



# USF Chemistry NEWS

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

Volume 19, No 3  
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Florida's only Metropolitan Preeminent  
Research University

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## Faculty Recognition

### Faculty and Academic Genealogies

**To review:** 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 have a 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 Chemistry Department.

This seems to be a unique approach to providing the useful information.

## Faculty Funding



Dr. Acevedo-Duncan

## Graduates --Fall

Graduate students who defended their doctoral dissertations and were scheduled for fall commencement:

### Dr. Brant Tudor



Dr. Tudor



Dr. Space



Dr. Leahy

Dr. Tudor's major professor was Dr. **Brian Space** (Professor) prior to his departure and in his absence Dr. **Jim Leahy** (Professor and Chair) served as co-major professor.

### **Dr. Michael S. Williams**



Dr. Williams



Dr. Tuross

Dr. **Edward Tuross** (Professor) served as Dr. Williams's advisor and major professor.

## **19th Castle Research Conference**

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.



Dr. Castle

The Castle Conference was organized by the students and provides the opportunity for young scientists to develop the necessary communication skills to excel in the future.

This year the COVID situation necessitated that the Conference become a virtual one, with Zoom presentations by both graduate students and undergraduates.

This year the Dedication was in loving memory of **Barbara B. Martin** (1934-2021) Professor **Julie Harmon** (1949-2021).

*Organization:*

*Staff and Faculty Support*” **Mike Shi**, Ph.D.

*Committee Chair:* **Mr. Guy W. Dayhoff II**



Dr. Shi



Mr. Dayhoff

The formal proceedings began with an introduction by Dr. **Jim Leahy** (Professor and Chair) who provided background on Dr Castle's past and current impact.

*Judges and section leaders*

**Kirpal Bisht**, Ph.D., **Jianfeng Cai**, Ph.D. (Section D Leader), **Daniel Cruz**, Ph.D., **Theresa Evans-Nguyen**, Ph.D., **Kimberly Fields**, Ph.D., **Ioannis Gelis**, Ph.D. (Section C Leader), **Wayne Guida**, Ph.D., **Randy Larsen**, Ph.D., **Scott Lewis**, Ph.D. (Section A Leader), **Abdul Malik**, Ph.D., **Li-June Ming**, Ph.D., **Christie Tang**, Ph.D., **Arjan van der Vaart**, Ph.D. (Section B Leader),

*Students:*

Abstracts were prepared and zoom presentations were made by six undergraduates and 32 graduate students.

Previously undergraduate students had presented posters, but none had given oral presentations.

Dr **Jim Leahy** (Professor and Chair) in an e-mail congratulated all the speakers on an outstanding 2021 Castle Conference.

“There were a number of fantastic talks from speakers both at USF and other universities around the state that demonstrated the excellent research that is being done in areas across the entire chemistry spectrum.”

Thank you also to everybody else (presenters, judges, Council of Graduate Students) for all of the work you put in to make the whole day a success.

He also thanked Professor **Mike Shi** for going above and beyond in organizing the conference this year in the face of the COVID pandemic.

“ Here’s to the 2022 meeting being able to be face to face once again!”

## **CHEMINARS**

Dr. **Jiangfeng Cai** (USF Preeminent Professor) arranged for a total of sixteen



Dr. Cai

colleagues to present Wednesday morning seminars starting in late January and ending in late April. Each was scheduled for a one hour Zoom presentation with 15 minutes set aside for questions as needed.

For each seminar, Dr. Cai’s announcement provided a link to the speaker’s web page for an opportunity to obtain useful background.

## **Alumni of interest**

**William Beaumont**, LLM (M.S.,1980; Dr. Raber, adviser), sent message of sympathy and updated his activities in Washington, D.C

He wrote, “My law practice is now a mix of patent, trademark and some corporate legal work.”

His patent work is in the areas of pharmaceuticals, chemical physics and molecular biology.

His trademark work is largely in support of marketing strategies for patented technologies.”

He gave a few examples of these technical fields: technologies for increasing insulin sensitivity, for synthesizing diamond and for medical uses of silencing RNA. These are just a few examples.”

Attorney Beaumont added: “I enjoy the work as I use and apply chemistry constantly.”

Dr. **Denise Manker** graduated from USF (1984) with a double major in Chemistry and Biology. She earned a Ph.D. from Scripps Institute of Oceanography, followed by a post-doctoral at UC Davis.

She started her first industrial job at Novo Nordisk (1990) looking for microbial natural products,

She has been working in that field for 30 years.

Dr. **Ralph Salvatore** (Ph.D.,2001) Professor of Chemistry, Southeastern University, Lakeland, was present at the Castle Conference. An advisee, Ms. **Zully A. Beck**, described their research in the analytical (undergraduate) division.

Mr. **Dilojan Senanayke**, M.S. (former advisee of Dr. **Robert Potter**) wrote to update us. Among other activities he manages an informal organization called Industrial Development & Environmental Health. He continues his efforts to be helpful to a range of persons here and abroad.

## **Spring Commencement**

In-person commencements were scheduled for May 7-9 at St. Petersburg Tropicana Field (43,000 seats). Each graduate was allowed two registered guests. Each graduate would stand to be recognized as their name was called.

Planning was underway for another in-person commencement later in fall term for other graduates as well as for those not previously able to appear.

## **University Achievements**

### **Fall Enrollments**

For the fall term USF will have received the most applications for enrollments in its history.

### **University information**

Dr **Steven Currall**, President and Professor stated in the **USF Foundation Performance Report 2019-2020**:

“The University of South Florida continues to be recognized for its unparalleled trajectory among private or public universities in the United States...”



Dr. Currall

“We remain the nation’s fastest rising public university and the only metropolitan Preeminent Research University in the State of Florida. And we are unified as One USF.”

*In the Spring 2021* issue of **USF** (the University of South Florida magazine), President **Steven Currall** paid tribute to the legislators of the USF area who provide helpful support.

Speaker of the House, Mr. **Chris Sprowls** '06 proposed consolidating our three separately accredited campuses...in 2018 and guided the process through the legislative process. USF began operating under a single accreditation, as One USF, on July 1, 2020.

## **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.

This organization is holding an annual meeting (October 31-November 3, 2021)  
Location: 305 *Tampa Marriott Water Street*, 505 Water Street. The meeting is expected to attract national and international visitors.

Dr. Sanberg 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



Ms. Kroner

concerning dissertation defense schedules.

Ms. **Paige Romero**, Webmaster, Administrative Specialist, kindly provided useful technical assistance.

## ***News and feedback***

*If you have news of interest you wish to share, consider contacting our web page*

or write to: [DFMartin@USF.edu](mailto:DFMartin@USF.edu)

## ***Administration***

### ***Chair:***



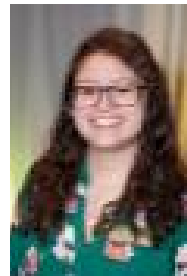
Dr. Leahy

Dr. James Leahy  
Professor and Chair

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***Webmaster:***



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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)

