

Center for Chemical Innovation

Professor Lisa McElwee-White is the Principal Investigator for a newly awarded National Science Foundation Center for Chemical Innovation (CCI) to have its home in the Department of Chemistry. The Center for Nanostructured Electronic Materials will focus on chemistry-based approaches to molecular electronics and molecular materials applications in the microelectronics industry. Professor McElwee-White teamed with Assistant Professor David Wei to assemble an interdisciplinary team that includes scientists from the University of Illinois and the University of Georgia. The goal of the center is to develop new materials and create prototypes with direct technological relevance, teaming with industrial mentors from companies at the forefront of molecular electronics. You can read more about the Center in the Departmental News section of our homepage, www.chem.ufl.edu. *Photo from the Center kick-off meeting on October 9, 2010. Left to right: Joe Lyding (Univ. IL), Greg Grigori (Univ. IL), Lisa McElwee-White (UF), David Wei (UF), Marcus Lay (Univ. GA).*



Keep in touch

With Chemistry

We want to hear from you! Send your update to: Maribel Lisk, P.O. 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 chaitradmin@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.

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the chemical bond

FALL 2010
University of Florida
Department of Chemistry

A note from The Chair

"Internationalization" is a major theme at the University of Florida these days, as it is at many universities across the country. A two-week trip to China this fall provided me the chance to reflect on what "internationalization" means to our department.

Chemistry has a long history as an international science and may already be the most internationalized discipline at the university. There are famous photographs such as the one of Marie Curie, seated with Neils Bohr, Albert Einstein, Max Planck and a score of other famous chemists and physicists, together at the Solvay conference in 1927. It has long been realized that science progresses faster when you bring together the best minds from around the world.

Today is no different. Many of us rely on international collaborations in our research. Our faculty and students attend international conferences, we regularly have international scientists visit our department to lecture, and nearly half of the graduate students in our program are from Asia, South America, and Europe.

For more than a decade we have had international exchange programs in place for both undergraduates and graduate student researchers. Countries with which we have formal exchanges include France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Japan, Columbia, Brazil, and Argentina. This list does not include the informal agreements setup via individual faculty collaborations.

But I now wonder if we shouldn't do even more. I was reminded again, as I travelled through China for the first time, how much there is to learn about a culture by visiting the people where they live and work. You realize how little you really know, and how many misconceptions you hold. You also begin to learn how people view us, and in turn, what misconceptions they hold about us and our way of life. The long reach of *Desperate Housewives* would amaze you!

Although international collaborations are about doing the best science, there is much more to be gained. Science is a vehicle for fostering international understanding and broadening



Dan Talham at Xiamen University with former Gators Professor Xiaomei Yan and Professor Chaoyong Yang (seated), Professor Huaizhi Kang and Professor Xiaolan Chen (standing middle). Also pictured are students Yun Zhang (standing far left) and Li Zhang (standing far right).

how our students think. In the long run, these tools may be more valuable to our students as they progress in their careers than the technical skills they gain with us.

I found that UF and the Department of Chemistry are renowned at the places I visited, and, refreshingly, not for football! Rather, I was pleased to find that UF and

specifically our department are recognized as top-flight among US academic institutions. A couple of the universities I visited proposed establishing formal exchanges, giving our undergraduates and graduate students a chance to experience China. It seems like a good idea.

—Daniel R. Talham



...on the cover New Chemistry/ Chemical Biology Building Design.

Visit www.facilities.ufl.edu/viewprj.php?prj=5962 to see additional project information, including an animated walk through of the building.



2010 GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

The department recognized graduate students with several awards in the past year. The Ruegamer Charitable Trust, established by William and Arlene Ruegamer, provides scholarships for students of high scholastic standing in biochemistry. The recipients for 2010–2011 were **Jeffrey Carter** and **Natasha Pirman**. The Colonel Allen R. and Margaret G. Crow Endowment and the Dr. Ann R. Stasch Memorial Scholarships were again used to recognize excellence in graduate student peer-reviewed publication. This year, the First Place Crow-Stasch Publication Awards were given to **Xiao He**,

Roxane Fabre and **Jongwoo Park**. Second place awards went to **Yan Li**, **Megan Meyer**, **Heh-Young Moon**, **Jamie Kear**, **David Sneed**, **Hui Wang**, **Yuying Wei** and **Xian Chen**. The 2009–2010 Procter & Gamble Awards for Research Excellence were given to **Xian Chen**, **Brian Aitken**, **Ken Graham**, **Leonard Rorrer**, **Bora Inci**, **Shreva Mukherjee**, **Bahaa El-Gendy** and **Daniel Shelby**. The 2010 M. A. Battiste Award for Creative Work in Synthetic Organic Chemistry, sponsored by Petra Research, was presented to **John Ketcham**. *Pictured Above: 2010 incoming graduate student class.*



Welcome New Faculty

Dr. Leslie J. Murray joined our department in August as an Assistant Professor in the Inorganic Division. Leslie Murray received B.A. degrees in Chemistry and Biology from Swarthmore College and subsequently, earned a Ph.D. in Inorganic Chemistry under the direction of Stephen Lippard at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he studied dioxygen activation by metalloenzymes. His post-doctoral research under Jeffrey Long at the University of California, Berkeley, focused on the synthesis and design of metal-organic frameworks for gas separation and storage applications. His independent research at the University of Florida will focus on transporting biological principles to small molecule reactivity and materials chemistry. The Chemistry Department extends a warm welcome to Dr. Murray.

Donors Establish Professorship

Dr. Steven and Rebecca Scott have donated \$2M to the University of Florida to establish a professorship in the Department of Chemistry. The professorship, which comes on board as we begin construction of our new Chemistry / Chemical Biology Building, positions Chemistry to be a key player in the Scotts' wish to help UF become a leader in health care.

Dr. Scott has been associated with health care during his entire professional career, as a physician, medical administrator, and now chairman of Scott Holdings, LLC, an entrepreneurial medical investment company. His experiences afford him an enlightened view of the role of chemistry. "In the last 50 years, physics is one of the key sciences that have made life better for mankind, especially in medicine," Dr. Scott says. "However, as a physician I believe chemistry will lead the way in the next 50 years with discovery and innovation to improve our lives."

Three of the Scotts' five children are UF alumni and Steven is one of 13 members of the UF Board of Trustees. He adds "I very much hope and believe UF's chemistry department can lead the way in advancements, and will become the top-ranked chemistry department in the world."

Visit www.floridatomorrow.ufl.edu/news to read more about the Scotts and their involvement in UF in the *FLORIDA TOMORROW* newsletter.

