

# USF Chemistry NEWS

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

Volume 6, No 1.  
Winter 2008

## ***USF Chemistry Club***

We have heard good things about the Club, and the Club President, Mr. Richard Slama, was asked to tell us some of the things the members have been doing:

### *Knowledge, Service and Friendship*

“The USF Chemistry society has seen many new changes ever since its revamping back in the fall of 2007. Under the leadership of faculty mentor Dr. Kenneth Caswell as well as all the new officers, the society seems to be growing larger everyday.”

“Probably one of the largest accomplishments of the society is the activation of the American Chemical Society’s student affiliates chapter, which was accomplished by the society’s President.”

“ACS status not only makes the society more credible, but also gives the society many benefits. One of these includes the opportunity to sell ACS practice examinations to the student body for fundraising opportunities. “

“Other recent additions to the society’s activities include a new website put together by the Historian (Alexandra Talsma), voting for undergraduate teacher of the year by the Public Relations Chair (Bashar Al-turk), numerous volunteer opportunities offered through the center for civic engagement by the Community Service Chair (Zalika

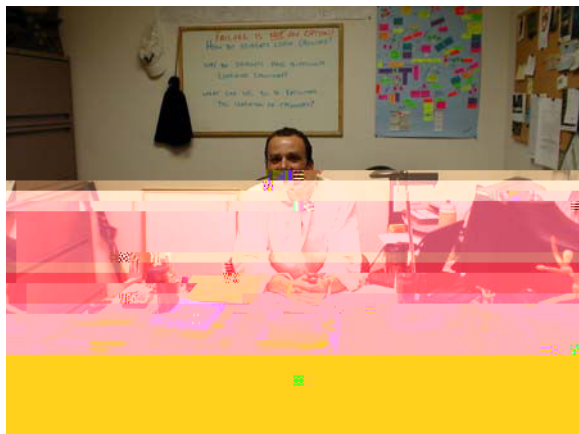
Nisbeth). Some of these great activities have included the Heart walk, Stampede of Service and Toys for Tots, just to name a few.”

“Another very important addition is the new student-run Chemistry Help Center which has been given to the society through the graces of the Department of Chemistry, Dr. Caswell, and the organizational skills of Vice-president Lissette Marshall. Although still in the early stages of development, this room will serve as a tutoring room in which students will be able to help students in a subject that has one of the highest dropout rates in college. Tutors will be able to volunteer their time to help students in a variety of different chemistry courses, including Chemistry for Today, General Chemistry I and II, and Organic Chemistry.”

“With all that has happened over the past couple of semesters, the society is truly abiding by its new motto:

been enormous, has excelled; winning the 2006 Undergraduate Teaching Award and a 2007 USF Outstanding Faculty Member Award (nominated by a student being recognized for an outstanding GPA). These awards reflect his consuming interest in ensuring students gain the most they can from the chemistry courses for which he is responsible.”

“Ken was born in Oneida, a relatively small town in mid-state New York, east of Syracuse. However, he grew up as a “military brat” in the Far East, including Okinawa, Japan, and the Philippines. After graduating high school, he spent about 14 years serving in the military himself. His world travels instilled in him a passion for learning about both the beauty of nature and the varied cultures of the planet.”



Dr. Caswell in his office

“He received his B.S. from Loyola University Chicago and his Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina in Columbia, working for Dr. Catherine Murphy studying

**Dr. Bill Baker**, Professor of Chemistry, was the subject of two interviews recently. One “Journey to the Bottom of the Earth” appeared in the Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup> issue of

## ***In memoriam...***

### ***Mrs. Grace Carlton Allen, 1908-2007***

**Mrs. Allen** died December 16, peacefully in her sleep. She was the wife of **Dr. John S. Allen**, founding president of USF. She was the founder of the USF Women's Club and established several endowed and dedicated scholarships.

Her contributions to USF and to higher education were recognized in several ways. In 1970, the Board of regents renamed the Administration Building "The John and Grace Allen Administration Building." The Women's Club established an endowed scholarship in her name. In 1996, Mrs. Allen was awarded an honorary degree of doctorate of humane letters by USF. A room in the University Library was named in her honor.

A Memorial Ceremony was held by USF and her family on Friday, March 7, 2008, at 10:00 am in Traditions Hall of the Alumni Center at USF.

### ***Joseph Carr, 1921-2008***

Older persons may remember Mr. Carr, an astronomer, who was a charter faculty member of USF and served as director of the USF Planetarium from 1964 until his retirement in 1990.

Each year he gave an estimated 450 planetarium programs for about 25,000 visitors. School buses parked next to the Physics building were a common sight during the academic year. He maintained an old, but dependable, SpitzSky projector, and he used it to re-produce the heavens.

USF awarded him an honorary masters degree. The Planetarium closed a year after his retirement.

He was a marvelous man to know and visit with.

## ***Departmental Funds...***

This is the list provided by Dr. Zaworotko in December, plus two newly created funds that have been added to the list.

***Chemistry Operating Fund*** for general use (acct. # 42-0550)

***Chemistry Scholarship Undergraduate Awards*** (42-0700)

***Barbara and Dean Martin Seminar Series Fund*** (42-6014)

***George Bursa Award in Chemistry*** for outstanding graduate students (42-6013)

***Barbara B. Martin Endowed Fellowship***

Wenzinger Memorial Scholarship Fund. **Dr. Whitaker** was a faculty member (1962-1992).

We are also grateful to Mr. Charles B. and Mrs. Barbara A. Jenkins who made a donation to the Wenzinger Memorial Scholarship Fund.

[Please advise us of any oversights.]

## ***Round about...***

It was a pleasure to see **Joanna Bis** (Ph.D. '06) who visited the Department just before Christmas from North Carolina, where she is with Glaxo-SmithKline in the Research Triangle.

Three persons from USF were given an impressive tour of Benz Research and Development in December. The firm produces contact lens and intraocular lens materials for export, and has a substantial share of the non-US world market. **Jose Ors** (Ph.D. '74) was our guide, as was **Dr. Patrick Benz**.

**William E. Beaumont, L.L.M.** (M.S., '80) wrote that he has moved his patent practice to Dickson, Wright in downtown Washington, D.C. This law firm, founded in 1877, is one of the oldest in Michigan, and has maintained an office in D.C. for about 35 years.

His practice largely involves chemical-/pharma/biotechnologies, and includes writing and prosecuting patent applications, opinions, and licensing. He added that over the years, he has developed a keen interest and practice in plant molecular biology, including cross-protection techniques and expression of secondary metabolites.

Visited with **Mr. Larry Chapman** and **Ms. Dyane Chapman**, long term staff member (including office manager 1986-1999). Both will have retired by March 2008.

Visited with **Dr. Marilyn Lupton**, office manager (1974-1986) before earning her doctorate in humanities at USF. She is now retired and living in Original Carrollwood opposite **Dr. Jon Antilla** and his family.

**Brian Moulton** (Ph.D.'03) accepted a position as Research Fellow at Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Cambridge, MA.

**Young Chul Park** (Ph.D.'04) is now an associate with the natural products group of Exelisis at their Oregon facility.

Our sincerest thanks to all who sent messages in December. It was good to hear from you.

## ***News and feedback***

### ***Chair's Address:***

Dr. M. J. Zaworotko  
Department of Chemistry-CHE 205  
University of South Florida