

NRC Rankings

At long last the rankings of the National Research Council are available for 2006.

Dr. Randy Larsen, Professor and Chair, noted “ the USF Department of Chemistry of Chemistry has done amazingly well...

Our measures are considerably higher now as we have continued to add outstanding faculty.” A total of 21 measures of departmental program are considered.

For details and comparisons, please see:

<http://chronicle.com/page/2010-Rankings-Doctoral/321/>

An honorary degree

An honorary Doctor of Science, will be awarded to **Dr. Joanna Fowler** (BA '64) in consideration of her notable achievements , as may be seen from the following links

[Fowler Awarded National Medal of Science http://www.bnl.gov/bnlweb/pubaf/pr/PR_displ ay.asp?prID=1010] and [Joanna Fowler – Bio <http://www.bnl.gov/medical/personnel/Fowler/>]

She was the recipient of the 2010 outstanding Alumni Award last April.

Faculty you should know include:

Dr. Arjan van der Vaart, who joined the department in the fall of 2009 as an assistant professor in the Computational Chemistry Division.

In August he received the ACS/HP Outstanding Junior Faculty Award at the 240th national meeting of the American Chemical Society held in Boston [Please see the Vol. 8, issue 3 for details] We asked him for a short biography, and he replied:

“I was born and raised in the beautiful countryside of the Frisian part of Holland, a farming area with green fields and small villages. Although I basically liked all subjects in school, I was particularly smitten by physics, biology, and chemistry. I nearly studied physics, but decided to study chemistry instead because of its broadness, its focus on molecules, and its close connection to biology and physics. An entire high school year of boring classical mechanics by an uninspiring teacher certainly made this choice easier; looking back, it's kind of funny that a large part of my research actually involves classical mechanics.”

“I was the first of my family to go to University, and really enjoyed the academic environment. In Holland at that time, the

chemistry major took 5 years, led to a M.S., and covered chemistry only; you specialized



Dr. van der Vaart

in a certain branch of chemistry after the second year. I really enjoyed the organic labs, the actual process of synthesizing compounds, but decided to specialize in theory after talking to a few theory professors.”

“Ultimately, I was very intrigued by the questions that theoretical chemistry tries to answer, even though the process of gathering data is not quite as exciting as experimental chemistry. I did my research project with Prof. Berendsen, and studied proton transfer in liquid water by time-dependent quantum mechanical techniques.”

“I graduated first of my class in 4.5 years, and decided to get my Ph.D. abroad as an easy way to combine my love for travel, lack of money, and love for chemistry.”

“I decided to work with Prof. Kenneth M. Merz, Jr. at The Pennsylvania State University (PSU), a promising young professor, who had done very nice mixed quantum mechanical - classical mechanical simulations.”

“Since I had absolutely no idea what Pennsylvania or the US was like, I watched the movie "The Witness" in preparation (I happily found out that State College is quite different). I left Holland on Dec. 31, 1995, taking my first flight ever. Penn State was great: my research on quantum chemistry was going well, and I did a lot of hiking, biking, and camping. At the end of my study at Penn State I decided to switch fields a bit and learn about classical simulations of proteins.”

“I decided to apply for a postdoctoral position with the leader in this field (Prof. Martin Karplus), and worked for him, first for a year in Strasbourg (France), then four years at Harvard.”

“After the postdoctoral years, I became an assistant professor at ASU, and moved to USF last year, where I continue my research in biomolecular simulations.”

Notable funding

Dr. Randy Larsen announced (October) “USF Chemistry has now received our letter of award for a USF- King Abdulla University of Science and Technology (KAUST) Global Research Partnership. USF joins Cornell University, the University of Oxford, Stanford University, and Texas A&M University as recipients of such partnerships. The USF effort is led by **Mike Zaworotko** (PI), **Peter Zhang** (CoPI) and **Brian Space** (CoPI). The grant is funded at \$1,000,505 for three years with full F&A!” (facilities and administration charges).

Out and about...

Jonathon L. Belof (Ph.D. '09) received the Best Talk Award at the GPU symposium held during the 240th National Meeting of the American Chemical Society (Boston) His paper was entitled "Solving Many Body Field Equations of a Point- Induced Dipole Potential on Graphics Processing Units."

Dr. Brian Space (Professor of Chemistry) was his doctoral advisor.

Dr. Randy Larsen (Professor and Chair, Chemistry) wrote " This is quite an honor for a graduate student and exemplifies the high quality graduate education within SNSM (school of Natural Sciences and Mathematics)."

Dr. Belof has a post-doctoral position at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Jarrold F. Eubank (Ph.D. '08) after a postdoctoral experience at Université de Versailles St-Quentin-en-Yvelines has



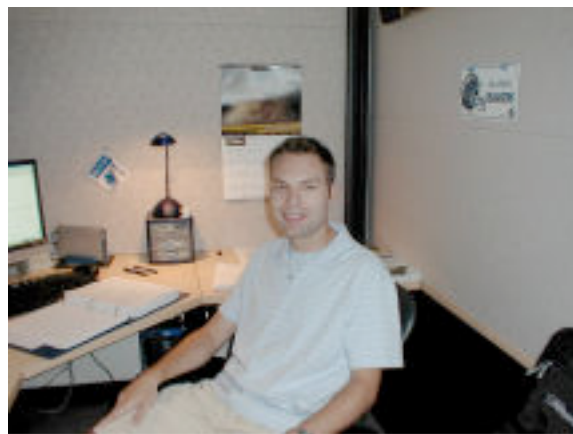
Dr. Eubank

returned to USF as a postdoctoral research associate where he will assist in the supervision of **Dr. Mohammad Eddaoudi's** Research group.

Saw **Dr. Jack E. Fernandez**, Prof. Emeritus (charter faculty member. 1960- 1995) and **Mrs. Sylvia Fernandez** at Phi Beta Kappa lectures September 14th and also October 13th. They celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary this year.

Alicia Garcia (Ph.D. '10) is a Visiting Instructor in Chemistry at USF.

Anthony J. Green (Ph.D. '10), former Department Webmaster and member of **Dr. Brian Space's** research group, is Senior Systems Administrator for Research Computing, USF Information Technology



Dr. Green

Dean F. Martin (Faculty 1964-2006) professor emeritus, was the 2010 recipient of the "Class of '56 Award" of the USF Alumni Association. "The purpose of the award is to recognize a non-USF graduate who has rendered distinguished service to USF and the Community." He was also made an honorary life member of the USF Alumni Association.

Mark McClure (Ph.D.'99) associate professor of chemistry and physics at UNC-Pembroke wrote about his current activities, including the good news that one of his

research advisees was named outstanding undergraduate researcher for his department.



Dr. McClure

Eileen Pérez (Ph.D. '99) was among those attending the BCCE (see below). She is a professor of chemistry at Valencia CC .

Dorina Sava (Ph.D.'09) is active in a postdoctoral position at Sandia National Laboratory , Albuquerque, New Mexico.



Dr. Sava

Abe Stein (Ph.D. '10) is a post-doctoral research associate at UC-Irvine.

Saw **Dr. Joe Stanko** (Faculty 1973-3003) at the inaugural luncheon of the National Academy of Inventors™ October 11th. His patent with **Heidi Kay** (Ph.D.'99) and Dr. **Jay Palmer** (former faculty member) was

one of 66 that were issued to USF in 2009-2010.

Saw **Dr. Jon Weinzierl** (retired faculty member,1973-2009), **Dr. Susan Weinzierl**, and a grandson when visiting a popular book store recently. All looked healthy.

At meetings

Members of the Educational Chemistry group attended the Biennial Conference on Chemical Education in Denton, Texas in August.

Those pictured are (left to right) **Dr. Lewis**, **Dr. Eckart**, **Mr. Gatlin**, **Dr. Lykounou**, **Ms. Heredia**, **Dr. Garcia**, **Ms Villafane Garcia**, **Ms. Xu**, **Ms. Kulatunga**, **Dr. Sandi- Urena**.



During the awards ceremony, **Ushiri Kulatunga** was presented with one of the three Chemistry awards in recognition of her outstanding research contribution and presentation.

Dr. Santiago Sandi-Urena participated in the Tenth European Conference on Chemical Education held at Krakow, Poland July 4-7. He is pictured (below) with the

Secretary of the Organizing Committee, Dr. Iwona Maciejowska, from the Jagiellonian University, Kraków,.



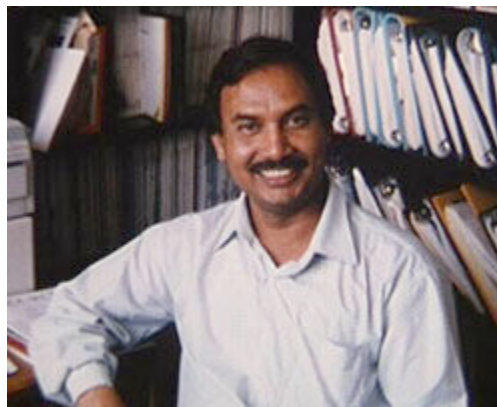
He was included in the Scientific Committee of the Conference and was assigned the duty of reviewing abstracts and consulted on certain aspects related to the program. Receiving a 2010 International Travel Award (ACS Div. of Chemical Education) helped pay for his attendance at the conference.

Dr. Abdul Malik gave three invited lectures at international meetings this fall:

The 2010 China-Japan-Korea Symposium on Analytical Chemistry, held in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China (October 31 – Nov 02) where he was invited as a special guest to give a keynote lecture.

The Fourth Brazilian Symposium on Chromatography (SIMCRO 2010, September 13-15, 2010) held in Campos do Jordao (SP), Brazil, where he gave a plenary lecture.

The Twelfth International Symposium on the Advancement of Extraction



Abdul Malik

Technologies (ExTech 2010, September 20-22, 2010) held in Poznan, Poland, where he presented a plenary lecture.

Campus changes --- past, current, and future...

More parking spaces have appeared next to the Sun Dome to help make up for the ones that disappeared in preparation of a new basketball facility. The new ones came as the new chilling facility was completed (just west of the Sun Dome).

The Patel Building is close to being ready for occupancy, and the President's Office and Academic Affairs will occupy space in the new building and vacate the Administration Building. The vacant space will be occupied by the Honors College, which will allow more visibility for this major group.

Speaking of building...

Since President Genshaft has been in office (ten years), USF has had \$1 billion in construction. When you visit the Tampa campus, you may need a map.

Speaking of maps...

Campus maps have appeared around campus. The one pictured below is typical and is located southwest of the Science Center. The map case is about 3' x 3' on a pedestal, and has a replaceable map looking in the direction of the viewer.



Given 390 buildings in the USF four-campus system visitors need all the help they can get.

Campus changes (cont) – new tee shirts

These were available to chemistry faculty (and others) who use the Recreation Center to stay in shape. The shirts remind us that a

new, expanded Recreation Center is well on the way:



"mens sana in corpore sano"

Fifty years of students...

On Monday, September 26, 1960, USF welcomed the first class of students to a sidewalk-free campus. On Monday, September 27, 2010 a special celebration complete with '60s rock n' roll music, hamburgers, and Cokes was held in the Marshall Student Center Plaza. The celebration included a visit from the first student enrolled at USF.

Then there were about 2000 students. Now there are 40,000 students enrolled at the Tampa Campus alone.

R. I. P....

It was with considerable regret that we learned of the death of **Dr. Kommineni Ramaiah** (October 10) in Hyderabad, India, at age 78. He was one of the Department's first post-doctoral research associates (1964-

65).

He collaborated with **Dr. Martin** before returning to Osmania University where he was a professor.

Subsequently he moved to J.N. Technological University, Hyderabad, where he held several administrative positions, including Registrar, Rector, and Vice-Chancellor. He is survived by his wife, Anasuya, and four daughters.

We are grateful to his son-in-law, **Prasad J. Yealuru**, Temple Terrace, for his helpful Information.

The joy of our present, the hope of our future...

Mr. **Jeremy Beau** is the new Web Master for the Department of Chemistry. See his picture and learn more about him from his Web page: <http://jeremybeau.com>

What they did later...

Often we wonder what did our graduates do after they left. It is possible to find out in many cases by looking at the Undergraduate or Graduate list on our Web page under the "Department" link. To maintain the list is time consuming, to be sure, and there is room for improvement. And, naturally alumni move around. We list here just few persons to show the range of interesting careers.

Jaime A. Alvarez, M.D. (B.S., Biology; B.A. Chemistry '87), earned his M.D. from State University of New York College of Medicine (Syracuse), he interned in General Surgery and (92-93) was a resident in neurosurgery(93-99) at Case Western

Reserve. His clinical practice (1999 – present) has been with Southwest Florida Neurological Associates (Ft. Myers).

Charles A. Asowata, Ph.D. (B.A. '88) went into industry, earned a masters in organometallic chemistry at Texas Southern while working full time supporting his wife and five children. Subsequently, he enlisted in the US Army, served at various posts, rising to the rank of Lt. Colonel (October 2007), earned a Ph.D. from George Mason U. (2009) while serving at the Pentagon. Subsequently he was posted to Germany.

Patricia Bradley (B.A. 1963) spent most of her alumni years (1976 -2002) with the U.S. Department of Labor, OSHA. Her career summary reads in part "Progressive experience in professional and technical fields leading to supervision and management in occupational safety and health. Proven management ability in a variety of offices for OSHA." She was an Area Director/Houston and Lubbock, Texas and Albuquerque, NM and responded to oilfield and refinery events , ensured compliance with OSHA regulations for one-third of the State of Texas (stationed in Lubbock) . As special assistant in the Assistant Secretary's Office, Washington, D.C., she represented field enforcement interests to Deputy and Assistant Secretary of Labor. Starting in June, 2002 she became president and CEO of About Safety & Health, Inc.

Paul R. Stelzman (B.S. Biology; B.S., Chemistry '93) served as a laboratory technician with the City of Tampa Water Department (January, 1992- August 1993). Subsequently, he did analytical chemistry with GTEL Environmental Laboratories, Inc., and Valent USA before becoming associated with the East Bay Municipal

Utility District (2009--) in California where he is now the Water Treatment Plant Operator .

Now we are a “System”

The University of South Florida System is “a young and emerging system formed to bring its member institutions together to collectively serve the Tampa Bay region and beyond...” It is comprised of **USF Tampa**, the doctoral granting, research-intensive member, and three masters level institutions, **USF St. Petersburg**, **USF Sarasota-Manatee**, and **USF Polytechnic** (in Lakeland).

The first two are separately accredited; the other two are in the process of becoming separately accredited. The total head count is about 47,000 with 40,429 reported for **USF Tampa**. (USF System Facts 2010/2011).

Giving: “Make a Gift”

This is the title of a secure link on the departmental Web page. (Link is on the left-hand side of the Home page). 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. 2009 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.

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
rwlarsen@usf.edu

Web page:

<http://chemistry.usf.edu>

Webmaster: **Mr. Jeremy Beau**

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
or share with the Web page or with the [Facebook](#) page.