



# the chemical bond

Spring 2008  
University of Florida  
Department of Chemistry



## Kitty Williams Retires

Dr. Kathryn Williams, who directed our analytical, physical and radiochemistry teaching labs since 1979, will retire this summer. Thousands of undergraduates in our department will remember her well from their days in the quantitative analysis and instrumental analysis laboratories. Kitty also served for many years as coordinator of undergraduate advising in chemistry and had an enormous influence on the high quality of our undergraduate instruction. She will assume emeritus faculty status on July 1. Congratulations and thanks, Kitty, for your many contributions to our department and to the University of Florida.

## James D. Winefordner Fund Established at UF Foundation

At the recent Pittcon meeting in New Orleans, a special session was held in honor of Professor Jim Winefordner, an esteemed member of our faculty for the past 48 years. At a reception in Jim's honor, it was announced that a fund has been established in Jim's name to be used to support graduate students in our department. Already, the fund has nearly reached the \$30,000 mark needed to create an endowment. Those wishing to contribute to this well-deserved recognition may contact Cody Helmer at the UF Foundation by emailing [chelmer@uff.ufl.edu](mailto:chelmer@uff.ufl.edu) or calling (352) 392-5473.



## on the cover...

This photograph of Leigh Hall is from an L.L. Cook photo postcard taken about 1936. Note that the 1948 additions to the building are missing. The five men standing near the door archway are too small to be identified but a microscopic analysis of the man in the center with sweater and tie indicates the he is very likely Dr. Townes Randolph Leigh (1880-1949), after whom the building was named.



# Jill Rench Retires

Jill Rench began her career in chemistry in the fiscal office as an Accountant Clerk II on December 21, 1977. She retired just over thirty years later, on April 3, 2008, as Coordinator of Accounting. During her time in chemistry, Jill served in many capacities and over the years has received several awards and certifications.

Jill served on University of Florida and Chemistry committees, including being the liaison for the United Way of Alachua County. Jill, we will miss your presence and leadership. We hope you enjoy your retirement as you travel and continue your volunteer work.



# a note from the chair

They say the Florida economy is a series of booms and busts. Can anyone remind me what a boom looks like? I'm ready.

The news in Gainesville this summer is all about the budget. The state budget cuts amounted to 6% for the University of Florida in 2008-2009, on top of a 4% reduction that came midway through 2007-2008. The state cuts come on the heels of the college's actions to correct the CLAS budget deficit. The overall result is that we are entering the third straight year of budget reductions in the department.

Retirements that leave our faculty significantly smaller will account for most of the reductions, but not all. We have also seen reductions in staff, displacement of valued employees, and drastic cuts in operating expense funds. The impact is very real. What was a pretty lean and mean operation to begin with is now stretched precariously thin.

We have plans to get through this, and we remain hopeful. Our priorities remain our undergraduate and graduate students. We are continuing to offer a full schedule of undergraduate courses, and we are committed to getting our majors through without delays. We still have the university's signature graduate program. We are able to continue moving forward because we have staff who somehow find ways to get more done with less, faculty who take on more and more, emeritus faculty who have come back to help us teach, and generous alumni and friends providing resources to help us achieve our goals.

We also have good reason to be excited about the future. First, be sure to read about the outstanding undergraduate majors we have opportunity to recognize with named awards. We continue to have great students. We will be conducting searches for two new faculty members starting in the fall. Despite the cuts, the university continues to invest in us. And finally, the president has chosen a new Chemistry building as the next capital improvement project at the university. The Legislature approved the planning and design funds, and we are starting that process over the summer. We have a lot to look forward to.



—Daniel Talham

# Jeanne Karably Retires

Jeanne Karably, who has served as the analytical division Program Assistant for 30 years, retired on May 29, 2008. During these years, she advised and assisted over 300 graduate students in the analytical division and helped make it one of the most productive and well organized units on campus. Happy retirement, Jeanne, you will be truly missed by students, faculty, and staff. We look forward to updates of what it's like relaxing on the beaches.





# Undergraduate Awards

The Department of Chemistry recently chose five outstanding undergraduates for awards funded by UF alumni and friends.

The Colonel Allen R. and Margaret G. Crow award goes to the outstanding graduating senior. The record number of Spring graduates (79 total), many with 4.0 grade point averages, made choosing a single top student impossible, and the department decided to give two awards. This year's winners are **Kamil Nowicki** and **David McDonald**.

**Kamil Nowicki** will graduate Summa Cum Laude with an honors thesis entitled, "Molecular Dynamics and Förster Energy Transfer in Bifunctional Non-Conjugated Benzothiadiazole-based Dendrimers," written under the direction of Dr. Jeffrey L. Krause. Kamil will enter the M.D./Ph.D. program at the UF College of Medicine in the fall.

**David McDonald**, who will also graduate Summa Cum Laude, worked with Dr. Peggy Borum of the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition on his thesis, "Effects of Chemical Diabetes, Starvation, and Endocrine Hormones on Blood and Organ Carnitine Concentrations in Rats." He will move to Duke University to work on his Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology.

The department is also proud to give three awards to junior chemistry majors with outstanding academic records in the chemistry program.

The winner of the 2008 Howard M. Sheridan Award is **Jennifer Mattler**, who also recently received the Gladys Anderson Emerson Scholarship sponsored by Iota Sigma Pi National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry. **Edward Miller**, a double major in chemistry and physics, receives the 2008 Gordon M. and Joyce L. Smith award. The 2008 Joseph P. Laforanara award goes to **John Pang**, a major in the biochemistry track.

*Thank you to the donors for making these awards possible, and congratulations to the impressive group of student awardees.*

# 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.uff.ufl.edu/OnlineGiving/CLAS.asp>. Select "Chemistry 001401" and continue through the prompts.

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