

Out and about... Faculty inventors

The USF "Office of Research and Innovation has established the USF Academy of Inventors to recognize the contributions of scientist-inventors across all disciplines of the USF community."

"Our goal is to recognize investigators who are also inventors."

Charter members from Chemistry include:
Drs. **Mildred Acevedo-Duncan, Julie Harmon, Rebecca O'Malley, Abdul Malik, Dean Martin, Patricia Muisener, Robert Potter, Edward Turos, Mike Zaworotko, and Peter Zhang.**

More faculty recognition...

Dr. Abdul Malik (Assoc. Prof.) received a USF Excellence in Innovation Award for 2009.

Dr. John Antilla (Assist. Prof.) received a 2009 Outstanding Research Achievement Awards.

Departmental recognition

Dr. Randy Larsen (Chair) noted (Oct 21):
"I am proud to announce the Department of Chemistry conferred the largest number of degrees in CAS for the 2008/2009 period with 590 total. Of the 590 total degrees, 571

were Bachelors Degrees, 8 were Masters Degrees and 11 were Doctoral Degrees (one of which was from my lab!)."

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.

Dr. Patricia Muisener (Assistant Chair) described progress in August, "The Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Program in the Department is going strong. Jason Cuce is the Teaching Assistant for the Program and doing a fantastic job. The Office of Undergraduate Research has funded his TA for this summer, and the 2009/2010 academic year. We had about 40 students participating this summer in undergraduate research in the Department and we will have about 70 + students this fall."

The fall term began with an Open-House Undergraduate Research Session (sponsored by the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Open House Committee) on Thursday, August 20 that included an information session involving a panel discussion with faculty members and Mr. Cuce.

Campus changes --- past and future...

USF's founding president, **Dr. John Allen**, once described USF as "the place where the concrete never sets."

Provost **Ralph Wilcox** described some of the current projects in a letter in July: "Next month, students will move in to the brand new 1,000-bed Juniper and Poplar residence halls – home to an exciting array of living and learning communities, classrooms and a wonderfully fresh dining facility that will be open to students, staff and faculty."

"Construction of the \$47 million [Visual and Performing Arts Teaching Facility](#) is underway, as is the \$23 million [Patel Center for Global Solutions](#)."

"[In August] we plan to break ground on the long-awaited \$91 million Interdisciplinary Science Teaching and Research Facility."

This building will provide space for needs of physics, biology, and chemistry departments and will be the biggest building on campus.

The progress of these and other construction projects are [updated regularly](#) on the Facilities Planning and Construction website [http://usfweb2.usf.edu/FacilitiesPlan/projects_comb.html]

Progress on the new IST&R Facility

Before *construction* could start of the new seven-story Interdisciplinary Science Teaching and Research Facility there was *destruction* activity in August when the sidewalks were removed.



The picture was taken from the third floor of Chemistry facing east toward the John and Grace Allen Administration Building.

In addition, the [Recreation Center](#) (where some chemistry students and faculty try to stay in shape) will undergo a \$14 million expansion.

The Chemistry Society

Dr. Ken Caswell announced the awarding of the first Chemistry Society Scholarship on Friday, September 4th to Ms. Katherine Bliven. The check was formally presented in a brief ceremony by Mr. Bashir Al-Turk, President of the Chemistry Society.



Ms. Katherine Bliven and Mr. Bashir Al-Turk

Other activities were described by Dr. Caswell, "One of our fundamental goals... is the promotion of chemical education. For a year and a half, we have operated a free, student-staffed tutoring room to promote education in the field of chemistry at USF. We also have participated in various community service outreach activities."

Their latest project: collecting textbooks for SAFE --- The Sudan American Foundation for Education Inc. (SAFE) is an all-volunteer organization that donates textbooks to colleges, universities, libraries, and other nongovernmental entities in the Middle East.

Editorial Boards...

A number of faculty have served and/or do serve on advisory boards of scientific journals.

Dr. Larsen announced in August a new board member: "I want to congratulate Prof. Wayne Guida for his selection to the Editorial Board of a new journal, the Journal of High Throughput Screening: <http://www.dovepress.com/international-journal-of-high-throughput-screening-journal>.

"In addition, Prof. Dave Merkler has been invited to serve on the Editorial Board of Biochimica Biophysica Acta. This series of journals covers a broad spectrum of biomedical/biological research."

"The bench marks of increasing national/international visibility are not only our extramural funding and publications but also the selection of our faculty to editorial boards of journals. The Department of Chemistry currently has numerous faculty now serving on the editorial boards

of journals with ever increasing impact factors."

Dr. Larsen added, "Congratulations to Wayne and all Chemistry... faculty who are serving in this capacity. It is a true mark of our research success."

Please welcome...

Ms. Victoria Mothershed joined the Department as Grant Manager beginning on September 30.

Ms. Kimberly Read, MBA (Manager, Fiscal and Business Administration) wrote, "Victoria is joining us from the Psychology Department where she has worked as a research administrator since 2005. She has experience managing grant funds and monitoring expenditures in compliance with federal guidelines in conjunction with specific grant terms. She is familiar with the full grant lifecycle from proposal and start-up to on-going fiscal management and close-out. She has experience with an array of administrative responsibilities including appointments, purchasing and travel. And she knows how to use ... USF business systems."



Ms. Victoria Mothershed

Ms. Mothershed shared, "I am a graduate of USF and have worked for an alcohol and substance use research lab in the Psychology

Department for the past four and a half years. My husband and I live north of Tampa near Spring Hill with two wonderful and crazy dogs. We love sports and try to make it to as many Bucs, Bulls, and Lightning games as possible. I am looking forward to starting my new position with the Chemistry Department and am excited to jump right in and get to know everyone!!”

Research Grants of Interest

From **Dr. Larsen**: “I would like to congratulate Bill Baker for his NSF Award entitled ‘Collaborative Research: The Chemical Ecology of Shallow-water Marine Macroalgae and Invertebrates on the Antarctic Peninsula’, \$627,774 for three years. Bill has also received notification of continuation of his large Medicines in Malaria Venture project after a highly competitive annual review.”

Persons of interest ...

Heba Abourahama (Ph.D. `04) is an assistant professor of chemistry at The College of New Jersey. **Dr. Mike Zaworotko** was her doctoral research advisor.



Dr. Abourahama

Dr. Phillip J. Buckhaults (B.S. `88) is an Assistant Professor of Pathology and

Microbiology at the University of South Carolina. He also serves as Director, South Carolina Tissue Bank and Senior Member, South Carolina Cancer Center. He earned his doctorate at the University of Georgia and held a post-doctoral fellowship at The Johns Hopkins University before joining USC.

Timothy E. Long (Ph.D. `03) is an Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Georgia. **Dr. Ed Tuross** was his doctoral research advisor.

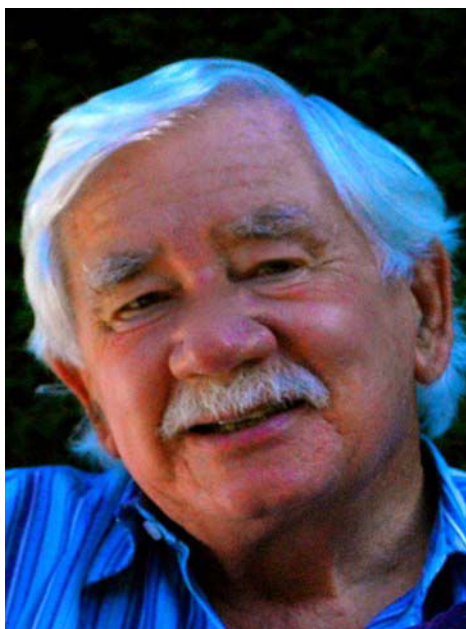
David P. Fries (MS `99) was mentioned in a story in the *Tampa Tribune* (August 26th) about the USF Academy of Inventors. It noted that he used the "lowly circuit board," to create a new device to measure the saltiness of ocean water.

The article noted, “The piece of equipment most people use to test salinity costs about \$4,000. Fries' invention, one of 23 patents, costs about a third that amount, which means the research institution can buy more, put more in the water and get a lot more data.”

Dr. Dean F. Martin (Faculty, 1964- ; Distinguished Professor Emeritus) served as a tour speaker for the American Chemical Society (Gulf Coast-Seminole Circuit) in September. His first ACS tour was in September, 1968.

Shaun E. Schmidt (Ph.D. `99) is an associate professor of Chemistry at Washburn University, Topeka, KS. His doctoral advisor was the late **Dr. Jay H. Worrell**. At Washburn, his research projects include Fabrication and Utilization of Tetrahedral "Cage-Hostage" Systems: [⁴Adamanzanezinc(II)] and [³Adamanzanezinc(II)].

The *Tenth* edition of Organic Chemistry (Wiley) by **Dr. T. W. Graham Solomons** and **Dr. Craig B. Frye** (Pacific Lutheran University) is scheduled for publication in December, 2009. **Dr. Solomons**, Professor of Chemistry Emeritus, was a Charter Faculty member, who served 1960-1990.



Dr. T. W. Graham Solomons

Jeffrey Zimmerman (Ph.D. '89) is Senior Principal Engineer with BAE Systems in Manassas, Virginia. **Dr. Rebecca O'Malley** was his doctoral advisor.

Dongxin Wang (Ph.D. '00) is a faculty member at Najing Normal University, Nanjing, PRC. **Dr. Abdul Malik** was his doctoral advisor.

“Giving”....

This is the title of a new secure link on the departmental Web page. (Box is top center). Clicking on the link allows a donor to make a gift to one of the accounts that the Department is emphasizing. Both are

related to the annual *Scholarship & Alumni Award* celebration each spring.

The Chemistry Operating Fund provides support for special guests to attend, a worthy cause that can not be supported by State funds. It also provides for food for seminars and related needs.

The **Chemistry Named Awards Endowment** provides cash awards to outstanding students in six areas of chemistry (This was the first year that \$200 awards were given in addition to a book in the subject area). In addition, the awards are named in honor of six pioneering faculty members all retired: **Drs. Binford, Braman, Davis, Fernandez, Owen (dec.), and Stanko.**

Two additional awards (in cash) are named after two past department chairs: **Drs. Maybury and Zaworotko.**

We hope to build up the funds so the amount of the awards can be increased.

We are grateful to the persons who have found the “*Giving*” link and have made donations.

Additional awards for are available that honor other faculty members, e.g., **Dr. George Wenzinger (dec.)** and **Dr. Jay H. Worrell (dec.)** or that support work by current faculty members, and it is possible to access these through the “*Giving*” link.

We are grateful to anonymous donors for their donations to these funds.

News and feedback

Chair's Address:

Dr. Randy Larsen
Department of Chemistry-CHE 205
University of South Florida
4202 East Fowler Avenue
Tampa, FL 33620-5205
rlarsen@cas.usf.edu

Web page:

<http://chemistry.usf.edu>

Webmaster: Mr. Tony Green

News:

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

News for us or comments?

Please write to: dmartin@cas.usf.edu