



**Class of 2011 incoming graduate student class**

**UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA**

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## 2011 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 2011–2012 were **Mario Edgar G. Moral** and **Dimitri van Simaey**s. The Colonel Allen R. and Margaret G. Crow Endowment again supported the recognition of excellence in graduate student peer-reviewed publication. This year, the Crow Awards, for excellent papers published in 2010, were given to **Matt Baker, Abraham Boateng, John Favor, Basri Gulbakan, Peng Guo, Kai Lang, Leonard Rorrer, Pengjie Shi, Jingyi Wang, Mingxu You** and **Zhi Zhu**. The 2010-2011 Procter & Gamble Awards for Research Excellence were given to **Anna Melnichuk, Ian De Vera, Anna Kuznetsova, Dimitri van Simaey**s, **Basri Gulbakan, Pamela Cohn, Romain Stalder, Mirna El Khatib, Davit Jishkariani** and **Claudia El-Nachef**. The 2011 M. A. Battiste Award for Creative Work in Synthetic Organic Chemistry, sponsored by Petra Research, was presented to **Kinga Chojnacka**.

## keep in touch with Chemistry

We want to hear from you! Send us career updates or memories of "how it used to be" to: Maribel Lisk, PO Box 117200, Gainesville, FL 32611-7200 or email [chairadmin@chem.ufl.edu](mailto: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.uff.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 bond

FALL 2011  
University of Florida  
Department of Chemistry



# Remembering Bud Muschlitz

Our former colleague, Bud Muschlitz, passed away this year which prompted his first graduate student, John McGuire, to send in this photo along with his remembrance of Bud.

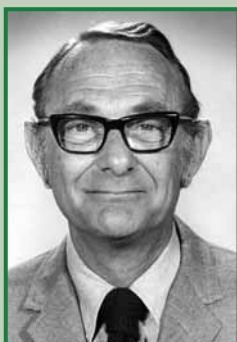


This picture was taken in front of the engineering building early in 1955. Kneeling is Hal Randolph, a graduate engineer. From left to right is John McGuire, Bud's first graduate student; Bud Muschlitz (in plaid shirt); Bill Cramer, a physical chemist; a lab assistant (name unknown); and Tom Bailey, a theoretical physics post-doc.

**John McGuire's memory of Bud Muschlitz:** I received my Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry early in 1955. I was in E.E. Muschlitz, Jr.'s team studying collisions of ions in neutral gases. I had been a grad student of Joe Simons in fluorocarbon research when Joe arranged for Bud to come to Florida with rank in both Engineering and Chemistry. After we met, I became his first doctoral student in chemistry. He built up the group with Tom Bailey as a post-doc in theoretical physics and Bill Cramer as a physical chemist. In order to design and build the instrumentation

we would need, he also had a couple of graduate students in electrical engineering with several undergraduate students as lab helpers. The entire time I was with Muschlitz, we had a large lab in the third floor of the engineering building; I guess we had offices there as well, but I can't remember ever having one. One memory I have of the working environment is that we used mercury vapor high vacuum pumps that had to be cooled with liquid nitrogen. Bud arranged for our group to use the entire supply of liquid nitrogen in the State of Florida each week. It typically was delivered on a Tuesday afternoon. We started the pumps as soon as it was delivered, and then worked until the last drop evaporated...usually around 50 hours. Another memory has to do with the lab location; it overlooked the Gator football field. We didn't have time to go to games, but the proximity certainly kept most of us finding reasons to be in that end of the lab on game days!

Chemistry Professor Emeritus Earle Muschlitz passed away on May 9, 2011. Dr. Muschlitz was born April 23, 1921. He received his BS, MS, and Ph.D. from Pennsylvania State University. After Penn State, Muschlitz was an instructor at Cornell University and in 1951 came to UF as an Assistant Professor in Engineering. In 1953 he had a joint Chemistry/E.E. appointment and in 1958 became a full professor in Physical Chemistry. Dr. Muschlitz who was Chair of our department from June 1, 1973 - June 30, 1977, received several awards during his career, among them the Senior U.S. Scientist Humboldt Award in 1978. He retired on May 8, 1986.



# A note from The Chair

We hear a lot about STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) education these days, as policy makers and the business community lament the shortage of US-educated technically trained workers. These concerns extend to all levels of training, from high school degrees all the way through professional and Ph.D. degrees. In the Department of Chemistry, our involvement with STEM education is multifaceted.

One of the best ways to capture the attention of young people is with inspirational teachers. Estimates are that fewer than 20% of mathematics and science teachers in Florida are fully certified in the subjects they teach. To interest Chemistry majors in teaching careers, the Department is partnering with the new UFTeach program that aims to dramatically strengthen the recruitment and retention of middle and high school math and science teachers (<http://ufteach.clas.ufl.edu>). Through scholarships and a streamlined curriculum, Chemistry majors can obtain a UFTeach minor or a one-year Education master's degree.

"Get 'em early" is an important strategy. Our students and faculty participate in outreach activities that place them in local schools to perform demonstrations and talk about chemistry and careers

in science. One of the most successful programs is run by our Undergraduate Chemistry Club (<http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~saacs/>). (Also, see our cover page.) At the request of local teachers, teams of students visit classrooms of grades K-8 to perform demonstrations that pertain to the topics being studied by the students. High school students aren't completely left out. Chemistry works with UF programs that place high school students in labs over the summer, giving them an introduction to the laboratory.

One of the benefits of choosing to go to college at a research university is, well, research. We try to provide as many opportunities for undergraduate research as possible. Almost every lab has undergraduates participating in projects. It is part of the culture. I am sure every member of the faculty got introduced to research in this way. Undergraduate research is a great way to get hands on experience and to participate in problem solving and team projects at levels that formal coursework can't provide. The department provides several fellowships for undergraduate research, funded through the generosity of donors, giving students the chance to exchange research for that summer job.

—Daniel R. Talham

## Chemistry Leadership Board Members (Con't.)

**Eugene L. Inman, Ph.D.**, is the vice president of Analytical Sciences Research and Development at Eli Lilly and Company, a major pharmaceutical manufacturer headquartered in Indianapolis, IN. Gene joined Lilly in 1982. He is a trained analytical chemist with six years of industrial experience as a pharmaceutical development analytical chemist, fourteen years as a technical manager, and nine years as an R&D executive. As a manager, he has been responsible for groups of 40 to 700 scientists with expertise in physical chemistry, analytical chemistry, bioanalytical chemistry, organic chemistry, formulations development, biochemistry, clinical trial materials preparation, and project management. His personal passions include Quality by Design, knowledge management, product quality control strategies, global registration documents, leadership development, laboratory quality systems, and pharmaceutical product quality.



Gene graduated from Grace College (Winona Lake, IN) in 1978 with a bachelor's degree in chemistry and mathematics and received his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry in 1982 from the University of Florida under the mentorship of Professor James D. Winefordner.

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**Robert O. Kincart**, graduated from UF in 1972 with a B.S. in Chemistry. Post graduation, he worked as a research chemist with Glidden-Durkee and Roux Laboratories, but quickly moved into management roles with Kerr-McGee Chemical and, later, with Asgrow/The Upjohn Company in the agricultural chemical industry.



In 1980, Kincart was a founding partner in Resource Recovery of America, Inc., one of the first environmental services companies in Florida to provide assessment and remediation of contaminated sites. The company was subsequently sold and in 1987 he founded A-C-T Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc. which is headquartered in Bartow, Florida. Today, the firm employs nearly 100 professionals, serving clients nationwide. It was awarded the *Best Place to work in Florida* for 2010 and 2011. In addition to these business ventures, in 1995, Kincart co-founded American Communications, Inc., a wireless telephone provider and in 2000 founded The Kincart Group, a real estate investment and development firm.

Kincart encourages employees to get engaged in the community and models the way for "giving back" through his own active involvement. He is a Rotarian, serves on numerous non-profit boards and is the 2012 president of the Greater Bartow Chamber of Commerce. He is also the co-chairman of the inaugural Polk County School Board Environmental Career Academy. Rob resides in Lakeland with his wife, Laurel; their black lab Kacey; three children, their spouses and six grandchildren. He loves UF, is a Bull Gator and has endowed the Kincart Scholarship in Chemistry at UF.