



# USF Chemistry NEWS

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

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***Recognition...***

***C&EN***

## ***Really new faculty members...***

The Department is seeking another faculty member, and **Dr. David Merkler**, Associate Chair, has been chair of the search committee.

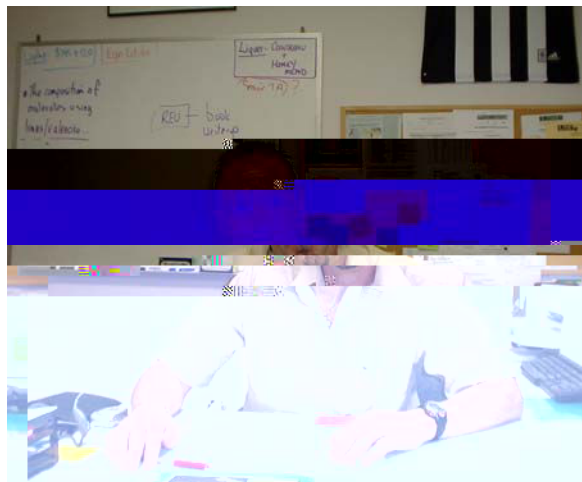
## ***Open House:***

Friday, February 10, was coordinated by Mr. Jarrod Eubank, an elected student member of the Graduate Council. It served to welcome new graduate students and friends of the Department. Among the crowded group that was obviously enjoying themselves were **Dr. George Wenginger** (Faculty '63-'99), **Dr. Joseph Stanko** (Faculty '73-'03), **Dr. Robert S. Braman** (Faculty, '67-'03) and **Mrs. Gloria Braman**, **Dr. Arthur Gilford**, CAS Associate Dean for Faculty Development, and **Dr. Wayne Guida** (Ph.D. '76). Dr. Guida holds joint appointments at Eckerd College and Moffitt Cancer Hospital and Research Center.

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

Look for Garage III in 2007 located near Graduate Student Housing and west of the

Ph.D. This was in the area of “*C o n f r o C o p o n*”. The main part of this was the synthesis of a compound called *o o r n* that was an anti-tumor agent.



Dr. Dickson with Collingwood jumper on back wall

Roy Jackson was truly my mentor in chemistry. A man who loved life (and still does really!) and showed me the real pleasures of working in a chemistry laboratory. Roy is probably one of the best known chemists from Australia, and he is well respected around the world, including the U.S. Apart from the techniques of organic chemistry that he patiently showed me, he also showed the ways of making liqueurs like Brandy schnapps and Cointreau! He introduced me to bush-walking and was an avid “footy” fan too. It was in Melbourne that I truly fell in love with Australian football and became a Collingwood fan (that is the black and white jumper hanging on my wall in my office). Oh how much Melbourne is still my spiritual home.

After completing my Ph.D., I tutored at Monash for a little in Organic Chemistry before I decided I needed a change and went and worked at DULUX paints (ICI) for a period of 18 months. Deciding that this was

not quite for me I then did some traveling around Europe and England, initially for 6 months, but this then enveloped into some three years. At this stage I decided for many reasons that I did not wish to go back to Australia and therefore applied for and received residency in the UK. Simultaneously I accepted a position as a chemistry teacher at a very good school, just outside London called Watford Boy’s Grammar School (WBGs), and this is where God intervened again.

It was here that I met a very prominent educationalist who at the time was Head of Science. John Holman is one of the best known chemical educationalists in the whole of Europe. He has written many papers and textbooks and is now Professor of Chemical Education at York University in the UK. It was at this time that I really became very interested the way chemistry was being taught and the style and content of the syllabus and how this very directly influenced whether students were “turned on” by the subject and therefore continued with chemistry in further education. John Holman helped me come to terms with the English way of doing things. His mentoring role and encouragement saw me progress through to become Head of Chemistry at WBGs. He encouraged me to become part of the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) and then to actively participate on the Education Council for 3 years. During this period, I was also nominated for TWO major teaching awards in the UK. The first time I was awarded silver medal while the second time around I managed even better.

Through the RSC, I became heavily involved with something akin to the REU program here and also had success: I was awarded a European Science Teaching/-Research award for innovative Chemistry for the work I did with my research students.

I became involved with a number of other people in some revolutionary changes in the way chemistry was being presented: the Salters Approach to chemistry is a context-based approach and is very unconventional in its approach to teaching chemistry. However, after a small start in the mid-1990s it is now very successful with over half of the students at high school studying

August of that same year to pursue graduate studies with **Dr. Michael Zaworotko**. His research primarily focuses upon synthesizing novel metal-organic molecules/networks and characterizing them by means of x-ray crystallography. His work has led to multiple publications and he has had the opportunity present his research at numerous regional, national, and international conferences. In fact, Greg recently received a scholarship from the International Center of Materials Research to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference of the Africa Materials Research Society in Marrakech, Morocco (2005). Greg was fortunate enough to have been a recipient of the George Bursa Award (2004), the Theodore Ashford Award (2005), and a Provost Commendation for Outstanding Teaching by a Graduate Teaching Assistant (2005). Upon graduating, Greg's long term plans are to pursue a career in academia – hopefully some place where it isn't quite so hot in the summer.”

### *Awards Banquet*

The Eighteenth Annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet is scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Embassy Suites Hotel at the USF Campus. The first was started by Dr. Stewart Schneller, then Chairman of the Department of Chemistry. Look for pictures on the Web page.

### *We get letters and visitors...*

**Dr. Jesse Binford** (Faculty '61-'03) and Mrs. Lolita Binford wrote that they have lived in Austin, Texas for a year now and that they love their 56-year old Texas rock house. It is near grandchildren and the university. “He keeps busy with the usual home maintenance, unpacking all those books, gardening, and bicycling..” He was

also a red cross volunteer helping to reunite Katrina's families by computer. Lolita has helped with food and clothing collections at their church. And they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in June 2005.

**Carl Blake** wrote from Austin, Texas that he works for the State Government. He moved there last year and is producing a short film. He mentioned having **Dr. Dean Martin** for General Chemistry-1 in the fall of 1984, and kindly remembered the demonstrations.

**Melissa Derby** (Ph.D. '02) called from Harvard University where she is a research associate and Research Assistant Laboratory Manager. She mentioned that she danced with Mr. Richard Gere in Harvard Square when he was named man of the year and played tennis (indoor courts) with Mr. Val Kilmer. Later, she stopped by USF to visit.

**Duke D. Pooré** (Ph.D. '96) Capt., U.S.A. Completed Phase II Officer Training and received an Army Medal of Commendation for services rendered at Walter Reed Hospital.

**Dr. Joseph Stanko** (Faculty '73-'03) wrote “On an alumni matter, I am sending you ... a photo of two of our past graduates, both from the class of 2001. Their names are Michael Verschage and Jonas Nazareth. You might remember them.... I had them in the inorganic courses. Michael was a B.S. major and Jonas a B.A. major. They recognized me in the crowd at the last USF home football game in November, and I took their picture which shows them saluting the "Bulls". Michael said he is in charge of ordering all the chemicals for a large orange juice processing plant, I believe, in Auburndale ... Jonas is working for DuPont as their sales director for their Corian countertop product on the West-

