



# the chemical bond

Spring 2005  
University of Florida  
Department of Chemistry

Early in spring 2004 students and professors in the Leigh Hall laboratories began complaining about 'winged ants' flying across research labs and offices, so Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) was called to investigate.

**Ken Glover**, EH&S's Pest Management Coordinator, and **Jay Beckenbach**, a Project Manager with Physical Plant Department, completed their inspection and informed us that Leigh Hall had a dry wood termite problem.

They further explained that this type of termite doesn't go away easily since this species is different from the more common subterranean termite. Glover added, "Leigh Hall has had occasional problems with termites in the building for a long time, probably close to 40 years, and we've tried several different processes over that time to eradicate them, but there are so many inaccessible areas in the building that nothing had worked completely."

It was decided that the only way to fully eliminate the problem would be to tent the entire building. A target date for the fumigation was set for Thanksgiving break week to minimize

interruptions.

In order to let the staff and students know what we were planning, the department held two town meetings to describe the fumigation procedure and explain what preparations were expected.

Beckenbach said, "I can't speak highly enough of the staff and faculty in Leigh Hall, and their cooperation with the project. They were extremely understanding and really made it possible for this whole operation to run smoothly."

Once the scheduling was complete, a crew of 16 workers began to hang the giant orange and blue tarpsaulins that would create a shroud for fumigation over the entire building. The tarps (42 in all) were custom made and covered a whopping 1.4 million cubic feet of space, making Leigh Hall one of the largest tent fumigation projects ever undertaken in North America.

"It took several days to hang all the tarps, using three 120 foot hydraulic boom man lifts, and we started doing that while the building was still occupied," Beckenbach explained. The fumigation used 1,500 pounds of pesticide applied over a 48-hour period to ensure an effective kill."

"The smoothness of this project was exemplary," said Glover. "Our evaluations have shown that Leigh Hall is 100% termite-free. The fumigation was a resounding success."

—Jim Lennon, Coordinator, Admin Services

## TASSEP

### Transatlantic Science Student Exchange Program

Beginning in Fall 2004, the department has become an active participant in the Transatlantic Science Student Exchange Program (TASSEP), under the direction of **John Eyler**. TASSEP facilitates the exchange of science undergraduates between the US, Canada and Europe. Whether we study global warming, DNA repair, quantum physics or analytical chemistry, the rules and principles are the same the world over. In addition, scientific activities in industry, university and government laboratories have become international in scope. Essentially all of the American chemical, manufacturing and pharmaceutical companies have large foreign plants and operations. Science students also benefit from knowing a foreign language and culture.

During the 2004–2005 academic year, two French students (**Guillaume Gobillard**, Information Systems and **Clement Conseil**, Chemistry) have been registered at UF, and one UF chemistry undergraduate, **Kristen Downs**, has been attending the Universite Joseph Fourier in Grenoble, France.

Kristen writes: "My experience in Grenoble, France with TASSEP has been a very character-building and a wonderful experience. Overall, the TASSEP program offers a tremendous opportunity for science students to learn a new language, experience a new culture and continue studies. I have found there are very few American students studying in their own field (most are here only for a semester taking French courses at CUEF), but a huge number of Erasmus students studying in all disciplines from all over Europe. TASSEP is really a gem for our universities in that it offers to U.S. students what is possible for Europeans though Erasmus. It can only benefit us further if TASSEP continues to grow in the number of exchange universities available in both North America and Europe."

—John R. Eyler, TASSEP Director

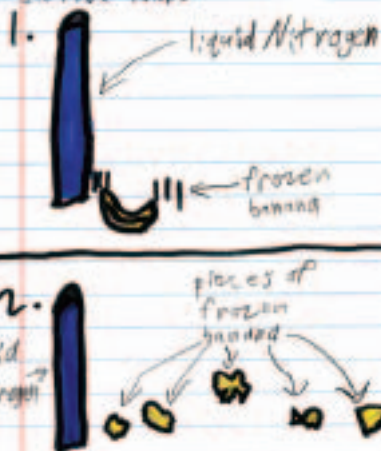




Dear Dr. Vala and Friends,

I liked all the experiments a lot!  
My favorite was when you put the  
banana in liquid nitrogen and it cracked.  
But I liked all the rest too. Now that  
I saw the experiments, I want to be  
a chemist. I hope we come back on another  
field trip.

Thank you  
Glenn



## young scientists explore chemistry

On March 10th, 23 young scientists visited the chemistry department from Jordan Glen School in Archer. **Martin Vala** gave them a tour of his lab, the laser room and a chemistry magic show. We all thank **Jon Stewart** for giving up part of his lunch so that his students could demonstrate what happens to a banana dipped in liquid nitrogen. Many thanks to **Jan Szczepanski**, **Despina Bougioukou**, **Dimitri Dascier**, **Brent Feske**, **Heather Hillebrenner**, **Parag Parekh**, **Melissae Stuart**, **Neil Stowe** and **Magda Swiderska** for their help in the labs.

—Maribel Lisk



## 2004–2005 graduate student awards

The department recognized graduate students with several awards this past year. The Ruegamer Charitable Trust, established by **William and Arlene Ruegamer**, provides scholarships for students of high scholastic standing in biochemistry. This year's recipients were **Janice Young**, **Mike Sismour** and **Li Qian**. The **Colonel Allen R. and Margaret G. Crow** Endowment and the **Ann R. Stasch** Memorial scholarships were again used to recognize excellence in graduate student peer-reviewed publications. This year, **Crow–Stasch** Publication Awards were given to **Shannon Green**, **Joe Cradlebaugh**, **Wilfredo Ortiz**, **Abhudaya Mishra**, **C. Chad Harrell**, **Ben Reeves**, **Iwona Kaluzna**, **Haiyan Wang**, **Benjamin Killian** and **Nicole Chakov**. The **Procter & Gamble** Company and **Dow Chemical Company** provided awards based on overall excellence in research by senior graduate students. Awards of \$500 each were given to **Andrew Lampkins**, **Christophe Grenier**, **Travis Baughman**, **Rob Sides**, **Igor Schweigert**, **Despina Bougioukou**, **Haiyan Wang**, **Daniel Kuroda**, **Kwabena Ampohsah-Manager**, **Xihong Wu**, **Tim Garrett**, **James Yang**, **Lin Wang** and **Jose Valle**.

—Benjamin Smith, Graduate Coordinator

## in memoriam 1927-2004

**Anne Stasch** was the first woman to receive a PhD degree in Chemistry from the University of Florida. She came here after completing her bachelor's work at FSU and working for a period at the UF Agriculture laboratory in Sanford. Her doctoral research work was in Biochemistry, under the direction of Wesley Stearns. After leaving Florida, she specialized in human nutrition and taught at universities in Mississippi and New Mexico. Several years ago, she retired from the faculty of California State University at Northridge.

—Wallace Brey



The Spring semester has just drawn to a close, and it certainly went by quickly! Thanks to the combined efforts of many faculty and staff, our faculty searches led to two new hires for the next Fall semester. **John Mitchell** from Huntingdon College will join us as a Lecturer and **Sukwon Hong** from Scripps will begin his academic career with us as a new assistant professor. The new faculty will be profiled in the Fall newsletter.



I have been involved as a member of the building committee for the Nanoscience Institute for Engineering and Medical Technologies (NIMET), and this year has been a busy one with the programming and design for the \$35 million nanotechnology facility that will be part of the interdisciplinary institute. Although no research groups from any college will relocate there, our faculty will find it a useful centralized facility near Museum Road housing modern cleanrooms for nano-fabrication and flexible research labs for temporary assignments.

We would like to thank every one of our alumni and friends who have contributed to the chemistry department through the UF Foundation. I write a thank you note to everyone who contributes, so if you have not heard from me please let us know. In this issue we profile the late **Anne Stasch**, who was a great friend and supporter of the department. Her gifts have a lasting effect on the talented graduate students we recognize with scholarships. Every gift, regardless of amount, has a great impact on our program, and because of your generous giving we are able to enhance our department in ways that university funding cannot. For example, see the school outreach event and student award winners featured in this issue.

—David Richardson, Chair

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



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