



USF Chemistry NEWS

News of Interest to

Friends of the Department of Chemistry

University of South Florida

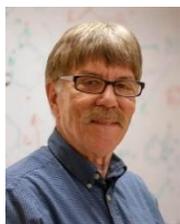
Volume 18, No 2

Spring 2020

Florida's only Metropolitan Preeminent
Research University

Faculty Recognition

The National Academy of Inventors (NAI) Senior Member Advisory Committee ND Board of Directors informed (February 11) Dr. **Wayne Guida** (Professor) of his election to the rank of **NAI Senior Member**.



Dr. Guida

Dr Xiaopeng Li and his group on had their latest work published in *Nature Chemistry* (<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41557-020-0454-z>) detailing the synthesis and self-assembly of the largest recorded 2-dimensional supramolecular grid. It was highlighted by USF's news feed today

(<https://www.usf.edu/news/2020/pushing-the-limits-of-2d-supramolecules.aspx>).



Dr. Li

18th Castle Conference

The 18th Raymond N. Castle Student Research Conference was held on Saturday March 7th. The facilities of the ISA Building were used for meetings, lecture presentations, and Posters

Student involvement was impressive as indicated by

- 18 graduate talks in three sessions.

□ ~12 graduate student posters

□ ~35 undergraduate posters

.Food and beverages, provided by Tampa Bay Section, ACS, were served in ISA top floor in a center area surrounded by posters.

Professional involvement was indicated by about two dozen judges from some five institutions.

Castle 2020 committee was well organized and included:**Guy Dayhoff** (Committee Chair) **Nicole Miller, Harsh Vardhan, Shun Teng, Ruixuan Gao, Minghui Wang, Mengjia Liu, Adam Hogan, and Chenhaun Wang.**

Staff and Faculty supporters included:Mr. Ryan Jahn, Mr. Roberto Avergonzado, Ms. Kaitlyn Kroner; Ms. Paige Romero, Dr. Xiaodong (Mike) Shi.;Dr. Kimberly Fields.

Guest Speaker

Dr. Lila R. Gierasch is Distinguished Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology University of Massachusetts Amherst.

She serves as Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Biological Chemistry*. The recipient of a number of awards, she is also a member of both the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences



Dr. Gierasch

Her research is focused on protein folding problems, namely how amino acid sequence determines the three-dimensional structure of a protein, which is not fully understood despite many years of effort.

She noted, “We are particularly interested in how a protein folds *in vivo*. There are many challenges presented to a newly synthesized protein as it navigates its energy landscape to the native state in the cell. These include the co-translational emergence of the protein from the ribosome and potential for conformational search before the chain is complete, the extremely high concentration of macromolecules and consequent crowding of the cellular milieu,”

The plenary presentation was entitled:

“Hsp70 Molecular Chaperones: Molecular Machines that perform Diverse Cellular Roles.”

Persons you may know

Jhon Figueroa, Ph.D.

Dr. Figueroa, Safety Coordinator and Undergraduate Laboratory Manager will be on leave February 21 until the end of 2020.



Dr. Figueroa

He will be serving with the U.S. Navy at an undisclosed location overseas. He is missed.

Joshue Martinez

He replaced Mr. **Matthew Casto** as the Department's Fiscal and Business Specialist. Mr. **Martinez**, a graduate from the USF



Mr. Martinez

Muma College of Business, served in the United States Army before finding a passion for business. He is excited to start his career here with the department and hopes to start and complete his masters and doctoral degrees.

Dr. Evans-Nguyen/ Dr. Cai

After serving three semesters as Seminar (Cheminar) Coordinator, Dr. **Theresa Evans-Nguyen** (Assistant Professor) relinquished the position to Dr. **Jianfeng Cai** (Professor).



Dr. Evans-Nguyen



Dr. Cai

Vanessa R. Ralph

Ms. Ralph, a doctoral candidate in Chemical Education Research, served as Webmaster for about a year. She defended her dissertation the spring of 2020. She was scheduled to start as a Post-doctoral



Dr. Ralph

Fellow with Dr. **Ryan Stowe** at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Paige Romero, CRA-USF/Advanced

Ms. Romero , Administrative Specialist, assumed additional duties as our Webmaster(*vide infra*) .

James Parrish, Ph.D

The only small molecule currently in clinical trials to treat the COROVID-19 infection is

remdesivir, which was discovered at Gilead. One of the discoverers is Dr. **James Parrish**, a USF alumnus (Ph.D., 2001). Dr. **K.W. Jung** was his advisor.



Dr. Parrish

Dr. Parrish is Gilead's CEO, and he was one of the cofounders.

Haifan Wu, Ph.D.

Haifan Wu (Ph.D. 2015), has accepted an offer of a tenure track position as Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Wichita State University, Kansas

His first post-doctoral position was with Professor **William DeGrado** at USSF



Dr. Wu

Dr. **J... Cai** (Professor) was his doctoral advisor.

COROVID-19

Coronavirus concerns brought about notable changes and well-crafted responses.

After careful deliberation and consideration of the best information available to us at this time, given the unfolding outbreak of COVID-19, the University of South Florida's College of Arts and Sciences has concluded, with regret, that we cannot proceed with holding the **Department of Chemistry Scholarship & Alumni Banquet** as planned.

This decision was not made lightly. We made this decision with the health and physical safety of our attendees, staff, volunteers, and vendors foremost in our minds.

University System President, Dr. **Steve Currall**, mandated that after Spring Break (March 16-20) all instruction would move to online education for two weeks.

All students were asked not to return. Those who could not leave because their homes were abroad, for example, were allowed to stay in the dormitory system

Teaching assistants conducted laboratory experiments that were recorded. Students would then use the results to write up their reports

Faculty members used other techniques to provide various Online lecture materials for the remaining classes until the formal ending of the spring term. The University provided Information sessions for faculty to acquaint them with the technics they would need

The University remained open, but Faculty and Staff were allowed to work at home.

Student laboratory research continued though perhaps with fewer in a laboratory (<5) at a given time and with spacing of at least six feet between students.

Now you see them, now...

The laurel oak trees that were planted in the grassy campus east of the Science Center in 1974 were short lived species with a life time of 50-60 years.

Unfortunately they have become diseased and it has been necessary to fell them for safety reasons. The matter is being handled by an arborist on weekends, and we can expect to see the loss of about ten trees

Chemistry Graduates

A list of Chemistry graduates and their advisers follows:

Doctorates:

Dr. Ifeoluwa Ayodeji (Dr. Theresa Evans-Nguyen)



Dr. Avodeji

Dr. Amber J. Dood (Dr. Jeffrey Raker)



Dr. Dood

Dr. Abiola Jimoh (Dr. Xiaodong Shi)



Dr. Jimoh

Dr. Fiona Kearns (Dr. H. Lee Woodcock)



Dr. Kearns

Dr. Tracess B. Smalley (Dr. Mildred Acevedo-Duncan and Dr. Wayne Guida (Co-advisors).



Dr. Smalley

Dr. Timothy Vazquez (Dr. Theresa Evans-Nguyen)



Dr. Vazquez

Dr. Binjie Yang (Dr. Bill J. Baker)



Dr. Yang

Masters

Mr. James Kingsepp (Dr. Scott Lewis)



Mr. Kingsepp

NB Spring Commencement

Owing to Corovid 19, spring commencements were cancelled

Donors to the Department

July 1 -December 31, 2019

Personal Donors

George Allen

William C. Brown, Jr., M.D.

Sherrisse K. Bryant

Jianfeng Cai, Ph.D.

Laurent Jean-Paul Calcul, Ph.D.

Harvey R. Chaplin

Henry Euler

Theresa Evans-Nguyen . Ph.D

William A. Glauser, Ph.D.

Lawrence Greenwald

Wayne C. Guida, Ph.D.

Robin G. Hake

Lorene L. Hall-Jennings

Joanne E. Hausinger

Ryan L. Jahn

Maureen P. Johnston

Kaitlyn C. Kroner

Scott E. Lewis, Ph.D.

Jennifer E. Lewis, Ph.D.

Dean F. Martin, Ph.D.

David Mawhinney

Mark A. McLaughlin, Ph.D.

Gerhard G. Meisels, Ph.D.

Suzanne Rogers Moore

Elsa M. Salcines

Frances M. Salo

Stewart W. Schneller, Ph.D.

Gregory L. Wilcox

Corporate Donors

Arthur T. Cantwell Charitable Foundation

Dean M. Graham Foundation

Elinor Beidler Siklossy Foundation

Frances Pew Hayes Family Foundation

Gerald A. and Karen A. Kolschowsky Foundation, Inc.

James R. and Mary M. Bellor Foundation

Leo and Anne Albert Charitable Trust

Louis C. & Celia K. Grossberg Foundation

Max Goldenberg Foundation

Steven and Beverly Rubenstein Charitable Foundation, Inc.

The Daniel Tanner Foundation

The Klehn Family Foundation

The Lewis Hertz Foundation

The Linda Sue Pfarrer Nortillo Charitable Foundation

Yolanda & Salvatore Gigante Charitable Foundation Trust

.....

We are grateful to all donors for their support.

College of Arts and Sciences Info

Students pursuing a CAS degree: 19,668

Distinct undergraduate majors: 41

% of all undergraduate student Credit hours (Tampa) : 53%

% F TIC retained to 2nd year: 91.6%

Graduation rate:
4yr: 70.3%; 6yr: 78.7%

USF Innovation Enterprise

Paul R. Sanberg, M.D., Ph.D., D.Sc., is Senior VP for Research, Innovation & Knowledge Enterprise. He is also President and Founder of the National Academy of Inventors.

Dr. Sanberg is also a highly cited author, one of 146 at USF who are among the top



Dr. Sanberg

1.5% of all cited scientists worldwide

Recently he announced the names and affiliations of the 2019 class of NAI Fellows.

“There are now 1,228 NAI Fellows worldwide, representing more than 250 [prestigious universities and government and non-profit research institutes. Collectively the Fellows hold more than 41 issued U.S. patents.”

Acknowledgments

Mr. **Guy Dayhoff**, NSF Fellow, provided helpful Castle Conference information



Mr. Guy Dayhof II

Dr. **James Leahy** for a news item

Ms. **Ann Serota**, CAS Development Specialist provided the donor list.

Mr. **Bruce Smith**, Facilities Manager (Sciences) for oak tree information.

Abbreviations

NIH: National Institutes of Health

Chair:



Dr. Leahy

Dr. James Leahy, Professor and Chair

Department of Chemistry
The Florida Center of Excellence for Drug
Discovery & Innovation
Department of Molecular Medicine
University of South Florida
3720 Spectrum Boulevard, Suite 305
Tampa, FL 33612
813-974-4642

August 2019 --

Webmaster:



Ms. Paige Romero

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

News for us or comments?

Please write to: dfmartin@usf.edu

