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Spring 2006
University of Florida
Department of Chemistry

renovations



before



after

As the photos show, some of the labs in the Chemistry Research Building have recently undergone significant renovations. Labs for the Professors **Schanze**, **Castellano** and **Hong** Research Groups were essentially "gutted" and re-worked using both Physical Plant contractors and the hard work of our in-house team of **Joey Lott** and **Larry Westra**. All of the metal cabinetry was recovered from a closed local DOT Lab and refurbished before being installed. All of the wood cabinetry was repaired and refinished by inmates through the PRIDE prison industries. The department was recently recognized for their recycling and re-purposing efforts by being awarded a 2006 Davis Productivity Award. We invite you to stop in and take a first hand look at our renovated labs.

—Jim Lennon

beckman scholars

Three years of Beckman Scholars at UF

The Beckman Scholars program, directed by **Randy Duran**, has just turned three years old with great results.

Due to the quality of our best incoming freshmen, and in

"a grand experiment," UF was the first program to select scholars during their freshman year (and select juniors). Scholars each receive in excess of \$10,000 and do research for 3 years. We have now seen 100% of our scholars graduate and have seen outstanding results from the program. Named in 2004: **Taylor Gilliland** was just one of only 6 students nationwide to present his research on HIV at the Beckman summer meeting. **Michael** named to the Europe Scholars program after completing his thesis at CalTech last summer and is currently doing his thesis at the University Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg. **Scott** (working with R. Duran) was named a 2006 Beckman Scholar, has coauthored 2 peer-reviewed manuscripts, is an inventor on a patent, and presented his research at meetings in 2005–2006. Working with the UF faculty, **Scott** also received a gift agreement to establish a scholarship for several term professorships. In addition to the UF chemistry faculty mentors include **Lisa McElwee-Scott**, and **Jon Stewart** with **Jeff Keaffaber** as the selections committee.

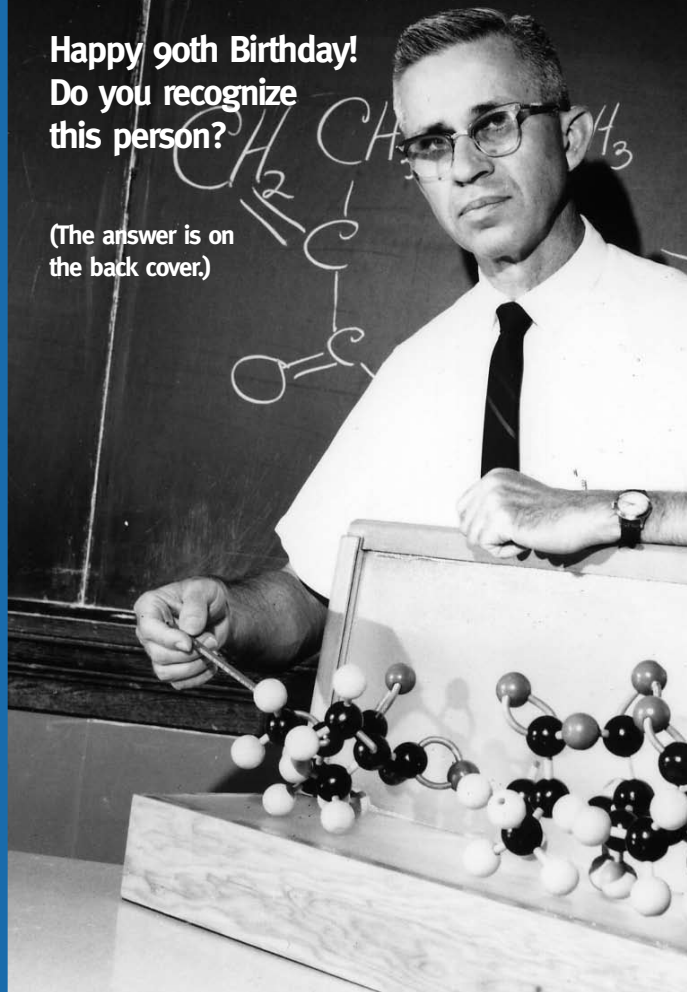


UF Beckman Scholar **Taylor Gilliland** talks at the 2005 Beckman Summer Meeting. From left: J. Duran, William F. C. Gilliland.

spring mystery photo:

Happy 90th Birthday!
Do you recognize
this person?

(The answer is on
the back cover.)



a note from the chair

I hope that 2006 has been a good year for you and yours.

After six years as department chair, I am stepping down effective this August. Over the last 40 years, the dean has appointed the chair from the faculty, and they have usually served up to 6 years. As I write this, Dean Sullivan is considering new chair candidates recommended to him by a faculty advisory committee. The new chair will face challenges to be sure, but there are also many opportunities as well to move the department ahead in exciting new ways. Maintaining the quality of our research and teaching faculty will be high on the list, as always. Another major goal will certainly be to improve our facilities so we can continue to do forefront research and high quality laboratory teaching.

You may recall that the first issue of the *Chemical Bond* featured the retirements of nine faculty members in the summer of 2003, following an attractive state retirement plan (DROP). The next wave of DROP retirements will occur between now and the end of this decade, with six faculty members currently in the program. We will be busy finding new faculty to continue our excellence in research, teaching, and service.

We have been very fortunate that so many of our friends and alumni have become new donors over the last two years. Conservatively, the number of individual donors has doubled, and this has been extremely gratifying to my colleagues and me. It is also a pleasure to hear about the successful careers that our graduates have found in many different places, including medicine, science, and business. As noted elsewhere in this issue, through the generosity of alumni we have been able to recognize some of our great undergraduates with "named" awards. Your donations have helped in many ways to enhance our program. Thanks!

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank **Maribel Lisk**, who has served as my assistant for most of my years as chair. Among her many duties, she has edited the *Chemical Bond* and has been central to renewing and maintaining our relationships with friends and alumni. From preparing tenure & promotion packages to planning social events, she has kept the department on task, and for that she has my deepest gratitude.

—Dave Richardson



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—Randy Duran



winefordner lectures

On Friday afternoon, March 10, Professor **Jim Winefordner** gave the 2006 Chair's Invitational Lecture. Professor **Gary Hieftje**, Indiana University, Professor **Jose Brokaert**, University of Hamburg, and Professor **Edward Voigtman**, University of Massachusetts, gave presentations at a symposium held in Winefordner's honor. After a dessert reception in the atrium, Jim reviewed his long career at Florida, reflecting on both the science and the hundreds of students and post-docs who have spent time in his labs since 1959. A few dozen former group members were able to join us for the occasion. Jim will officially retire in December 2007. Pictured left to right are **Jose Brokaert**, **Gary Hieftje**, **Jim Winefordner**, **Ed Voigtman**, **Ben Smith** and **Nico Omenetto**.

—Ben Smith

outstanding undergraduate

The Chemistry Department is proud of its many excellent undergraduate majors. Now, thanks to gifts from several UF alumni and friends, the department is able to honor a select few of these students. The **Colonel Allen R. and Margaret G. Crow** award goes to the outstanding graduating senior. The Spring 2006 winner is **Mikolai Fajer**, a double major in chemistry and physics. Considering his grueling course loads, Mikolai's outstanding GPA is indeed remarkable. There are three additional awards for sophomores or juniors with superior records in chemistry coursework. Each of this year's winners has an exceptional GPA.

The winner of the 2006 **Howard M. Sheridan** award is **Dubenion Joseph Moss**, who will complete the standard chemistry curriculum in Spring 2007. **Abu-Bakr Zafar**, a junior in the biochemistry track, receives the 2006 **Gordon M. and Joyce L. Smith** award. The 2006 **Joseph P. Laforvara** award goes to **Zachary Kean**, another major in the standard chemistry program. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences also chose Zach to participate in the University Scholars Program for his research in polymer chemistry with Professor **Ken Wagener**. Chemistry Gators past and present join in congratulating these outstanding students and in thanking the donors for their generosity.

—Kathryn Williams

Mystery photo is of Professor George B. Butler in 1962.

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



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