



# USF Chemistry NEWS

News of Interest to  
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University

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## Faculty Recognition

### 2019 CLP Prize

Dr. **Xiaopeng Li** who is receiving the 2019 Cram Lehn Pedersen (CLP) Prize in Supramolecular Chemistry. Each year, there is only one recipient from a worldwide pool of candidates.



Dr. Li

This prize is in honor of the 1987 Nobel Prize winners who started the field of supramolecular chemistry, is highly coveted by researchers in the field, and is highly respected by all chemists. By the way, for the non-chemists on this email message, supramolecular chemistry involves making and studying substances that go beyond individual molecules and focuses on systems made up of a group of individual molecules assembled into more complex systems.

Chairman **Wayne Guida** wrote, “this is an amazing honor for you and a well-deserved recognition of your ground-breaking research!”

### Outstanding Faculty Award

Two faculty members were presented with Outstanding Faculty Awards on March 26<sup>th</sup> at Lifsey House, based on achievements this academic year.

Dr. **Wayne Guida**, professor and chair, Department of chemistry, was recognized for having been named Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science.



Dr. Guida

Dr. **Dean F. Martin**, professor emeritus, was recognized for having been named Life member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



Dr. Martin

### **Trail Blazer Lecturer**

Dr. **James Leahy**, professor, served as invited lecturer at the Trail Blazers dinner, February 27 at the University Club.

His presentation was titled “Academic Discovery: Finding a Needle (or a Pill) in a Haystack.”



Dr. Leahy

The presentation discussed how drugs go from the lab to patients. It focused on two areas of research: neurodegenerative diseases (e.g., Alzheimer’s disease) and infectious diseases (e.g., malaria).

### **New Award**

Dr. **Mildred Acevedo-Duncan** was notified of an award from the Live Like Bella Pediatric Cancer Initiative in the amount of \$250,000.



Dr. Acevedo- Duncan

The Florida Department of Health noted that “competitive grant awards for cancer research are based on scientific merit as determined by peer review.”

The award is titled “Anti-Neuroblastoma Effects of ICA-1.”

### **Bulls in Action**

#### **Alumni Speaker Series**

This series organized by CAS is a private event designed to give student attendees for career insights and networking opportunity.

Two chemistry alumni were featured.

Dr. **Kerriann Greenhalgh** (B.A.’04; Ph.D. ’08) “ is Director of KeriChem Tech LLC and founder and CEO of KeriCure, a biotechnology company that converts a unique nanoparticle drug delivery platform into wound and skin care products that help alleviate a wide range of skin conditions.



Dr. Greenhalgh during her presentation

Dr. **Giodano Da Silva** ('B.A.'02; Ph.D.'07) currently serves as a Senior Medical Science Liaison with Takeda Pharmaceuticals, where his work in hematology touches the treatment of bleeding disorders like hemophilia and Von Willebrsnds disease.



Dean Eisenberg listening to Dr. Da Silva

## Engineering Expo

At the annual Engineering Expo held Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, Chemistry was represented by a chemist showing a chemical reaction just south of the Chemistry Building.



Dr. Fields

Dr. **Kimberly Bliss Fields**, instructor, shown (above) demonstrating Tollen's qualitative test for aldehydes. Added silver

ion is reduced and coats the test tube with metallic silver.

## Student Activities

### Council of Graduate Students



Pre-seminar coffee. Picture courtesy of CoGS V-P Mr. Guy Dayhoff

Volunteer members of the Council gather before Thursday morning seminars, brew the coffee and heat the water for tea and carry the dispensers down two flights of stairs to CHE 100.

This continuation of pre-seminar coffee, a tradition of long standing provides an important time of pre- and post-seminar mingling,.

## Gen Chem Teaching

The general Chemistry Cadre is presently comprised of 11 members: Dr. **Sherrisse Bryant**, Dr. **Frankie Costanza**, Dr. **Daniel Cruz**, Dr. **Ushiri Kulatunga**, Dr. **Scott Lewis**, Mr. **James Kingsepp**, Ms. **Vanessa Ralph**, Mr. **Md Tawabur Rahman**,

Dr. **Judy Ratliff**, Dr. **Christian Tang**,  
and Dr. **Rong Zhang**.



Dr. Costanza, Dr. Kulatunga, Dr. Lewis, Dr. Tang, Dr. Zhang, Dr. Bryant, Mr. Kingsepp, Dr. Ratliff, and Mr. Rahman Dr. Cruz and Ms. Ralph are not in the picture.

### **New Beginnings in General Chemistry**

Since 2016 there have been a number of substantive changes that we (the general chemistry instructors) are happy to update you on.

First, all instructors have adopted an open-source textbook through openstax <https://openstax.org/details/books/chemistry> that is a free download for students. This textbook maintains the content coverage in the course and includes links to interactive simulations.

Second, we have created an online homework question database and embedded in the university's supported course management system (Canvas). This database provides feedback to students on mistakes made and provides alternative, related questions on subsequent attempts. Both of these initiatives substantially lower the costs passed onto students.

Finally, peer-led team learning has been regularly incorporated across all classes of first-semester General Chemistry. Peer-led team learning gives students an opportunity

to receive tailored feedback on their coursework.

Enacting each of these initiatives with our large student population takes a tremendous amount of consistent work that is only possible by sharing the workload across the team of instructors teaching in General Chemistry.

If you're interested in more information about any of these initiatives please contact **Scott Lewis** at [slewis@usf.edu](mailto:slewis@usf.edu).

### ***Persons you may know***

Dr. **Abdullah Alhendal** (Ph.D. '16) a faculty member at the University of Kuwait stopped to say "Hello" on his way to visit with his doctoral advisor, Dr. **Abdul Malik**. He kindly mentioned that he follows our newsletters.

Dr. **Daniel R. Dempsey** (PhD '15) Bingham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School) spoke at Chemistry Colloquium March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. **David Merkler** was his doctoral advisor. Dr. **Jack Fernandez** (Charter faculty (1960-1995) and Mrs. **Sylvia Fernandez** attended Dr Leahy's presentation.

Dr. **Kimberly Bliss Fields**, instructor, did an event with Residential Life & Housing March 4<sup>th</sup> evening making pasta and talking about the Chemistry/bio-chemistry/physics of cooking food.





Dr. Fields

Mr. **Yixue Pan** (MS, 1992) reacted favorably to a new picture of his advisor and sent his picture and that of his two sons.



Dr. **Adrian Villalta-Cerdas** (PhD '14) was the grand-prize winner of the ACS Chemistry in Pictures contest (C&EN, Feb



Dr. Villalta-Cerdas

25). He is an asst. prof of chemistry at Sam Houston State University.

## **USF News**

### ***USF AAAS Fellows luncheon***

This was held Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> to recognize eight USF Faculty, including Dr. **Wayne Guida** (above).

“Election as a Fellow honors members whose efforts on behalf of the advancement of science or its applications in service to society have distinguished them among their peers and colleagues.”

USF’s first was Dr. **Dean Martin**, (Faculty 1964-- ) elected in 1983.

USF now has 65 fellows, the most of any Florida university.



## **Update**

Dr. **Judy Genshaft** wrote in **USF**, the official Magazine of the USF Alumni Association (Winter issue):

“The University of South Florida is on a trajectory unlike ever before in its history.... We are reaching milestones once reserved for universities twice our age.... We continue to make groundbreaking strides in research, student success, teaching and community impact.”

### ***USF System Consolidation***

**The USF Consolidation Planning, Study, and implement Task Force** was established legislatively pursuant to 1004.335(1) Florida Statutes to develop recommendations to improve service to students by phasing out the separate accreditation of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg and the University of South Florida Sarasota- Manatee.

This means that by July 1, 2020 USF must be operating under a single, unified accreditation.

A series of key milestones is available.

## Cade Museum for Creativity and Invention

The Cade Museum for Creativity & Invention held an unveiling and luncheon on March 2<sup>nd</sup> on the USF Tampa campus. Ms. **Phoebe Miles** is the president and co-founder.



The Cade Museum

The announcement noted that the exhibit celebrates Florida's incredible story of innovation showcasing inventors from Florida Inventors Hall of Fame, National Academy of Inventors and USF.

The unveiling ceremony featured remarks by Dr. **Paul Sanberg**, Senior VP for

Research, Innovation and Knowledge Enterprise, was the featured speaker at the Cade Museum's new exhibit



Dr. Sanberg

## Acknowledgments

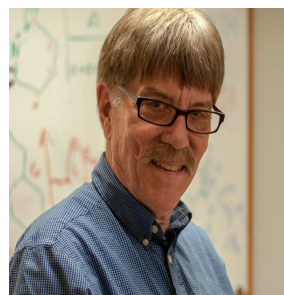
Dr. **Scott Lewis**, associate professor for updating general chemistry changes.

Dr. **Rong Zhang** for initiating coverage of important information about general chemistry.

Mr. **Guy Dayhoff**, NSF Fellow, and vice-president, Chemistry Council of Graduate Students for a helpful photograph.

## News and feedback

**Chair's Address:**



Dr. Wayne C. Guida  
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***Webmaster:*** Mr. Doug Franz



Mr. Franz

He is a member of Dr. **Brian Space's** research group working in the area of computational chemistry.

**News:**

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)