



# the chemical bond

Fall 2006  
University of Florida  
Department of Chemistry

# 8th annual poster sessions



The Department of Chemistry led its eighth annual fall undergraduate poster session on September 23. This year we partnered with the Florida Museum of Natural History to host the largest session to date. The session featured student posters from our Research Experience for Undergraduates program (<http://www.chem.ufl.edu/REU/>) along with students from the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory and Dillard University, Morehouse College, and Lincoln University, three members of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). This year some 60 posters were pre-

sented, and students traveled from across the country to participate. Co-organizers **Randy Duran**, **Mike Scott**, **Ben Smith**, and faculty from our HBCU partners have steadily grown these events each year.

The posters were displayed in the main exhibit area of the museum and left up for the entire week for the general public and school groups to view. This event was also co-sponsored through our new award from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute ([www.honors.ufl.edu/hhmi](http://www.honors.ufl.edu/hhmi)).

—Randy Duran

## graduate student awards

The department was pleased to recognize outstanding graduate students with several awards this past year. The Ruegamer Charitable Trust, established by William and Arlene Ruegamer, provides scholarships for students of high scholastic standing in biochemistry. The 2006-2007 recipients were **Fedra Leonik**, **Ozlem Demir** and **Magdalena Swiderska**. The Colonel Allen R. and Margaret G. Crow Endowment and the Dr. Ann R. Stasch Memorial Scholarship again were used to recognize excellence in graduate student peer-reviewed publication. Crow-Stasch Publication Awards were given to **Evrin Atas** (First Place), **Niveen Khashab**, **Violeta Petkovska**, **Chaoyong James Yang**, **Dolos Foguet-Albiol**, **Andrew Lampkins** and **Lin Wang**.

**Tammy Low** and **Xiaoyong Zhaoe** received the Petra Chemicals Awards for Creative Synthetic Organic Chemistry.

—Ben Smith.

The Department of Chemistry welcomes Dr. **Aaron Aponick**, Assistant Professor. Dr. Aponick received a B.S. in Chemistry from Lebanon Valley College in 1998 and a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 2003 with **Will Pearson**, where he was an Eastman Kodak Fellow and an ACS Division of Organic Chemistry Fellow.

## welcome

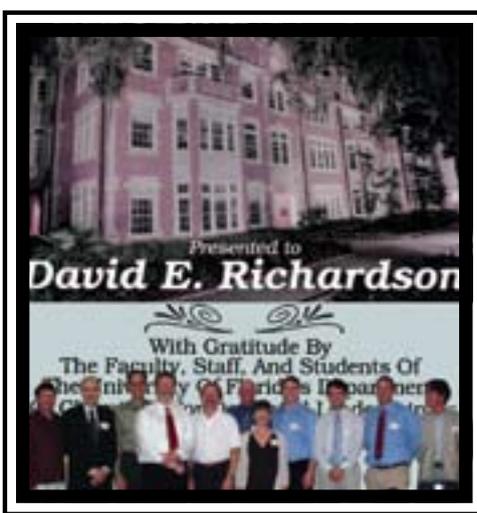


Before joining the Faculty at UF, Dr. Aponick moved to Stanford University where he was an NIH Postdoctoral Fellow in the laboratories of **Barry Trost**. His research interests include the development of new synthetic methodology, target-oriented synthesis, and asymmetric catalysis.

# with much appreciation

This photo (right) of **Dave Richardson** with those faculty members he hired during his term as Chair was taken at a dinner reception given by the faculty. Pictured behind is the plaque presented to Dave at a brunch given by the staff in his honor. The entire Chemistry Department is grateful for his years of service, hard work, and efforts on our behalf. Thanks, Dave!

—Maribel Lisk



# honoring alumni

Half a century ago we awarded MS degrees to **Robert Lane, John McCall, Anna Yoakum, William Cooper, James Stinson** and **Robert Gilman**. Doctorate degrees were awarded to **Reginald Clark, Paul Downey, Betty Gray, George Kauffman, Samuel Squibb, Robert Stephens, Herbert Valdsaar, Mary Brey, Frederic Eidsness** and **Jaime Fernandez**. We recognize their achievements. Go Gators!

—Ben Smith

# congratulations

to **Rodney J. Bartlett**, Graduate Research Professor of Chemistry and Physics, on being selected as the recipient of the 2007 ACS Award in Theoretical Chemistry. Sponsored by the IBM Corporation, this is one of the most prestigious international awards in the field. It is awarded to a scientist who has accomplished innovative research in theoretical chemistry that either advances theoretical methodology or contributes to new discoveries about chemical systems. Professor Bartlett will be honored in an award ceremony held during the 233rd National ACS meeting in Chicago, March 25-29. We hope many of you will be able to join us in Chicago to honor and congratulate Rod.



# a note from the chair

I've often recalled an anecdote of our former colleague and Chair Mike Zerner that I heard for the first time shortly after I was hired as an Assistant Professor in 1989. Mike would say that when meeting with administrators, whether it was groups of other chairs, the Dean's office, or even the President's office, being the Chair of Chemistry afforded you instant respect. The attitude was, "these folks know what they're doing."

The beginning of my term as Chair, has provided me the great pleasure of experiencing this first hand. In meeting after meeting, at all levels of the University, representing Chemistry gets you a preferred place at the table.

Why? The answer, I think, is simple. No unit on campus does more to achieve the mission of the University than the Department of Chemistry. The University's most important job is educating students. Over the most recent six-year period, we graduated over 230 Ph.D.s, far more than any other department. For comparison, the next highest unit is all of Medical Sciences, which granted 175 Ph.D. degrees over the same period. With respect to undergraduate instruction, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the educational engine of the University, and we teach more undergraduates than any other department except Mathematics. We currently have over 500 Chemistry majors and growing!

By now, many of you have read of changes in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Dean Neil Sullivan has resigned effective January 1. Despite the changes, our department fairs well in the University's long-term plans. The University continues to meet past commitments to the Department, and Chemistry is scheduled to grow. We have two active faculty searches this year and additional growth is scheduled for next year.

In no small way, Chemistry's high standing in the College and University can be attributed to the outstanding leadership of Dave Richardson, who finished his term as Chair in August. I want to offer my personal thanks to Dave for the talent and professionalism with which he represented us over the past six years.

—Daniel Talham



# chemistry at the oaks mall



Kids were chemists for Halloween during the University of Florida Center for Catalysis Halloween Molecular Mania at The Oaks Mall. Students (K-12) were invited to the Dillard's court area on Saturday, October 28, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to participate in fun, interactive chemistry experiments, and receive free chemistry gifts. The event was organized by Dr. **Adam Veige**, along with graduate and undergraduate students from the Center for Catalysis.

Activities included interactive experiments such as imploding soda cans, making Halloween slime, and creating synthetic spider webs. Posters detailing current research projects were displayed for older students and parents. This interactive and fun learning experience was intended to educate children about the wonderful world of chemistry, to raise public awareness of the scientific achievements taking place in our community, and hopefully inspire young students to pursue a career in science. The event was highlighted in the October 29 edition of the Gainesville Sun on page B1. The event in part celebrated National Chemistry Week and was co-sponsored by The American Chemical Society Florida Section.

—Adam Veige

## keep in touch with Chemistry

We want to hear from you! Send your update to: Maribel Lisk, PO Box 117200, Gainesville, FL 32611-7200. Please include your degree (BS, MS, PhD, etc.), graduation date, and e-mail address if you have one. Photos are welcome, too! You can also e-mail your update to [chairadmin@chem.ufl.edu](mailto:chairadmin@chem.ufl.edu). To make online contributions to the department, go to <https://www.ufl.edu/OnlineGiving/CLAS.asp>. Select "Chemistry 001401" and continue through the prompts.

**UF** UNIVERSITY of  
**FLORIDA**

Department of Chemistry  
PO Box 117200  
Gainesville FL 32611-7200  
Phone: 352-392-0541  
Fax: 352-392-8758  
<http://www.chem.ufl.edu>

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 83  
Gainesville, FL