

USF Chemistry Club

We have heard good things about the Club, and the Club President, Mr. Richard Slama, was asked to tell us some of the things the members have been doing:

Knowledge, Service and Friendship

“The USF Chemistry society has seen many new changes ever since its revamping back in the fall of 2007. Under the leadership of faculty mentor Dr. Kenneth Caswell as well as all the new officers, the society seems to be growing larger everyday.”

“Probably one of the largest accomplishments of the society is the activation of the American Chemical Society’s student affiliates chapter, which was accomplished by the society’s President.”

“ACS status not only makes the society more credible, but also gives the society many benefits. One of these includes the opportunity to sell ACS practice examinations to the student body for fundraising opportunities. “

“Other recent additions to the society’s activities include a new website put together by the Historian (Alexandra Talsma), voting for undergraduate teacher of the year by the Public Relations Chair (Bashar Al-turk), numerous volunteer opportunities offered through the center for civic engagement by the Community Service Chair (Zalika

Nisbeth). Some of these great activities have included the Heart walk, Stampede of Service and Toys for Tots, just to name a few.”

“Another very important addition is the new student-run Chemistry Help Center which has been given to the society through the graces of the Department of Chemistry, Dr. Caswell, and the organizational skills of Vice-president Lissette Marshall. Although still in the early stages of development, this room will serve as a tutoring room in which students will be able to help students in a subject that has one of the highest dropout rates in college. Tutors will be able to volunteer their time to help students in a variety of different chemistry courses, including Chemistry for Today, General Chemistry I and II, and Organic Chemistry.”

“With all that has happened over the past couple of semesters, the society is truly abiding by its new motto: *Knowledge, Service and Friendship for the greater good of the scientific community.*”

Faculty you should know...

Dr K. Kenneth Caswell “is in his fourth year as a member of the Chemistry Department faculty at the University of South Florida. Ken is in a permanent instructor line after serving a year, 2004-2005, as a Visiting Assistant Professor. He unexpectedly detoured into chemistry teaching and, though the learning curve has

been enormous, has excelled; winning the 2006 Undergraduate Teaching Award and a 2007 USF Outstanding Faculty Member Award (nominated by a student being recognized for an outstanding GPA). These awards reflect his consuming interest in ensuring students gain the most they can from the chemistry courses for which he is responsible.”

“Ken was born in Oneida, a relatively small town in mid-state New York, east of Syracuse. However, he grew up as a “military brat” in the Far East, including Okinawa, Japan, and the Philippines. After graduating high school, he spent about 14 years serving in the military himself. His world travels instilled in him a passion for learning about both the beauty of nature and the varied cultures of the planet.”



Dr. Caswell in his office

“He received his B.S. from Loyola University Chicago and his Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina in Columbia, working for Dr. Catherine Murphy studying interactions at the bio-nanomaterials interface. His research interests remain at this juncture with specific projects ranging from a novel bio-nano vaccine approach to sensors to smart surfaces to solar energy.’

“However, his redirection into a teaching focus has blossomed into a strong interest in

Chemical Education and desire to address the failure and retention rates in General Chemistry by developing a complete model composed of flexible, easily implemented modules for a quality and truly dedicated Preparatory Chemistry course. Thus, he has coauthored guided-inquiry small group activities in the process-oriented guided-inquiry learning model (the royalties of which will be channeled into his favorite departmental and university organizations; see below) and other materials for the large lecture and recitation components of this course. The process, assessment and materials development, and findings of this important work should facilitate a solid foundation for those pursuing upper-level chemistry courses and continue to prove publishable.”

“Ken is the faculty advisor for the University of South Florida Chemistry Society (an American Chemical Society Student Affiliate), the University of South Florida Cycle Racing Team, and the Judo Club. His support of such organizations reflects some of his interests, as well as his efforts to support students in their various pursuits. Ken enjoys any opportunity for outdoor activities, including, but not limited to, hiking (often with his two dogs), swimming, kayaking, martial arts, running, and cycling. In fact, Ken ran the Richmond marathon in 2006 and rides his bike to work whenever possible. Also, the chemistry of cooking, spices, herbs (particularly their potential for medicinal and health-related applications), wine, and beer are strong interests.”

Faculty Recognition

Wayne Guida (Ph.D.'76), Professor of Chemistry, was featured in an *Oracle* article (January 28), written by Harrison Reed, entitled “Returning to His Alma mater.”

Dr. Bill Baker, Professor of Chemistry, was the subject of two interviews recently. One “Journey to the Bottom of the Earth” appeared in the Friday, January 24th issue of *The Oracle*. A second, more personal interview, appeared in *USF Magazine* in February.

REU News

REU is a research experience for undergraduates and was initiated as an NSF-supported summer program with a three-year grant, as noted in previous issues of *News*. The program was adapted to the fall and spring semesters starting with the fall of 2005 and some 70 students.

This term, the program is being coordinated by **Dr. Patricia Muisener** and **Mr. Greg McManus**. Students participate in Mentor-guided research projects, but they also participate in a weekly seminar program organized by Dr. Muisener and Mr. McManus. Seminar topics this semester include abstract writing, poster making, lab safety, and faculty seminars by Dr. Martin, Dr. Yavneh, and Dr. Manetsch. Students are also encouraged to attend seminars and meetings sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Research.

The students are strongly encouraged to present their research efforts at conferences this Spring which includes the ACS local section Meeting in Miniature (March 28), the Office of Undergraduate Research USF Undergraduate Research Symposium and Celebration (April 2), and the Department of Chemistry’s Raymond N. Castle Student Research Conference (April 19). Mr. McManus’s salary for the past year has been supported by the Office of Undergraduate Research. We would like to thank the Office of Undergraduate Research and the

Director, Dr. Naomi Yavneh, for their generous and continued support of the program.

New Research Center

SMMARTT - Smart Metal-organic Materials Advanced Research and Technology Transfer - was created recently.

Its mission statement is: *To discover and develop new 'smart' metal-organic material (MOM) platforms for energy sustainability and enhancement of human health.*

A new project “Novel Porous Metal-Organic Frameworks for Hydrogen Storage,” recently funded by the U.S. Department of Energy is part of SMMARTT’s activities.

Faculty members of the center are **Dr. Mohamed Eddaoudi**, **Dr. Randy Larsen**, **Dr. Brian Space**, **Dr. Mike Zaworotko** and **Dr. Peter Zhang**.

A copy of the center’s brochure and flier may be found under “**Research Centers**” on the Department Webpage (<http://chemistry.usf.edu>).

News on Campus

A new parking garage at the corner of Alumni Drive and Walnut (about a block from the Science Center) is scheduled to open in March, 2008.

The student parking space to the west of the Science Center parking lot has been closed in preparation for construction of a dormitory. Finding how to enter the Science Center lot was an interesting challenge for the deserving until a new road was built to allow easier access.

In memoriam...

Mrs. Grace Carlton Allen, 1908-2007

Mrs. Allen died December 16, peacefully in her sleep. She was the wife of **Dr. John S. Allen**, founding president of USF. She was the founder of the USF Women's Club and established several endowed and dedicated scholarships.

Her contributions to USF and to higher education were recognized in several ways. In 1970, the Board of regents renamed the Administration Building "The John and Grace Allen Administration Building." The Women's Club established an endowed scholarship in her name. In 1996, Mrs. Allen was awarded an honorary degree of doctorate of humane letters by USF. A room in the University Library was named in her honor.

A Memorial Ceremony was held by USF and her family on Friday, March 7, 2008, at 10:00 am in Traditions Hall of the Alumni Center at USF.

Joseph Carr, 1921-2008

Older persons may remember Mr. Carr, an astronomer, who was a charter faculty member of USF and served as director of the USF Planetarium from 1964 until his retirement in 1990.

Each year he gave an estimated 450 planetarium programs for about 25,000 visitors. School buses parked next to the Physics building were a common sight during the academic year. He maintained an old, but dependable, SpitzSky projector, and he used it to re-produce the heavens.

USF awarded him an honorary masters degree. The Planetarium closed a year after his retirement.

He was a marvelous man to know and visit with.

Departmental Funds...

This is the list provided by Dr. Zaworotko in December, plus two newly created funds that have been added to the list.

Chemistry Operating Fund for general use (acct. # 42-0550)

Chemistry Scholarship Undergraduate Awards (42-0700)

Barbara and Dean Martin Seminar Series Fund (42-6014)

George Bursa Award in Chemistry for outstanding graduate students (42-6013)

Barbara B. Martin Endowed Fellowship (42-6046)

Owen Chemistry Undergraduate Research Fund (42-3030)

Worrell Memorial Scholarship (42-1900001)

Wenzinger Memorial Scholarship (42-0043005).

Donations

We are most grateful for the substantial donations that were received from Benz Research and Development, Sarasota.

Patrick H. Benz (Ph.D., '76), President for the Martin Seminar Fund and for the Wenzinger Memorial Scholarship Fund.

We thank **Kathleen Carvalho-Knighton** (Ph.D. '00) and **Mr. Anthony Knighton**, who made an appreciated donation to the Bursa Award Fund.

We are grateful to **Dr. and Mrs. Robert D. Whitaker** who made a donation to the

Wenzinger Memorial Scholarship Fund. **Dr. Whitaker** was a faculty member (1962-1992).

We are also grateful to Mr. Charles B. and Mrs. Barbara A. Jenkins who made a donation to the Wenzinger Memorial Scholarship Fund.

[Please advise us of any oversights.]

Round about...

It was a pleasure to see **Joanna Bis** (Ph.D. '06) who visited the Department just before Christmas from North Carolina, where she is with Glaxo-SmithKline in the Research Triangle.

Three persons from USF were given an impressive tour of Benz Research and Development in December. The firm produces contact lens and intraocular lens materials for export, and has a substantial share of the non-US world market. **Jose Ors** (Ph.D. '74) was our guide, as was **Dr. Patrick Benz**.

William E. Beaumont, L.L.M. (M.S., '80) wrote that he has moved his patent practice to Dickson, Wright in downtown Washington, D.C. This law firm, founded in 1877, is one of the oldest in Michigan, and has maintained an office in D.C. for about 35 years.

His practice largely involves chemical-/pharma/biotechnologies, and includes writing and prosecuting patent applications, opinions, and licensing. He added that over the years, he has developed a keen interest and practice in plant molecular biology, including cross-protection techniques and expression of secondary metabolites.

Visited with **Mr. Larry Chapman** and **Ms. Dyane Chapman**, long term staff member (including office manager 1986-1999). Both will have retired by March 2008.

Visited with **Dr. Marilyn Lupton**, office manager (1974-1986) before earning her doctorate in humanities at USF. She is now retired and living in Original Carrollwood opposite **Dr. Jon Antilla** and his family.

Brian Moulton (Ph.D.'03) accepted a position as Research Fellow at Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Cambridge, MA.

Young Chul Park (Ph.D.'04) is now an associate with the natural products group of Exelisis at their Oregon facility.

Our sincerest thanks to all who sent messages in December. It was good to hear from you.

News and feedback

Chair's Address:

Dr. M. J. Zaworotko
Department of Chemistry-CHE 205
University of South Florida
4202 East Fowler Avenue
Tampa, FL 33620-5205

Web page:

For additional information on faculty, staff, students, awards, fellowships, and programs, please look at our Department Home Page: <http://chemistry.usf.edu>

News

For past issues of *News* you may have missed, please see the Home Page.

News for us or comments? Please write to: dmartin@cas.usf.edu