

# **USF** Chemistry NEWS

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

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# New Faculty...

Dr. Mohamed Eddaoudi is an inorganic/materials chemist with special interests in design and synthesis of functional solid state materials from molecular building blocks [see Science 295, 669 (2002); Science 300, 1127 (2003), Nature 423, 705 (2003)]. He received his Ph.D. with honors from University Denis Diderot, Paris VII, was a post-doctoral fellow at Arizona State (1997-99) and a research associate at the University of Michigan (2001-2002) before joining our faculty. In May, Dr. Eddaoudi received a USF Presidential Young Faculty Award (one of only four) and a cash award of \$1000 to support his research

**Dr. Alfredo Cardenas** specializes in computational chemistry and is likely to collaborate with colleagues at Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute. He was originally from Venezuela, received his Ph.D. in 2000 from the University of Pittsburgh, where his advisor was Prof. Rob Coleman. He then held a postdoctoral fellowship at Cornell University working with Prof. Ron Elbers.

# New Assistant Chairs

**Dr. Rosa Walsh** was appointed Assistant Chair for Academic Affairs. She received her Ph.D. from Clemson University and served as a post-doctoral associate with **Dr. Zaworotko** before assuming the present responsibilities.

**Dr. Patricia Muisener** has been serving as Assistant Chair for Administrative affairs following a year as a postdoctoral research associate with **Dr. Julie Harmon**.

## New Staff Members

Jennifer Spencer and Leila Amiri are serving in Science Advising. They are resource persons for curriculum development, and assist with student issues.

Nina Goode is serving as Department Accountant. She maintains grants and department accounts, is the payroll preparer, and arranges appointments for graduate assistants.



Professor Jesse Binford sitting atop his throne during his farewell roast.

# Our thanks to ...

**Edward Wilson**, who organized a special tribute to **Professor Jesse Binford** on his last lecture day. It had to be seen to be



Integrated Interdisciplinary Nanoscience REU Participants, 2003. Back row, from left to right: Peter Dow, Drew Rebar, Joseph Capetillo, Tim Carson. Front row, from left to right: Maria Roman, Jarymar Vazquez, Lori Milner, Dan Braley, Wes Cummins. Chris Smith was unavailable for this photo.

believed, but those present included Dr. Rebecca O'Malley, Professor of Chemistry, who organized and presented a special Binford-based quiz for those present, and participated in a demonstration-spoof skit along with **Betty Castor**, former USF President, who appeared as a guest fireman in the skit, and paid a personal tribute. Heidi Kay (Ph.D. '99), from the College of Public Health, was also a significant participant, who presented a bouquet to Mrs. Binford. Personal tributes were provided by some of Dr. Binford's students: **Rosemary Bottcher** (M.S.

'68), Roxanne Dow ('75), and Raymond Malloy (M.S. '88). Thomas Hebert (M.S. '68) came to the reception for Dr. Binford on April 19th.

# New Visitors – NSF REU

# Dr. Mike Zaworotko,

Professor and Chairman, is Principal Investigator for a National Science Foundation program that is supporting ten undergraduate students in an Integrated Interdisciplinary
Nanoscience Research
Experience. **Dr. Patricia Muisener** and **Dr. Rosa Walsh** are serving as CoCoordinators and there are
eight faculty mentors
associated with the program.
Pictures of a welcome picnic
are on the Department web
page.

# Among those heard from...

Charles Asowata ('80), Major, US Army stopped to visit on his way back to Ft. George, GA, and we were able visit with him and his wife and two daughters at the Embassy where they were staying.

Kathleen Carvalho– Knighton (Ph.D., '00) accepted an offer of an assistant professorship in



Major Charoles Asowata, Barbara Martin, Dean Martin, Mrs. Asowata



Craig C. Foreback.
Environmental Science & Policy at USF- St.
Petersburg.

Craig C. Foreback (Ph.D.'73) brought us up to date with an e-mail from Wisconsin. "Craig is a native of Pennsylvania who, with the exception of his college years in Florida, keeps moving west. He received his PhD in Environmental Analytical Chemistry at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida where his main interest was in heavy metals. (No, not head banging music but lead, mercury and arsenic.) He then located in the Detroit, MI area where he was the Director of Clinical Chemistry at Henry Ford Hospital. Craig also was an Adjunct Professor in the CLS program at Michigan State University, and he taught Clinical Chemistry to the CLS students at Wayne State University in Detroit. Craig and his wife Linda fell in love with the rolling

farmlands of Wisconsin and moved to New Glarus where they have started a bed and breakfast. Craig came to the CLS program in July of this year where he is teaching clinical chemistry and instrumentation [at the University of Wisconsin]. Craig loves to ride his 'skinny tire' bike in the hills in southwestern Wisconsin and can direct you on some wonderful 20-50 mile rides out of New Glarus."

Maria Gallardo-Williams (Ph.D.,'99) is now Coordinator of Organic Chemistry Laboratories in the Department of Chemistry at North Carolina State University.

Cherie Geiger (Ph.D., '94), a tenured associate professor of chemistry at University of Central Florida is serving a two-year term as president of the Florida Academy of Sciences.

Elsie Gross (Ph.D. '94) retired in June from Hillsborough Community College. She joined the faculty on September 13, 1978.

Steve Hendrix (Ph.D. '90), Associate Professor and Chairman, Department of Chemistry, University of Tampa attended the retirement reception for Dr. Braman (see Department Web Page for pictures)

**Ellen Leahy** (Ph.D. '90) is a Senior Scientist in Medicinal Chemistry at Celera in South San Francisco

James W. Leahy (Ph.D. '90) is Director of Chemistry at Exelixis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. in South San Francisco. The Leahys were recipients of the Chemistry 2002 Outstanding Alumni Award.

Robert Kalbach (Ph.D. '96) is a tenured associate professor at Finger Lakes Community College in Canadaigua, NY. He stopped by to say hello on May 23rd.

**Denise Manker**, Ph.D. (B.S.'84), a natural products chemist, is Director of Research and New Business Development for AgraQuest,



James W. Leahy, Ellen Leahy, and their two children.

Inc. Davis California. This firm received a Green Chemistry Award for "developing Serenade, the first broad spectrum biofungicide," according to a feature article in the June 30 issue of Chemical & Engineering News (she and a colleague appeared on the cover of the issue).

Brenda Pompey McIntyre, M.D. (M.S. '91), is now practicing medicine in Crestview Florida. Her youngest, Julian, is ready for college.

**Eileen Pérez** (Ph.D.'99) is now an Assistant Professor at Hillsborough Community College.

Mich Perez-Cruet, M.D. (M.S. '87), is Director of Minimally Invasive Surgery, Chicago Institute of Neurosurgery and Neuroresearch. He conducted workshops at a meeting of physicians at Saddlebrook in March.

Duke Pooré (Ph.D., '96), called to update us on his activities. He is now a captain in the US Army and is stationed at Walter Reed Research Facility in Washington, DC.

**Ralph Salvatore** (Ph.D.,'01) is an assistant professor of chemistry at Western Kentucky where he has a



NES construction as seen from the third floor of the CHE building. The main support columns have been filled with concrete and their wooden casings are being removed. Taken September 10, 2003.

research group of 11 students. One of his former advisees is now a graduate student working with Dr. Eddaoudi. It was a pleasure to see him when he visited the Department May 29th.

Dr. Katherine Seley has accepted a tenured position as associate professor of chemistry at University of Maryland-Baltimore County, Ramachandra S. Hosmane (Ph.D.'78) is Professor of Chemistry there.

**Paul Robert Young, Jr.** (B.S.'71; Ph.D., 1975)

Professor of Chemistry at the University of Illinois at Chicago, spoke at the 2003 Undergraduate Awards Banquet on April 15 when he was awarded the 2003 Outstanding Alumnus Award.

Eric Wei ('94) stopped by in mid-May. He is a chemist working at Cardinal (a pharmaceutical firm) in St. Petersburg and hopes to be admitted to law school.

# Matters of interest...

#### Kirpal Bisht, Ph.D.,

Assistant Professor of Chemistry, received a 2003 Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award, "New Options for Polymerizations Using Mild and Selective Lipases." The work was done with his postdoctoral mentor.

Ground breaking for renovation of Chemistry (built in 1959 and renovated several times) and the new NES (Natural and Environmental Sciences) building occurred in May. An official ground- breaking ceremony didn't occur, but digging surely occurred rapidly.

Names of past awards (Theodore and Venette Askounes Ashford Graduate Fellowship, Outstanding Alumni, Outstanding Chemistry Major) have been posted on plaques in the north corridor of the Science Center, but now they will be posted on our web page (Home Page, upper right-hand corner, "Awards"). We are grateful to the Department Web Master, Mr. Jason Hair, for making this accessibility possible.

Mike Zaworotko, Ph.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Chemistry was an invited plenary lecturer in the Inorganic Chemistry Symposium at the annual FAME 2003 meeting in Orlando in May. Other plenary lecturers were Dr. Bill J. Baker, Associate Professor, in the Natural Products Symposium, Dr. Mohamed Eddauodi, Assistant Professor, in the Inorganic Chemistry Symposium, and Dr. Abdul Malik, Associate Professor, in the Analytical Chemistry Symposium at the same meeting. Other faculty members and their advisees also attended and presented papers.

#### In Memoriam

**Dr. Robert Benson** (M.S., 1968) died suddenly of a massive heart attack on July 15th.

He had been a visiting faculty member and lecturer in Chemistry (1990-2001) prior to joining the College of Marine Science as a Chemical Sensor Development Engineer. His wife Freda, two sons, a daughter and several grandchildren survive him

## News

For additional information about our faculty, students, and programs, please see our Departmental Home Page: http://www.cas.usf.edu/chemistry/.

See also the current status of the Department History.

And if you have news for us, contact us at: dmartin@chuma1.cas.usf.edu.