *News* draft.

Ms. **Kaitlyn Kroner** provided information about our graduates.

Ms. **Rosie Lopez** assisted with University information.

Mr. **Bill McCausland**, M.B.A., Executive Director, and Vice President, USF Alumni Association provided helpful information about a chemistry alumnus.

Dr.**Rong Zang** for a more recent picture of Dr.Ma.



Dr. Jim Leahy
Professor and Chair
August 2019 – present

Abbreviations

SMMARTT: Smart Metal-Organic Materials Advanced Research and Technology Transfer)

News and feedback



Ms. Vanessa Ralph, M.S.
Webmaster

News

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

News or comments for us?

Please write to dfmartin@usf.edu

