USF

USF Chemistry NEWS

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

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Good news for Chemistry

Several significant research awards were announced during this time.

Dr. Caiõs good news

From **Dr. Randy Larsen**: ò Please join me in congratulating **Dr. Jianfeng Cai** who has been awarded a New Investigator Grant from the Florida Department of Health-Bankhead-Coley Program entitled ò Design, synthesis, and evaluation of !-AApeptide-based protein tyrosine phosphatase inhibitors as novel anticancer agentsó. The award is $375,000 over three years.ó

Dr. Cai

ò This project not only enhances the research profile within the Department of Chemistry (specifically the Center for Diversity in Drug Design, Discovery and Delivery, CMD5) but also involves USF-CDDI [Center for Drug Design and Innovation] and the SNSM Interdisciplinary Research Cluster in Biomedical Sciences!ó

Dr. Spaceõs good news

Subsequently, **Dr. Larsen** was happy to also congratulate **Dr. Brian Space,** professor of chemistry, who just received notification that his NSF project entitled "Molecularly Detailed Theories of Interfaces: Spectroscopy and Sorption" was recommended for funding. The award is for $390K over three years.

Dr. Brian Space in his IRDB office

Dr. Larsen wrote, ò The funded project is an integral component of the new Advanced Materials Cluster developed within the Interdisciplinary Research Building (IDRB) and strengthens the SNSM Interdisciplinary Research Cluster in the area of Materials Science.ó

He added, ò This has certainly been a banner year for funding in SNSM at a time when extramural support is extremely difficult! We clearly have outstanding faculty who

continue to produce high quality/high impact research!Ó

Dr. Manetsch*Ős *news

Dr. LarsenŐs announcement in July noted that, Ò**Dr. Roman Manetsch** (associate professor) is part of a team that has received an NIH R21 grant entitled "Antileishmanial Lead Optimization of Quinazolines". The total award is $432,963 for two years.

Dr. Roman Manetsch

Visceral and cutaneous leishmaniasis are parasitic diseases that affect millions of people per year in developing countries. The former disease is usually fatal without drug treatment, and the latter, which also impacts deployed U.S. military forces, causes disfiguring skin sores.

The funding is to support the evaluation of Prof. Manetsch's quinazolin class of molecules as potential anti-leishmanial drugs. This effort is a major component of the Department's CMD5 drug discovery center, CDDI and the SNSM Biomedical Sciences Interdisciplinary Research Cluster.

REU news

In July, **Dr. Larsen** wrote, ÒIt is my pleasure to report that the Department of Chemistry has been awarded an NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates grant entitled ÔREU Site: Chemistry Summer Enhanced Experience Discovering Science, Chem-SEEDSÕ.Ó

Dr. Patricia Muisener

Dr. Santiago Sandi-Urena and **Dr. Patricia Muisener** developed the project. ÒThe award will provide high profile summer research opportunities for under-

$270,00.0

entitled "Glycine N-Acyltransferases". The project is ~$150K over two years (total costs).

Dr. Larsen wrote, ÒThis research effort directly ties to the Departments Center for Molecular Diversity in Drug Discovery, Design and Delivery, the USF Center for Drug Discovery and Innovation and the SNSM Biomedical Sciences Interdisciplinary Research Cluster!Ó

Quiet Quality Award to Ms. McCain

It is always a pleasure when a member of the Department receives special recognition.

Ms. Adrienne McCain is a 2012 Quiet Quality Awardee for Òexceptional service to USF in recognition of outstanding service and contributions to USF, including student success. She has been a staff member of chemistry for nine years and is presently

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Ms. Lee spoke favorably of her experience, what she had learned, how it met her expectations, and the excellent environment of the Ma Laboratory.

Dr. Ma, assistant professor of chemistry, specializes in materials chemistry.

Introducing new faculty members É

Dr. James Leahy

The new hire for the Medical Chemist position is an alumnus, **Jim Leahy** (B.S.ß84; Ph.D. ß90), who will be a professor with a split appointment in Chemistry and in The Center for Drug D1(f)2.99781(acul)2.9977399n631( )-.d [d0h9(nt)-1novborati

Microbiology, and Toxicology. Dr. **Merkler** serving as ÒOpponentÓ, gave a 20 minute background talk before the candidateÕs presentation, after which the ÒOpponentÓ asked all the questions for an hour prior to withdrawing with members of the committee to consider the pass/fail decision.

22nd ICCE meeting

Dr. Santiago Sandi-Urena was invited to organize a symposium ion problem solving at the International Conference on Chemical Eductation (ICCE) held in Rome (July 15-22).

Two of his doctoral advisees (**Todd A. Gatlin** and **Adrian Villalta-Cerdas**) presented papers on their research work, and they visited with **Dr. Bassam Z. Shakhashiri**, internationally noted educator at Wisconsin and 2012 ACS president.

Mr. Gatlin, Dr. Shakhashiri, Mr. Villalta-Cerdas

Dr. Vicki Lykourinou (instructor) also attended the ICCE meeting held at RomeÕs La Sapienza University, and is shown

Kerriann Greenhalgh (B.A. ỏ04;Ph.D. ỏ08) is the founder of KeriCure, Inc. This firm was created to commercialize/develop ỏtopical products designed to improve healing, prevent and treat infection and reduce scar formation.Ó She and her firm were featured in a 2012-2013 calendar published by the Technology Transfer Office of USF Research and Innovation.

Among other examples of recognition noted in the text: her firm was ỏrecently featured in *Tampa Business Journal* and was selected to present at the highly competitive Florida Venture Forum and VenturePitch Orlando conferencesÓ last May.

Dr. Kerrian Greenhalgh

The feature article for the month of August describes the background of the discovery

Ms. Christi Whittington (Advisor: **Dr. Wayne Guida**

Dr. Kim Dr. Kumar

Ms. Whittington

Doctorates

Drs. David Badger, Ryan Cormier , Keily Heredia, Padmini Kavuru, Mu Seong Kim, Arun Babu Kumar, and **Xue Xu.**

Dr. Xu

Dr. Badger Dr. Cormier

Dr Heredia Dr. Kavuru

Chemistry Staff Members

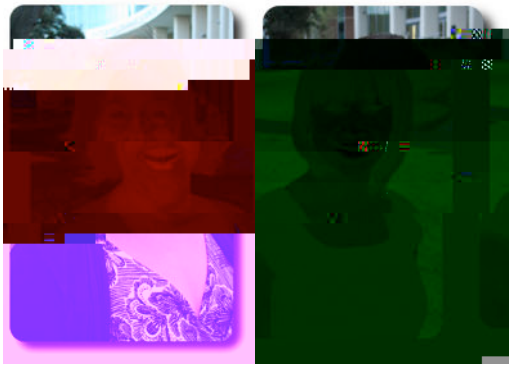
Dr. Randy Larsen came to personally thank the Staff members for their dedication, for the impact that they make, and for their contributions to the success of the Department.

Baby Shower

A shower held for **Ms. Christina Nelson** July 19th, was well attended by Staff members with representation from Chemistry Faculty and Administration. We are grateful to **Ms. Kelly Pearson** (Lead Chemistry Advisor), **Ms. Nina Oliver**

Ms. Nelson opening one of the many presents

(Academic Advisor, University Experience Instructor) **Ms. Victoria Mothershed** (Unit Research Administrator), and others for for organizing and participating in the gathering.



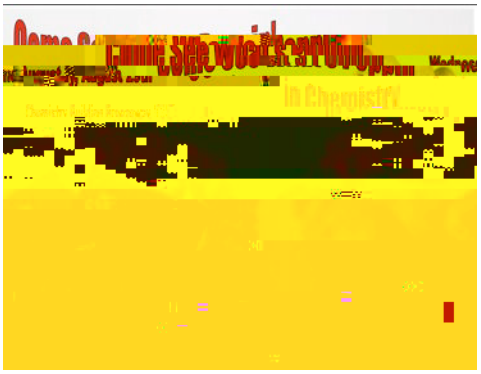
Ms. Pearson Ms. Oliver

Ms. Mothershed

Madison Lexi Nelson was born August 7th (7 lb 2oz, 21 in).

Week of Wonder (WOW)

Many students still feel lost during the first week of classes, but stations and informed persons are available to direct them to CHE



Announcement created by Ms. Kristin Kocher

and other important locations during WOW.

But the creative Chemistry Advising Cadre goes a step further and provides advice and course guidance (see announcement).

A special feature noted above was free popcorn, and **Ms. Nina D. Oliver** found a popcorn machine for really fresh popcorn.

Faculty-Staff Fund Drive

An annual drive to encourage Faculty and Staff to donate to funds that support students and staff members was successful
2800 persons

Machine courtesy of the Marshall Center

All five members of the Advising Cadre also assisted with questions at the advising help table.

NMR update

USFINMRF (USF Interdisciplinary NMR Facility) announced the facility's move into High Throughput Screening with automation on both the Unity
Technologies Direct Drive 500 spectro-

(ASW) probe. Samples are changed automatically by an independent robotic sample changer, allowing 24 hour per day analysis. The Agilent Technologies Direct

latest Agilent Technologies 7600- automatic sample changer with consecutive throughput of up to 96 samples.

latest version of VNMRJ software. Data are automatically saved to an internal and

also emailed directly to the individual users in PDF format. Training for both units is underway.

Learning Commons with over 300 computer workstations. The project is made possible by the Student Tech Fee.

Periodicals that were housed on the second floor have been placed in storage, and will be available in special take-up-less space shelving once renovation is complete.

News and feedback