



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

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Recognition...

NIH Panels

The invited speaker was

of the conversion to laboratories, the Dean of Natural Sciences commented at the time that many outstanding universities were noted for the quality of their laboratories, but few were noted for the quality of their coffee shops. He was right, of course.

Faculty you should know...

Spotlight on...

Dr. Randy W. Larsen (Associate Professor of Chemistry) Associate Chair, also served as Chair of the (successful) Organic Chemist Search Committee last academic year, was asked for an autobiography.

“I was born in Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin in 1962. Shortly after I was born (several months) my father, who just started a position as a landscape architect with the U.S. Forest Service, after obtaining a B.S. degree in Agriculture from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, received his first position in Albuquerque, NM (on the Cibola National Forest). We lived in Albuquerque for roughly one year before my father was again transferred to Tucson, Arizona (Coronado National Forest) where we lived for roughly nine years. He was then transferred back to Albuquerque (back to the Cibola National Forest) where they live today.”

“I attended the University of New Mexico as an undergraduate receiving my B.S. in Chemistry in 1985. I worked briefly for the New Mexico Engineering Research Institute after graduation where my primary job was to quantify vanadyl porphyrin concentrations in asphalts from around the country using EPR. The focus of this Air Force funded project was to find a way to 1) recycle the asphalt from roads on military bases as a cost reduction measure and 2) find a way to produce ‘fast setting’ asphalt



Dr. Randy W. Larsen

for runway repairs. My results were to be correlated with what is known as an ‘aging index’ which seemed to me to be some highly suspect number related to the ‘quality’ of the asphalt. After six months of trying to get sticky, gooey, smelly asphalt into tiny EPR tubes and then quantifying the total spins I quit and went to graduate school at UNM. Actually, one of the faculty at UNM (Prof. Mark Ondrias) discovered I was working on porphyrins and recruited me to join his group. I spent the next four and a half years obtaining time resolved resonance Raman on a variety of heme proteins including cross-linked hemoglobins, peroxidases and cytochrome c oxidase (a protein we are still working on today!) as well as getting married and having my first child (Malorie)!! I received my Ph.D. in Chemistry in 1990.”

“During my Ph.D. work I spent a significant amount of time at the California Institute of Technology (Pasadena, CA) purifying cytochrome c oxidase. Although I hated these preps with a passion (grinding up 200

lbs of beef hearts in a cold room for a

postdoc, would bring me coffee and an occasional other cold malted beverage, and we would discuss results while 'on the line'. I accepted the USF offer shortly after the strike ended."

"To date, USF has been great. I have been very happy to be a part of a faculty that is energetic, dynamic and collegial (things that were clearly missing at UH). I foresee great things for this department in the future!"

***New faculty
members include...***

Dr. K. Kenneth Caswell.
Instructor, B.S. Loyola
University Chicago, Ph.D.

University, in downtown Atlanta, in the Electrical Computer Engineering Department where I worked solely with grants from proposal preparation submission to managing the funds ending with submitting the final reports. In my spare time, I played tennis for the Atlanta Lawn and Tennis Association in competition play for women's doubles and co-ed doubles. My teammates and I won our Division three out of five years of playing together.”

“In July 2004, I moved to Tampa with my fiancé for him to start his own computer software consulting company. In October 2004, we were married on Sand Key Beach in Clearwater. We currently live in Westchase. We have one dog, Amber (she is a Wheaten Terrier) and two cats, Chasca (she is a Blue Point Persian) and Tassy (she

Dominique, and my son, Stefanos, with the help and support of my husband, Kirk.”

Dijana Lekic is Canadian, but was born and raised Bosnian. During the Bosnian civil war she and her family moved to Slovenia, where she attended secondary medicine school (she finished grade 11). In 1996, she and her family moved to Canada where she finished grade 12 and received an award in chemistry. She completed her undergraduate work majoring in chemistry and psychology, at Saint Mary's University. While there, she worked on a research project in computational chemistry,

University of Iowa. Dr. Zaworotko was her major professor.

Kathleen Carvalho-Knighton (Ph.D.' 00) and her husband, **Anthony Knighton**, proudly announced the birth of their baby, James Edward Knighton II, who was born on July 12 at 11:11 pm at Morton Plant hospital (Clearwater). He weighed 7 lb 13 oz and was 21 inches long. Dr. Carvalho-Knighton is an assistant professor in Environmental Science and Policy at USF-St. Petersburg.

Dr. Eric Elmquist (B.S.'00) completed his Ph.D. requirements at Vanderbilt and is doing post-doctoral studies at MIT.

Bart A. Heldreth (Ph.D. '05) wrote in June "Hello! Amy [Heldreth, who served as Secretary of the Department of Chemistry Graduate Program] and I are truly enjoying Happy Valley.[Penn State University area] ... My research under Dr. Blake R. Peterson (<http://research.chem.psu.edu/brpgroup/grouphomepage.html>) is going extremely well. The primary focus of my research is on the synthesis and bio-screening of novel steroidal and non-steroidal antiandrogenic agents towards the treatment of prostate cancer (some of which I will be presenting at the Crossover 2005 Conference here at Penn State, October 13-14th). Amy is also doing well and is currently employed in the business office of a local retirement home." Dr. Tuross was his major professor.

William A. Luer, M.D. (B.A.'72) "My memories are as follows: I remember using slide rules and losing mine one day when I left it in a Chemistry class room. When we had really involved calculations we had to go to a special lab where there were Wang calculators. I remember doing special projects in lab for one of Dr. Jurch's courses. One of the other students chose to isolate

orange oil. We all thought that was really neat but he had a tough time of it. I especially remember one final exam of Dr. Stevens. It was on a Saturday morning in the spring and the exam was a tough one, at least we thought so. Dr. Stevens was puffing on his pipe and it had gotten to be noon time, but most of us were still working. He asked, politely, but somewhat impatiently⁰³⁷²

Architecture. While he was in the graduate program here, Bill was a recipient of the Ashford Fellowship (1984-5). He also did his undergraduate studies here at USF. After his PhD, he did a postdoctoral fellowship at the Johns Hopkins University at the National Science Foundation Centre for Mass Spectrometry, where he worked with Dr. Catherine Fenslau and Dr. Robert Cotter. Prior to joining the FDA he worked at Honeywell in Clearwater, also in the mass spectrometry division. Dr. O'Malley, his major professor, provided the helpful information.

Venkatraj V. Narayanan (M.S.'93 Ph.D. '97) is a research scientist in the Synthetic chemistry Laboratory of Hindustan Lever Research Center, Bangalore, India. He sent pictures of his son, Prathyoosh, now two years old, and himself (center shown flanked by his wife's brothers)

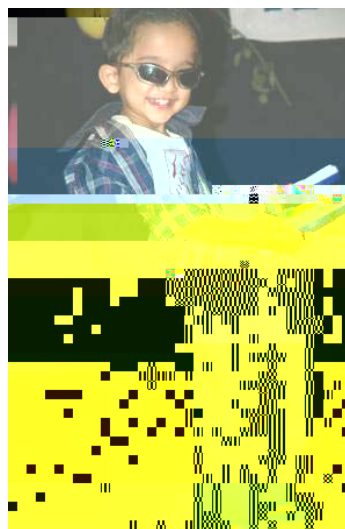
Faculty Friends

Dr. Jesse Binford (1961-2003) is enjoying retirement years in the Austin Texas area where they are near their grandchildren and where they have rediscovered old friends from the years that he held an appointment at the University of Texas.

Dr. Joseph Stanko (1973-2003) wrote that he and his wife have a new grandson (the son of their youngest, Mark, and his wife, Celina.) and they get to see him often because he and his parents live up the street in Temple Terrace.



Venkatraj V. Narayanan



Dr. Narayanan's son, Prathyoosh

What are they up to?

Please look at our web page ("Graduate Alumni") and see if you (and or your friends and fellow alumni) are accurately listed. It is hard to keep up with the growing list of alumni (would you believe over 275 graduate alumni). We would be grateful if you could bring us up-to-date on what you or some of your friends are doing.

Obituary

Michael P. Arias, 51, scientific