



the chemical

bond

SPRING 2004
University of Florida
Department of Chemistry

from the chair

a note

Welcome to the first issue of *The Chemical Bond*! Our goal is to connect with alumni and friends of the Department of Chemistry. We hope that you will find this brief newsletter informative and enjoyable.

The purpose of *The Chemical Bond* is to inform you about various items of interest related to chemistry at the University of Florida, providing interesting information to you whether you are a member of the faculty or staff, a graduate or undergraduate student, a friend of the department or an alumnus. We will highlight special achievements in the careers of our faculty and students. In addition, we will update you regarding any plans for new facilities or renovations.

As I end my fourth year as chair, I am happy to report that the department is enjoying success in meeting all of its missions in research, teaching and service. Our research funding remains strong (more than \$11 million in fiscal year 2002–03). We are teaching record numbers of students at the undergraduate and graduate levels (the department registered more than 250 graduate students in fall 2003). Our faculty continues to contribute its efforts in local, national and international service to the profession. The University of Florida has become the fourth-largest university in the United States in recent years, and we in the department are working to secure a position among the most productive and recognized programs in the country.

Elsewhere in the newsletter, we have highlighted the many recent retirements from our faculty. The college and department have embarked on an ambitious effort to fill many of these vacant faculty lines in the near future. All of us in the department, including some of our recent retirees, are working to keep our program running smoothly in the meantime.

We welcome any suggestions you may have regarding the content and format of this newsletter. Send your comments to chairadmin@chem.ufl.edu, or write to me at the address listed on the back cover.

—David E. Richardson



Flint Hall renewed and expanded as Keene-Flint Hall

For over 20 years (1979–2000), Flint Hall sat locked up and unused, even at a time when UF was expanding rapidly and desperately in need of space. One of the original buildings on campus (built in 1910 as Science Hall), Flint had fallen on hard times and was barely saved from the wrecking ball in the late 1970s. But its central location on University Avenue and its graceful Collegiate Gothic architecture begged renewal and a return to mainstream action.

Thanks to a major gift from Kenneth and Janet Keene, plus generous state support, this historic structure now is beautifully restored and an adjacent annex tastefully added. The

Department of History occupies what was old Flint Hall, and the Department of Chemistry was granted the large annex addition, extending almost to the Chemistry Lab Building, housing a 200-seat auditorium, as well as a complex of offices and tutorial rooms for our General Chemistry Program. The result is a triumph of both form and function. Not only was the entire Keene-Flint project creatively developed for today's needs, but it also maintained an appreciative eye to historic preservation.

Keene-Flint Hall is a beautiful site in the Historic Campus District. It should be a must-see for your next visit.

—Willard W. Harrison

new professorships and special titles since 2000

Steve Benner has been promoted to Distinguished Professor, UF's highest academic rank. **George Christou** joined the faculty as the first Russell S. Drago Professor of Chemistry. **Bill Dolbier** and **Chuck Martin** have been named Colonel Allen R. and Margaret G. Crow Professors of Chemistry. **Jim Winefordner** has been named a V.T. and Louise Jackson Professor of Chemistry, which is funded by a Livingstone Charitable Foundation gift as an endowment honoring the late chemistry faculty member V.T. Jackson and wife Louise. The above individuals join Kenan Professor **Alan Katritzky**, Graduate Research Professor **Rod Bartlett**, and Butler Professor **Ken Wagner** as our faculty with special titles recognizing their outstanding contributions to the field of chemistry.

The department was fortunate this year to receive funding to support several new graduate student awards and fellowships. The Ruegamer Charitable Trust, established by William and Arlene Ruegamer, provides scholarships for students of high scholastic standing in biochemistry. Last year the department awarded Ruegamer Fellowships to **D. Svadrucic, J. Tipton, I. Kaluzna, S. Drobiak, D. Dickinson** and **S. Wyles**. This will henceforth be an annual tradition in our department. Several awards also were established this year to recognize excellence in

new graduate student awards

graduate student research and publications. The Procter & Gamble Company and Dow Chemical Company funded awards based on overall excellence in research by senior graduate students. Awards of \$500 each were given to **W. Ortiz, L. Koroniak, A. Beste, C. Taylor, T. Cardolaccia, T. Martinot, F. Courchay, T. Correll, T. Drake, I. Kaluzna, K. Turney, D. Masiello** and **E. Atas**. The Colonel Allen R. and Margaret G. Crow Endowment and the Dr. Ann R. Stasch Memorial Scholarship will be used to recognize excellence in graduate student peer-reviewed publication. This year, Crow-Stasch Publication Awards were given to **J. Sworen, S. Yu, L. Koroniak, N. Iyengar, F. Courchay, A. Argun** and **A. Ricardo**.

—Ben Smith

Recently we received news from NSF that its US/France Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Site was renewed with a 50% funding increase and an exceptional 4-year award. This site recruits outstanding undergraduate students throughout the United States and provides them an extended science immersion experience in research groups abroad. When combined with the department's second domestic REU site (UF remains the only chemistry department in the US with two REU grants), the ongoing University Scholars Program, the newly announced Beckman Scholars Program and dozens of other undergraduate funding from individual research grants and research-for-credit, UF offers undergraduates an impressive range of research opportunities. American participants in the US/France REU Site spend 12 weeks during the summer conducting research in a world-



undergraduate research in Chemistry

class French laboratory. The international experience introduces participants to research organized in a manner entirely different from that of a standard US university setting, often in a multidisciplinary context.

Each fall, a joint poster session with UF's domestic REU participants and partner HBCU (historically black colleges and universities) institution undergraduates allows a capstone experience for participants. REU and UF undergrads have prospered from their experience. For example, in 2001, 2003 and 2004, students **Miles Sweet, Robert Abel** and **Adam Bennett**, respectively, won Rhodes, Goldwater and Churchill Fellowships for their research!

The REU programs are directed by **Ben Smith, Mike Scott** and **Randy Duran**. For further information visit www.chem.ufl.edu/~reu or email duvan@chem.ufl.edu.

—Randy Duran



Participants from the 2001 (above) and 2003 (left) US/France sites visit the NSF headquarters in Washington D.C. for a pre-departure meeting.

RETIREMENTS 2003

An amazing nine faculty members retired in 2003 as part of the popular deferred retirement option program (or DROP) for state employees. Each of the retiring faculty members was honored at one of several events held in 2003, including a tribute to all of them at the departmental holiday banquet held in the new ballroom of the Reitz Union. Altogether, 10 faculty members have retired since 2000. Fortunately, many of our emeritus faculty members still interact with the department, contributing their time and talents to students and the department.

The retirees and the year they joined UF are as follows:
Merle Battiste (1961), **Wallace Brey** (1960), **Sam Colgate** (1959), **Jim Deyrup** (1965), **Bob Hanrahan** (1958), **John Helling** (1962), **Gus Palenik** (1970), **Bill Weltner** (1966), **John Zoltewicz** (1963).

Also in phased retirement since 2000: **Gardiner Myers** (1965).



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. 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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