



USF Chemistry NEWS

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

Volume 19, No 6
Autumn 2021

Florida's only Metropolitan Preeminent
Research University

Faculty Recognition

Faculty Awards

Dr. **James Leahy** (Professor and Chair) congratulated Dr. **Jennifer Lewis** (Professor) on being named the 2022 winner of the ACS Award for Achievement in Research for the Teaching and Learning of Chemistry from the American Chemical Society.



Dr. Lewis

A symposium to celebrate this award will be held at the spring 2022 National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in March, 2022 in San Diego.

Faculty Retirement

Dr. Leahy announced that Dr. **Milton Johnston** would retire at the end of the Fall term.



Dr. Johnston

Dr. Johnston became a faculty member in 1973 and a full professor in 1994. He is a graduate of Princeton (AM, 1968 and PhD, 1968).

He taught a range of courses, including general chemistry, physical chemistry, and special topics.

Five students earned a doctorate and one a masters under his guidance.

He also prepared and made available five interactive computer packages for general use with a PC.

His dedication, his wit, and his collegial interactions were treasured and will be missed.

Fall Term -I

USF expected to admit its largest freshman class yet: 7,200, and possibly the brightest.

The Fall 2021 term opened as a regular semester with regularly scheduled classes in open rooms. The first day of classes occurred on Monday August 23rd.

Fall classes are scheduled to end Dec 2.

Test-free week: Nov 26-Dec 2.

Winter Intersession: Dec 13-Jan 7.

Fall Term -II

CHEMINARS

The seminar program returned to being held in the 200 seat CHM 100 auditorium with some live speakers and a live audience, as well as some on-line presentations.

Dr. **Jiangfeng Cai** (USF Preeminent Professor) scheduled 14 colleagues and



Dr. Cai

He coped patiently and effectively with unexpected changes. COVID concerns led to one cancellation, and a speaker's sudden

obligation led to another in the first three weeks, but a virtual replacement from UT-El Paso was secured.

The reappearance of freshly brewed coffee at seminar was appreciated, and the efforts of dedicated graduate students were impressive.

Colloquium

Dr. **Kirpal Bisht** (Associate Professor) noted, "Colloquium will be on Tuesdays 2.00-3.00 pm."



Dr. Bisht

He has organized an interesting program of presentations that showcase interesting research occurring in the Department.

Fall Term -III

Athletics

USF football returned to full capacity for games at Tampa's Raymond James Stadium. For the first time, the U. of Florida team was scheduled to play the USF team in Tampa (September 11th). Several on the USF team had acquaintances on the UF team.

Persons you may know

Dr. **Ashli Brown** (PhD, 2003, Dr. **Steve Grossman**, advisor) has been named associate vice president of Mississippi State University's Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine.



Dr. Ashli Brown

Alexsandra Karolak (Ph.D., 2015; Dr. **van der Vaart**, advisor) sent a number of photographs of California scenes. Very much appreciated.

Jay Parrish (Ph.D., 2001; Dr. **Kyung Jung**, advisor). Following a postdoc with Dr. Dale Boger at Scripps, he started his career as a research scientist at Gilead where he was part of the research team that discovered their hepatitis C drug Sovaldi.



Dr. Parrish

Dr. Parrish presented a seminar on October 13th.

Ralph Salvatore (Ph.D., 2001; Dr. **Kyung Jung**, advisor) Professor of Chemistry, Southeastern University, presented a seminar on November 24th.

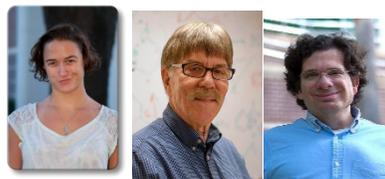


Dr. Salvatore

Commencement- fall term

Those eligible included:

Grace Binder, Ph.D.



Dr. Binder Dr. Guida Dr. Daniel

Dr. Kenyon G. Daniel (Co-Advisor)

Jacob M. Mayers, Ph.D.

Dr. Randy Larsen (Advisor)



Dr. Mayers Dr. Larsen

Christopher B. McKeithan, Ph.D.

Dr. Randy Larsen (Advisor)



Dr. McKeithan Dr. Larsen

Minghui Wang, Ph.D.

Dr. Jianfeng Cai (Advisor)



Dr. Wang Dr. Cai

Xiaoliang Wang, Ph.D.

Dr. **Shengqian Ma** (Co-advisor)

Dr. **Jianfeng Cai** (Co-advisor)



Dr. Wang



Dr. Ma



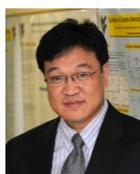
Dr. Cai

Chiyu Wei Ph.D.

Dr. **Xiaodong (Michael) Shi** (Advisor)



Dr. Wei



Dr. Shi

Jared G. Waters M.S.

Dr. **Bill Baker** (Advisor)



Mr. Waters



Dr. Baker

Dr. James Leahy

With some 4,200 majors distributed across eight different programs and producing well over 64,000 student credit hours and over 770 degrees each year, the Chemistry Department is a major contributor to all of the university's critical performance metrics.

The program continues to provide high quality instruction led by a talented group of chemical education researchers and instructors.

The introductory programs effectively use peer-led learning and active learning/flipped classroom approaches leading to improved student success.

Chemistry has a very strong undergraduate advising program.

The tenured and tenure line faculty continue to produce high quality publications and funded research with research expenditures over \$3 million per year.

The department has the largest Ph.D. program in the university at 150 students and is the leading producer of Ph.D.'s in the university, regularly graduating 10-20 or more per year.

N.B. This material was taken from a department evaluation.

University Administration Administration

President **Rhea Law** noted that a story in *USF* magazine "speaks to our history of bold ambitions: the 50th anniversary of the charter class of the Morsani College of medicine."

She also noted that when classes began in September, 1971 they were held in a 30'x40' room on the fourth floor of the Science Center on the Tampa Campus.



President Law

She added, “Today we can proudly say that USF is one of the top producers of physicians in Florida.”

Winter Break

President **Rhea Law** in appreciation of the dedication of Faculty and Staff over the past 18 months, announced that USF will increase the days off in Winter Break to ten (December 20- December 31).

USF Innovation Enterprise

Dr. **Paul R. Sanberg**, FNAI, FRSC., Distinguished University Professor, is now former Senior VP for Research, Innovation & Knowledge Enterprise.

Dr. Sanberg is also President and Founder of the National Academy of Inventors.



Dr. Sanberg

The Florida Inventors Hall of Fame 7th Annual Induction Ceremony and Gala was held November 5th at the same location.

President **Rhea Law** was made an honorary Fellow of the organization.

Abbreviations

CAS: College of Arts and Sciences

Acknowledgments

President Law’s comments from Fall 2021 issue of *USF Magazine*.

Ms. **Kaitlyn Kroner**, Graduate Program Coordinator provided helpful information concerning dissertation defense schedules and results.



Ms. Kroner

Ms. **Lorene Hall-Jennings** (Asst. Director for Undergraduate Studies, Tampa Campus) for helpful background information.

Administration

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



Ms. Paige Romero

Webmaster: Ms. Paige Romero

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

News for us or comments?

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