



USF Chemistry NEWS

News of Interest to

Friends of the Department of Chemistry

University of South Florida

Volume 19, No 1

Early winter 2021

Florida's only Metropolitan Preeminent
Research University

"One University Geographically
Distributed"

Faculty Recognition

Faculty and Academic Genealogies

An academic genealogy assembles a family tree of chemists in terms mentoring relationships usually as dissertations. USF Chemistry has a collection over 60 These were prepared by the newsletter editor as a hobby and new ones were added

Chemists on the three USF campuses have their portraits on the department web page and the individuals have link "**Genealogy**" from below the picture to the actual genealogy. The idea was formulated by Ms. **Paige Romero** (Administrative Specialist), and the links were made by Ms. **Lara Rodriguez**, a work-study student associated with the Department. This seems to be a unique approach to providing the useful information.

Graduates – Autumn

Three students defended their dissertations and were graduated at the Summer virtual commencement

Graduates -Fall

Graduate students who defended their doctoral dissertations later and were scheduled for fall virtual commencements.

Ph.D.candidates

Nicole Avalon



Dr. Avalon



Dr. Baker

Dr. Guizella A Rocabado



Dr. Rocabado



Dr. Lewis

Adam Hogan



Dr. Hogan



Dr. Space

Swetha Ramani



Dr Ramani



Dr. Randy Larsen

Lulu Wei



Lulu Wei



Dr. Jianfeng Cai

Virtual Seminars

In the first term of 2000 Dr. **Jianfeng Cai** (Preeminent Professor) had organized a

program of 14 seminars with nine outside speakers, five Chemistry faculty members. The first was presented by Dr. **Bill Baker** (Professor), the last by Dr. **Wayne Guida** (Professor). Typically, about 80-100 persons were in attendance. It was a special pleasure to learn more about the research of colleagues. In the previous 50+ years such seminars were only presented by faculty candidates or by colleagues returning from extended absences.

Chemistry's Graduate Program

The Chemistry Department started a graduate program in the Fall, 1965. The initial program had six masters' degree students. The doctorate program started later in the 1960s. Now, 55 years later, there are 124 graduate students nearly all interested in the doctoral program.

Persons you may know

Maria Gallardo-Williams (Ph.D., 1999; Advisor: Dr. **D.F. Martin**) is a faculty member at NC State where she is Alumni Association Distinguished Undergraduate Professor Teaching Professor and Director of Organic Chemistry Teaching Laboratories. Recently she accepted a half-time position with the Office of Faculty Development. Her job is to help faculty develop, present, and publish their scholarship of teaching and learning work.

Dr. Gallardo-Williams



Dr. Gallardo-Williams

Fiona Kearns (Ph.D. 2020; Advisor: Dr. **Lee Woodcock**)

“So now I'm a postdoc at UCSD. I'm jointly advised by **J. Andrew McCammon** and **Rommie Amaro** studying



Dr. Kearns

computational biophysics! Due to the covid situation, I'm actually still in Tampa working remotely! We're actually working right now on modeling many of the SARS-CoV-2 virus proteins! I'm responsible for modeling the Spike protein (the protein that recognizes and binds to human cells and then allows the virus to enter and infect cells) and compounds that work cooperatively with the spike protein to enhance its activity.”

Dr. Ralph N. Salvatore

Wrote of his delight that a student of SEU , who had worked with him doing undergraduate research, would be a graduate student in Chemistry starting in December. Dr. Salvatore is surely a loyal alumnus, and it is always a pleasure to hear from him. Another advisee of his has applied for admission to Chemistry's doctoral program.

Mr. Dilojan Senanayake., MA

Sent Thanksgiving greetings and kindly updated his applied environmental activities looking at selected analyses as a means of understanding the environment. At USF, his advisor was Dr. **Robert Potter**, and Dilojan completed his masters work in 1996.

University Achievements

Ground breaking

On December 1, a ground-breaking ceremony was held for the new home of the Judy Genshaft Honors College. This will be a 5-story, 85,000 square-foot facility “that will strengthen USF's position to attract the best students in Florida, nationally and internationally.” Completion is anticipated in 2023.

Private gifts totaling \$43 million have been pledged and received for the project, including a historic lead gift of \$20 million from USF President Emerita and Professor **Judy Genshaft** and her husband **Steve Greenbaum** that was **announced** in May 2019. Donors have made commitments specifically toward the new facility and the university can't use the funds for any other purpose. The total cost of the project is \$54 million and fundraising efforts will continue.

”USF Board of Trustees Chair **Jordan Zimmerman** said. “President Emerita **Judy Genshaft's** and **Steve Greenbaum's** philanthropy continues to transform USF. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we thank them for their steadfast commitment to student success and their vision that help propel the university to new heights.” .

The new facility will feature interwoven spaces for classrooms, study areas, faculty and advisor offices, event areas, a computer lab, performance and create spaces and numerous collaborative spaces expanding the range of academic opportunities for students and giving them a true “home” on campus. Fittingly, it will be built along the renamed USF Genshaft Drive (formerly USF Maple Drive).

President emerita Genshaft and **Steven Greenbaum** also donated \$3 million to create an endowment for the Dean of the college, and current recipient Dr. Charles Adams expressed his sincere appreciation at the ceremony.

Pandemic Considerations

Selected comments by Dr. **Steven Currall**, President and Professor were taken from *USF* (Winter 2020)

“Our comprehensive response to the pandemic will continue to include environmental testing of high-touch surfaces, enhanced cleaning and robust surveillance strategies...”



Dr. Currall

“The pandemic has not distracted us from our focus on delivering a world-class education, conducting life-changing research and making higher education more accessible to all students. Our efforts continue to earn recognition. “

“According to US News and World Report’s Best Colleges ranking released this fall, USF is again the fastest rising University in America. Over the past 10 years, USF has risen 78 spots among all universities, from 181 to No 83, and 54 spots among public

universities from No 100 to No 46, more than any other university in the country.”

Donors to the Department

The following donations were received between July 1, and December 31, 2020.

Individual Donors

Karissa Budnack

Derick L. Driemeyer

Amina Gahramanova

Wayne Guida, Ph.D.

Karen P. Gupta

Lorene Hall-Jennings

Milton Johnston, Jr., Ph.D.

Jennifer E. Lewis, Ph.D.

Scott E. Lewis, Ph.D.

Shengqian Ma, Ph.D.

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Leo and Anne Albert Charitable Trust

Reedy Creek Improvement District

Richard J. Carney and Donna R. Carney Charitable Trust

T. Cantwell Charitable Foundation

The Daniel Tanner Foundation

William A. & Elizabeth B. Moncrief Foundation

We are sincerely grateful for all the financial support the Chemistry Department has received.

USF Innovation Enterprise

Paul R. Sanberg, M.D., Ph.D., D.Sc., is Senior VP for Research, Innovation & Knowledge Enterprise. He is also President and Founder of the National Academy of Inventors.

Dr. Sanberg is also a highly cited author. One of 146 at USF who are among the top 1.5% of all cited scientists in the world



Dr. Sanberg

He had noted that with 108 new U.S. utility **patents** granted in 2019, **USF** is eighth among American public research universities and 16th among all universities worldwide in generating new **patents**.

Acknowledgments

Ms. **Kaitlyn Kroner**, Graduate Program Coordinator provided helpful information concerning dissertation defense schedules.

Ms. **Paige Romero**, Webmaster, Administrative Specialist, kindly provided useful technical assistance, and served as the lead of the Genealogy enhancement project.

Ms. **Lara Rodriguez**, student assistant, arranged for the linking of faculty genealogies from pictures to Department files.

Ms. **Ann Serota** provided donor information.

News and feedback

If you have news of interest you wish to share, consider contacting our web page, or write to:DFMartin@USF.edu

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Ms. Paige Romano

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

News for us or comments?

Please write to: dfmartin@usf.edu