



# USF Chemistry NEWS

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

Volume 22, No 2  
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Florida's only Metropolitan Preeminent  
Research University

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## ***Faculty Recognition***

### ***CHEMINARS***

For the fall term, the seminar program will be under the leadership of Dr. **Ioannis Spanopoulos** (Assistant Professor).

Dr. Spanopoulos is planning a series of seminars for the fall term on appropriate Wednesdays August 31- November 16.



Dr. Spanopoulos

## ***Schneller Legacy Lecture***

This lecture was established by **Stew** and **Aina Schneller** as an endowment to annually honor those USF Chemistry faculty who served from 1960 to 1970. Dr. **James Leahy** presented Dr. **Stew Schneller** making the introduction via video because he was unable to attend in person.

The recipient was Dr **Guangbin Dong**, Professor of Chemistry, the University of Chicago.

## ***Degree Progress***

*Commencement, Sunday May 8th*

**Degree Progress *Doctoral***

**Dr. Shahedul Islam**



Dr. Islam

**Dr. Li-June Ming** (Professor, Advisor)

**Dr. Jianfeng Cai** (USF Preeminent Professor  
Co-Major Professor)

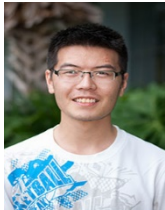
**Dr Radwan Noor**



Dr. Noor

**Dr. Ioannis Gelis** (Associate Professor,  
Advisor)

**Dr. Zhen Wang**



Dr. Wang

**Dr. Haitao (“Mark”) Ji** (Co-Advisor)

**Dr. Xiaodong (“Mike”) Shi** (Professor. Co-  
Advisor)

**Dr. Chiyu Wei**



Dr. Wei

**Dr. Xiaodong (“Mike”) Shi** (Professor,  
Advisor)

**Dr. Teng Yuan**

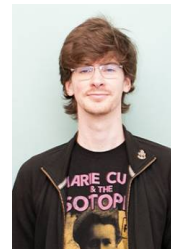


Dr. Yuan

**Dr. Xiaodong (“Mike”) Shi**  
(Professor, Advisor)

### **Degree Progress -- Masters**

**Mr. Jared G. Waters, M.S.**



Mr. Waters

**Dr. Bill Baker** (Professor, Advisor)

**Mr. William Tsuei, M.A.**



Mr. Tsuei

Dr. Justin Lopchuk (Professor, Advisor)

## Annual BBQ

*March 13<sup>th</sup> noon-6:00 pm*

Continuing a tradition of long standing, now held at USF Waterfront Park (east of the river, north of Fletcher). Over six games were planned. Also planned: a variety of food, including homemade chili.

The BBQ was organized by the Chemistry Council of Graduate Students, specifically: **Angelie Matar, Shelby Kell, Zachary Magnuson, Sarah Dietrick, and Guy Dayhoff.**

They had food, games, and kayaking.

A selection of pictures should students enjoying themselves.

Also some faculty involvement: (Dr. **van der Vaart**, his wife and their baby son; top left), Dr **Scott Lewis**, wife and daughter, and Dr. **Vince Liu** (top right).



## Annual Banquet

The 34<sup>th</sup> annual Department of Chemistry Scholarship and Alumni Banquet was held March 31<sup>st</sup>. As before it was held in Gibbons Alumni Center's Traditions Hall starting at 5:00 pm.

Changes were made since the last Banquet

o During the Cocktail hour special pictures were taken, including the one below



o After the meal

An *In Memoriam* section initiated the program with pictures of departed colleagues.

Each of the nearly 20 awards involved a leader who introduced the recipient who came to the platform while the name of the of the award appeared above on the screen.



Awards Table

The recipient then went to the Award Reception area, then turned with the award in hand and stood to be photographed before

returning to their table. This was followed by the next award leader.

As always, it was pleasant to interact with current faculty as well as retired faculty and learn of their current activities.

Kudos to Ms. **Paige Romero** and her group of organizers.

## **Castle Research Conference**

*April 9: 8:00 am-6:00 pm*

The Raymond N. Castle Student Research Conference was initiated to encourage undergraduate and graduate students to present their scientific data in a friendly atmosphere.



Dr. Castle

The Castle Conferences are organized by students and provide the opportunity for young scientists to develop the necessary communication skills to excel in the future.

Facilities of ISA were used for the Conference, beginning with a welcome by Dr. **Xiaodong (Mike) Shi** at 8:00 am, followed by Breakfast.

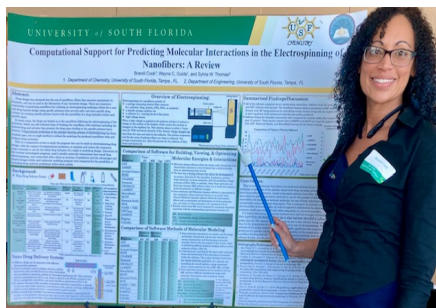
*Organization Committee:* **Guy Dayhoff**., **Nicole Miller**, **Brandon Yik**, and **Dianna Kim**.

o Five Oral Sessions were scheduled  
Graduate student talks covered almost all of

the basic areas of current ongoing areas of research at USF Chemistry

o *Posters:* Graduate student posters and some undergraduate student posters helped covered all areas of research in USF Chemistry

Students discussed their results at the Poster Session (below).



**Guest Speaker**



Dr. Renata

## Dr Hans Renata, Plenary Speaker

(Associate Professor of Chemistry, The Scripps Research Institute, Florida)

Dr Renata received his B.A. degree from Columbia University (2008) and earned his Ph.D. from the Scripps Research Institute (2013) under the guidance of Prof. **Phil S. Baran**.

Following postdoctoral studies with Prof. **Francis H. Arnold** at Caltech, he initiated his independent career at The Scripps His research is focused on synthetic and biosynthetic studies of natural products and biocatalytic reaction developments.

o The program was concluded at 6:00 pm...

## University Changes

### o Eighth President

On March 20, **Rhea Law** was unanimously voted by the Board of Trustees to be the next USF president.

This situation had been confirmed following a review of two candidates and she was granted permanent status in April. She is the first alum to be a USF president.

## Acknowledgments

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



Ms. Kroner

Ms. **Paige Romero**, Webmaster, Administrative Specialist, kindly provided useful technical assistance. Photos of the Annual Raymond Castle meeting were provided by Mr **Guy W. Dayhoff II**. The photo of poster was provided by Ms. **Brandi Black**, MS.

## News and feedback

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

or write to:DFMartin@USF.edu

## Administration

### Chair:



Dr. Leahy

Dr. James Leahy  
Professor and Chair

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The Florida Center of Excellence for Drug

Discovery & Innovation  
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August 2019 --

***Webmaster:***



Ms. Paige Romero

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