

## **UF Professor appointed to Canadian Supreme Court Advisory Panel on Nanoscience**

University of Florida Chemistry Professor George Christou was recently invited onto the Scientific Advisory Panel on Nanoscience of the Supreme Court of Canada. The panel brings together a small group of a dozen scientists from Canada, the USA, Israel and Australia working in diverse areas of nanoscience. Professor Christou is the only chemist on the panel, which otherwise consists of experimental and theoretical physicists. He was appointed as a result of his research in the area of molecular nanoscience, which involves the use of synthetic chemistry methods to prepare molecules that function as nanoscale magnets (nanomagnets). The panel is meant to act as an information source on matters pertaining to the growing use of nanomaterials in a wide variety of everyday applications. The justices are keenly aware that legal cases will soon be winding their way through the appellate courts to the Supreme Court which will be based on, or in some way involve, nanoscience or nanotechnology.

The first meeting of the Supreme Court of Canada with the Advisory Panel took place at the Supreme Court Building in Ottawa in early April. This included, among other things, a scientific presentation to the Court by Panel chairperson Philip C. E. Stamp of the Pacific Institute of Theoretical Physics in Vancouver who described both the traditional ('top-down') and molecular ('bottom-up') approaches to nanoscale materials, and placed particular emphasis on defining and describing the importance of various types of quantum properties displayed by materials of nanoscale dimensions. These properties are counter-intuitive to our every-day sense of reality, but represent the basis of many future nanotechnologies.

George Christou is the Drago Professor of Chemistry and has been at UF since the summer of 2001, when he moved to Gainesville from Indiana University, Bloomington.