

# USF Chemistry NEWS

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

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Summer



On April 6, most of the faculty had their picture taken.

## Recognition...

Two graduate students were recognized for exemplary teaching in an award ceremony on April 6<sup>th</sup> in the Campus View East Ballroom. At a reception for the Provost Awards for Outstanding Teaching by a Graduate Teaching Assistant, Mr. James E. Bonner received a "Provost Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Teaching by a Graduate Teaching Assistant." Ms. Angela M. Bonner received a "Provost Commendation for Outstanding Teaching by a Graduate Teaching Assistant."

We congratulate both on this significant recognition of their efforts and talents.

James E. Bonner's mentor is Dr. David Eddard and Dr. Angela M. Bonner's mentor is Dr. Zaid...

## It's a first!

Eleven Ph.D. recipients in Chemistry were granted their degree at a single commencement (May 10<sup>th</sup>). USF has the tradition of "hooding" by the faculty advisor, a ceremony in which the doctoral hood is placed over the head of the advisee.



fall and spring semesters starting with the fall of 1987 and this semester some students participated.

A program was scheduled for Thursdays with a presentation from a librarian, lectures from faculty members, visits to local laboratories and facilities, and presentations on poster preparations and other pertinent issues.

John A. Edwards, a graduate student, assisted in the program.

Several chemistry papers were among those who received awards at the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium.

## **Campus changes - past and future...**

A number of changes have occurred since you left. Just how many depends on when you left. Just to pick a few.

Construction continues as Parking Garage III is taking shape near Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute. The facility is scheduled to open in October 1988 and will have 1,000 parking places.

A 5 year plan calls for 10 new construction projects, either modifying existing buildings (for example Physics) or creation of new ones, including one that will house some chemists.

The enrollment on the Tampa campus is expected to increase from about 10,000 to over 12,000 by 1990.

## **We're "covered"**

Faculty members have found their work featured on covers of journals and dust jackets. A. H. Ewald had his work

featured on the article of the November 1987 issue of *Analytical Chemistry*. A sol-gel SEM micrograph was featured on the dust cover of *Quantitative Chemical Analysis* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) by Daniel C. Harris, published by Freeman.

More recently, John A. Edwards saw a structure from a paper that he co-authored on the cover of *RSC Chemical Communications* (April 1988).

There may be more that we have missed.

## **Changes in rank...**

John A. Edwards and Bryan G. have been officially promoted to the rank of Full Professor of Chemistry. John A. Edwards has been appointed Professor Emeritus. All appointments are effective this summer.

## **Around the campus...**

John A. Edwards and Bryan G. appear on the USF telephone directory.

Bryan G. shown working in his laboratory, appeared in the TV program "Green and Gold" which also featured the current all but one of the past presidents of USF. It was shown Wednesday April 1988 over WUSF and the previous week in the studios to a group of WUSF Supporters.

## **Invited lectures...**

A. H. Ewald gave an invited lecture at the Polymorphism and Crystallization Conference held in London, March 1988.

Professor of  
Chemistry and Campus Executive Officer  
USF Lakeland gave an invited lecture

here they were getting perfect scores for a whole quarter nothing wrong at all Teachers would always ask me why I do not perform as well as Dean or Carrie in my classes. I just shrugged my shoulders and said 'I don't know'. I did well in classes I liked. My high school did not have chemistry or any advanced math or physics but I liked and did well in history and drafting. Dean ended up being a lawyer and lives in Lower Michigan. Carrie is a writer and artist and has published many romance novels. They have been marvelously successful. My other sister Christy who used to join me in picking on Carrie a lot graduated from the Northern Michigan University and worked as an assistant to Congressman Bob Davis in Washington D.C. She is now a stay at home mom in Chicago IL. She was always the most socially active and charismatic of my brother and sisters.

"I attended Northern Michigan University in but stopped my studies after only one year. I found things pretty boring and I was really uninterested in my major Earth Science. I took HS level chemistry to bring myself up to speed in the subject since it was required for my major. I loved that course a lot but ultimately decided to dropout and go to a small town called Pauling located just an hour north of New York City. Some friends of mine got factory jobs in that town so I joined in. I worked in the manufacturing of inflatable rubber seals like the kind that went into the space shuttle. These types of O rings failed in the Challenger launch and explosion. Our company PRESRAY did NOT make the NASA O Rings. I did make seals for nuclear submarines and missiles. At some point I just decided this was not for me and I was ready to attend college again. I went through the only catalog for NMU again and

sort of haphazardly chose biochemistry as my new major in my triumphant return.

"I decided the first thing I had to do was to redeem myself and take every class that I did not perform well in back in . So I took the calculus class I failed previously and received an A. I took the physical geography that I had previously had a D grade and with the same professor got an A. I don't think he even remembered or cared. I also took the same American history professor and went

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products. Roth showed this in class, but you really needed to go over it many times to get how it all worked. I was also very good at finding laboratory unknowns. I would often help out the others in their unknown determination based on the data they found. I would act like a chemistry Jinni and say 'I will grant you three unknowns'. I was a bit of a chemistry bully now and then, but it was all for fun. I was not that great in physical chemistry. I held my own, but thought it all a lot of memorizing. In my last year at NMU I met my future wife Jun. We got married a short time after graduate school started, and she has been the one to keep my head up above water and to keep me in line. Without her I certainly would be in deep trouble and not nearly as successful.

"I attended The University of Chicago for graduate school in 1978 and received my degree in 1981. I chose to work for Milan Mrksich at Chicago. I started out in material science but did not enjoy this area of research and desired to get more into synthetic organic chemistry. So, after passing my candidacy, I switched to the laboratory of William D. Wulff, and, man, did I make the right choice. Bill Wulff is a great guy to work for. He gave complete freedom in the lab with the following rules: ( ) Have fun, ( ) No Rush Limbaugh on the radio, and ( ) You don't have to do what I tell ya', but you have to do something. These rules were simple enough. I soon began a thesis project on the development of a new catalytic asymmetric methodology to form aziridines. This project took about two years to really start to work. We ended up with the best catalytic asymmetric method to form chiral aziridines, but it was definitely a battle. I had to use all of my "sisu" to hammer that chemistry out. *Sisu* is a unique Finnish concept. It stands for the philosophy that *what must be done will be done*.

regardless of what it takes. *Sisu* is a special strength and persistent determination and resolve to continue and overcome in the moment of adversity. an almost magical quality, a combination of stamina, perseverance, courage, and determination held in reserve for hard times. I am 1/4 from Finnish decent, and I have some *sisu*. Bill was a great mentor and I still miss him and the old group even to this day. A few months before I defended, we had our first daughter, Lily. Lily was a real eye opener for us. We had to become responsible parents, this made me much more responsible throughout every day life.

"After my degree, I continued my studies as a postdoctoral associate for Stephen L. Buchwald at MIT. Steve told me, and others, to turn his successful palladium catalyzed reactions into copper catalyzed reactions. I helped in the discovery of this new research direction, and the papers I published with Steve have been cited numerous times and the reactions are being used in industry and academia. I learned so very much while working in Steve's group.

"I started my independent research career at The University of Mississippi. Oxford, MS is a very nice small town to live. I agreed with a statement that a nephew of one of my graduate students made. Oxford is nice, it has a lot of at



two CD's and had a lot of fun. In however I had the urge to return to college and enrolled at USF. Being an organic chemist was still my goal until learning inorganic chemistry with Dr. Joseph Stanko; soon after I enrolled in undergraduate research with Dr. Jay Palmer and Dr. Stanko working on the synthesis of *cisplatin* compounds down in the first floor of SCA. I should now formerly apologize to Dr. Brian Space for falling asleep in his thermodynamics class but I was working an overnight job at Bausch & Lomb Pharmaceuticals and his class was at am Dr. Space actually was one of



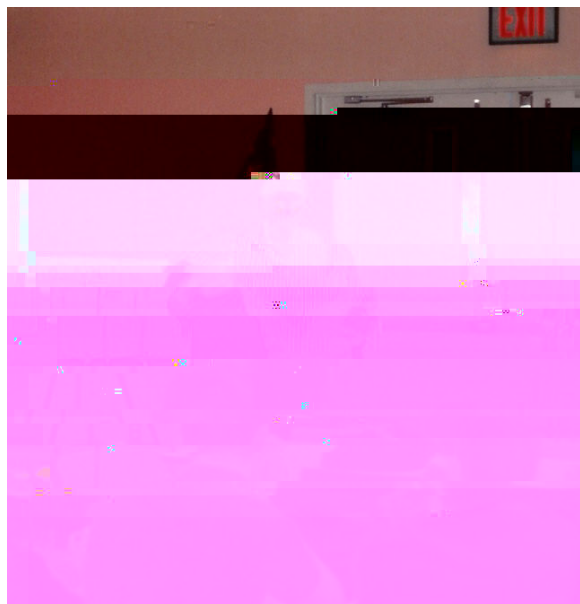
who had no high school chemistry to various graduate level classes. For over ten years he was involved in teaching courses by distance learning that allowed him to reach students on four campuses and as far north as Atlanta.

He and his wife Barbara will have edited the *Florida Scientist* for years in . He hopes to continue joint research activities and they plan to be able to visit their six children more often (“Spending the Children’s inheritance”).

The Martins were honored at a reception on April <sup>th</sup> the last day of classes. They treasured the experience and were most grateful to Drs.

## ***From the past...***

Among the activities during the Chemathons were competitive exams for visiting high school students and laboratory tours. While students were taking exams, their teachers shared their demonstration skills.



*Students receiving instructions from Dr. Wizard (a.k.a. Dr. Jay Worrell) at Chemathon-93. (photo from the files of Mr. Ron Federspiel).*

## ***News and feedback***

For additional information on faculty, staff, students, and programs, please look at our Department Home Page: <http://chemistry.usf.edu>

News for us or comments? Please write to [dmarti@cas.usf.edu](mailto:dmarti@cas.usf.edu)