

Establishment of the Alan R. Katritzky Chair of Heterocyclic Chemistry

Early in 2013, Kenan Professor Alan R. Katritzky pledged \$1.5 million to fund a chair in the Department of Chemistry. He indicated that his purpose in establishing the chair was to help advance the Department's research efforts in organic chemistry. Alan said the UF's Chemistry Department has "tremendous advantages" and has the potential to join the ranks of the top 10 chemistry departments in the country. Alan is currently UF's Kenan Professor of Chemistry and director of the university's Florida Center for Heterocyclic Compounds, which focuses on scientific research, publishing and teaching. He also leads the Katritzky Research Group, numbering more than 30 people for the last thirty-three years, and which is comprised of graduate students, postdoctoral scholars and visiting scholars from all over the world. The Katritzky chair will be filled by an eminent scholar whose research will focus on developments in heterocyclic and organic chemistry.

*As this issue is going to press, we must regretfully announce the passing of Dr. Alan Katritzky on February 10, 2014.

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50 Years Since Graduation!

Congratulations to our masters and doctoral graduates of 1963 on the 50th anniversary of their commencement day. Our department awarded M.S. degrees to **Donald Clemens** (Prof. Sisler), **Kenneth Hellams** (Prof. Muga), **Rodrigo Paredes** (Prof. Westman), **Thomas Schmidt** (Prof. Colgate), and **Claude Veillon** (Prof. Winefordner). The students awarded a Ph.D. degree that year were **David Baarda** (Prof. Jones), **Patricia Fish** (Prof. Gropp), **Sidney Fogel** (Prof. Reid), **Michael Grasley** (Prof. Jones), **William Hart** (Prof. Sisler), **Iclal Hartman** (Prof. Stearns), **Robert Kassal** (Prof. Brown), **Howard Latz** (Prof. Winefordner), **Clifton Mansfield** (Prof. Winefordner), **Manuel Menendez** (Prof. Muschlitz), **Marion Miles** (Prof. Butler), **Peter Morrisett** (Prof. Gropp), **Leon Pijanowski** (Prof. Gropp), **Kermit Ramey** (Prof. Brey), **Hubert Richards** (Prof. Muschlitz), **William Steele** (Prof. Winefordner), **Ronald Von Allmen** (Prof. Lippincott), and **Morris Weiss** (Prof. Muschlitz.)

Photo: Bristol-Myers Squibb

keep in touch with Chemistry

We want to hear from you! Send us career updates or memories of "how it used to be" to: Kerstin Erickson, PO Box 117200, Gainesville, FL 32611-7200 or email chairadmin@chem.ufl.edu. Join us in our efforts to keep UF Chemistry a top-notch program by your donations. To make online contributions, go to <https://www.ufl.edu/OnlineGiving/CLAS.asp>. Select "Chemistry 001401" and continue through the prompts. By phone, call 877-351-2377 or mail us a check made out to the University of Florida Foundation. Please designate or include the fund number.

the chemical
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WINTER 2013-14
University of Florida
Department of Chemistry

Welcome New Faculty

Jason Portmess was born in Los Angeles, CA in 1968 and was raised in south Florida. As an undergraduate at the University of Florida he became interested in organic/polymer chemistry under the tutelage of Dr. Ken Wagener. Upon graduation, the camaraderie and excitement of the “polymer floor” was unmatched by any other institution so he decided to stay at UF to pursue his Ph.D. Once a Gator...Always a Gator. After working for two years in a small research firm in West Palm Beach, FL, Jason began teaching as an adjunct at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, TN. It was there that his passion for teaching was born and he continued on to a more permanent position as an Assistant Professor at Virginia Intermont College in Bristol, VA. Family reasons brought him back to Gainesville in 2004 and soon afterwards he began teaching organic chemistry as an adjunct at UF. Now, as a member of the teaching faculty, he looks forward to many years of preparing future Gators obtain their academic best.



Maria Korolev graduated from Mount Holyoke College in 2007 and received her Ph.D. in 2013 from Princeton University under the direction of Dr. Michael Hecht. Along with her graduate work at Princeton, she was a Teaching Fellow with the McGraw Teaching and Learning Center. There she led teaching assistant training, provided teaching observations, and participated in pedagogy seminars.

Maria has multiple years of teaching experience between courses at Princeton University and Mercer County Community College. She received both departmental and university-wide teaching awards at Princeton recognizing her dedication to teaching. Maria joined the UF Chemistry Department this fall and is focused on undergraduate teaching.

Professor George E. Ryschkewitsch – In Memoriam

The Department of Chemistry would like to take this opportunity to honor Dr. George E. Ryschkewitsch, who passed away September 10, 2013. Below is a short sentiment offered from a former student and colleague.

“Professor George E. Ryschkewitsch, or, as some of us affectionately called him, “Uncle George”, was a person from whom chemistry always flowed – especially in the research lab, the classroom, and in the many, welcome and challenging chemistry conversations he had with fellow faculty and graduate students. As an example, I well recall Uncle George’s counsel that there are no real “disciplines” of chemistry. The traditional “divisions” of inorganic, organic, physical, and analytical were purely manmade, and to think that these divisions existed was to erect mythical boundaries toward learning and doing chemistry thus impeding your progress to so do. Uncle George would also beam when students did well on exams as he saw this as a demonstration that you liked chemistry – “a very, very good thing” in his estimation. And he loved nature which he touched often through his passion for scuba diving. Indeed, Uncle George loved life, loved chemistry, and loved learning all of which he shared with us because, after all, he was truly a chemist’s chemist and remembering him any other way means you didn’t know him – but, fortunately, I did.”

Sincerely, Jim Horvath



A note from The Chair

Greetings to all friends and alumni of the Department. This winter has been a bit more “wintry” than we are used to in Gainesville, with lots of drizzle, rain and modest cold, but we’ve been spared the kind of drastic weather that has plagued most of the country this year.

These days the Department is filled with optimism as we anticipate the ground-breaking this summer for the new Chemistry/Chemical Biology Building, which will include fantastic, modern general chemistry and organic chemistry undergraduate laboratory facilities. We are also currently working enthusiastically to recruit five new faculty, the specific positions for which have been authorized by the Dean or Provost. Three of these positions are part of a UF top-ten pre-eminence initiative funded by the State Legislature and implemented by the Provost. As you know, the Department has seen its faculty become severely depleted, mainly through retirements, over the last six years of State budget deficits. With the State now looking at the second year of budget surpluses, there is room for optimism that Chemistry will be able to quickly rebuild its faculty with quality hires. I look forward to sharing good news with you along these lines in the next issue of Chemical Bond.

We are very sorry to see Dr. Dave Powell, director of Mass Spec Services, retire after 30 years of service to the Department. His retirement dinner at the Brew Spot Café allowed us to express

our appreciation to him for his many contributions to the Department. I am happy to report that a successor to Dave has already been found in Dr. Kari Basso, who is presently Director of Mass Spec Services at Ohio State University, and who will be joining us on March 1st.

One very important development since the last Chemical Bond is the endowment of the Katritzky Chair of Heterocyclic Chemistry, made possible through the generosity of Professor Katritzky (see the article on the back). In the next issue, I will be sharing with you additional good news regarding other substantial donations to the Department that will serve to enhance our ability to continue our move upward in prominence both in undergraduate and graduate education. As you are no doubt already aware, gifts to the Department, no matter how small, provide that indispensable margin of fiscal flexibility that allows the Department to reach its academic and scholarly goals.

Let me invite each of you to come visit us anytime. If you come after August, hopefully you will find a big hole in the ground north of CLB and just south of University Avenue, where a beautiful new entrance to the University will be created with the new Chemistry/Chemical Biology building as its centerpiece.

—William Dolbier

Chemistry Leadership Board Members

Howard M. Sheridan

Howard Sheridan is a 1965 gator chemistry grad and 1969 Tulane Med School grad. He practiced diagnostic and interventional radiology in Fort Myers, Florida where he served as president of the medical staff of Southwest Florida Regional Medical Center. He is co-founder and past Chairman of the Board of Radiation Therapy Services. RTSI is the largest provider of radiation therapy services in the U.S. He is co-founder of Edison National Bank and serves as Chairman of Edison Bancshares. He is an avid wildlife photographer and his photos have been published in National Geographic, Alaska Magazine, Island Scene Magazine, and Montana Magazine. His community service includes conservation work where he and his wife Brenda were named “Water Conservationists of the Year” by the Florida Wildlife Federation for their work on protecting the Caloosahatchee River and the manatee. He also co-founded 21st Century Care, a non-profit dedicated to provide cancer assistance to the needy, cancer education, and research.

Glenn D. Boutilier

Dr. Glenn Boutilier received the B.S. degree in chemistry from Colorado State University in 1974. He studied at the University of Florida with James D. Winefordner and received the Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry in 1978. Post-doctoral study followed at the University of Georgia, where Glenn studied with Professors L. B. Rogers and L. A. Carreira. He joined Procter & Gamble in 1980, where he is currently a Research Fellow, Victor Mills Society. Dr. Boutilier’s work has focused on areas of adhesive and polymer technology, especially the development of high performance photopolymers. He is inventor or co-inventor on more than 20 patents and has made key contributions to the success of the P&G proprietary papermaking process. Dr. Boutilier promotes effective undergraduate and graduate education in the analytical sciences by offering the popular Industrial Analytical Short Course. Dr. Boutilier is a member of the American Chemical Society and the Society for Applied Spectroscopy. He has served the latter organization in many capacities, including Chairman of the Cincinnati Section. Glenn, wife Donna, and daughters Emily, Joanna, and Sara Clark are enthusiastic cyclists.