



USF Chemistry NEWS

News of Interest to

Friends of the Department of Chemistry

University of South Florida

Volume 19, No 2

Florida's only Metropolitan Preeminent
Research University

Spring 2021

Draft

One University
Geographically Distributed

Faculty Recognition

National Academy of Inventors Recognition

Dr. **Mildred Acevedo-Duncan** (Research Professor) was named a Senior Member of the National Academy of Inventors. This is a well-earned recognition, and only a sign of what is still to come from her efforts studying atypical PKC.



Dr Acevedo-Duncan

Dr. **Julie Harmon** (dec. Professor) was selected as well. Dr. **Jim Leahy** (Professor and Chair) wrote "While we are all saddened that she is being recognized posthumously for her achievements, we should still be happy that her research successes will forever be enshrined with the NAI."

STEER Scholar

Dr. **Sherrisse Bryant** (Instructor I) has been selected as a STEER Scholar for the 2020/2021 school year for her efforts to provide a student-centered inclusive learning environment. Dr. **Jim Leahy** (Professor and Chair) wrote, “ In addition to all that she’s done with General Chemistry this year, she also taught ‘Chemistry for Today’ in the fall. Congratulations, Sherrisse.”



Dr. Bryant

Outstanding Faculty Award

Dr. **James Leahy** (Professor and Chair) wrote Please join me in congratulating Dr. **Jianfeng Cai** (Preeminent Professor) on his upcoming receipt of a USF Outstanding Faculty Award, to be presented virtually by President **Steve Currall** and Provost **Ralph Wilcox** on March 23rd at 5:30 pm.

Virtual Seminars

For the spring term 2021, Dr. **Jianfeng Cai** organized a program weekly seminars with speakers from Chemistry, other USF departments and elsewhere. The first (January 20th) was presented by **Philip A. Cole**, M.D, Ph.D., Harvard (Professor of Medicine and Biologic Chemistry and Pharmacology).

He and Dr. **David Merkler** (Professor) were collaborating in a research project with graduate student Ms. **Gabriela Suarez**



Dr. Cole

Following his impressive Zoom presentation, he engaged in eight 30-minute presentations with seven faculty members and Ms. Surez. Those involved represented two colleges.

Typically about 80-100 persons are present in virtual attendance. In the past, Chemistry faculty presented seminars elsewhere, but rarely at USF. It is truly informative to learn more about treasured colleagues, and the return to the custom of personal interaction with the guest was an impressive return to tradition .

Graduates

Aaron M. Clark



Dr. Clark Dr Raker

Imalka Arachchilage



Dr Arachchilage Dr. Cai

Michael S. Williams



Dr. Williams Dr. Tuos

Obituaries

Dr. **Julie Harmon** (Professor) died January 27th

“She had been battling some non-COVID health issues for some time, and in fact had been in the hospital, but sadly was unable to return home, “ said Dr **Jim Leahy**.

She joined the Chemistry faculty in December 1993 as an assistant professor and was promoted to full professor in June 2006.

She and her husband served as gracious hosts to faculty/staff gatherings in their home for a number of years. Trained as a physical chemist, she undertook teaching biochemistry as well as polymer chemistry to satisfy an unmet need.



Dr. Harmon

In addition to her husband, she is survived by numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews. Internment was at Calvary Cemetery, Erie, PA

Barbara B. Martin died February 7th.

She was the mother of a daughter and five sons. After the youngest was able to attend nursery school, she returned to doing non-paid professional activities at the Chemistry Department (1973-2006) She served as Co Editor of *Florida Scientist* for 26 years. She collaborated with her husband in chemistry research contributions to over 70 publications and six books. She received the “Alumni Award” of Grinnell College, the highest award of its Alumni Association (1981). She was also a recipient of the “Florida Award” the highest award of the Florida Academy of Sciences (1994) She and her husband were responsible for creation of ten funds or endowments at USF, including one that provides chemistry graduate students with travel awards.



Barbara Martin

University Achievements

Dr **Steve Currall** is President and Professor of USF



Dr. Currall

Dr. Currall has been faced with managing responses to change as consequence of Covid impacts, most notably a singular reduction in the University budget. There is a notable need to obtain reductions in budget without adversely affecting current employment.

Fewer persons have come to Florida, and this has impacted State revenues, and university budgets. USF administrators have been faced with a range of necessary decisions at all levels.

One example was the decision to terminate the College of Education undergraduate teachers' program, owing to the few number of graduates in recent years.

After a public announcement, school superintendents noted publicly how valuable the graduates of the program have been and urged reconsideration. The program will be shifted to the St. Petersburg campus. A search committee for a new dean was named.

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.

In January Dr. Sanberg was named a 2021 IEEE Fellow. He was cited for “contributions to stem cell therapies for neurodegenerative conditions.”

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



Dr. Sanberg

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.

Abbreviations

STEER: Systemic Transformation of Education through Evidence-Based Reforms.

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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