



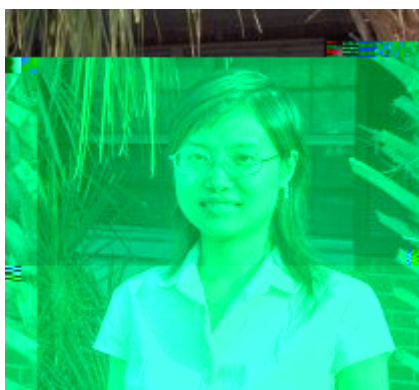
USF Chemistry NEWS

News of Interest to
Friends of the Department of Chemistry
University of South Florida

Volume 8, No 3
Summer, 2010

Grants of interest:

Dr. Randy Larsen wrote: "I am very excited to announce that **Dr. Sheryl Li**, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, has been



Dr. Li

awarded a James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program grant for a project entitled 'A Rapid and Sensitive Optical Spectroscopic Method for Simultaneous Determination of Cotinine, Trans-3'-hydroxycotinine and Thiocyanate In Vitro. The award is \$398,994 beginning July 1, 2010.'

Promotions...

The following promotions were approved:

Dr. Peter Zhang to full professor,



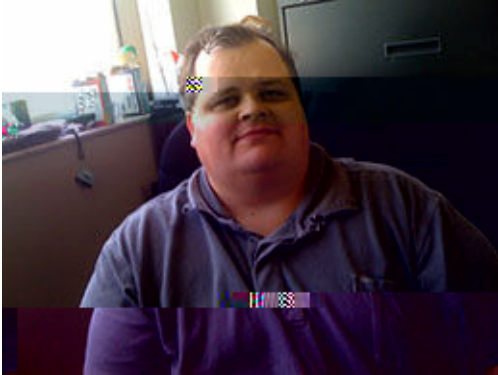
Dr. Zhang

Dr. Mohamed Eddaoudi to full professor,



Dr. Eddaoudi

and **Dr. Jon Antilla** to associate professor with tenure.



Dr. Antilla

***Campus changes --- past
and future...***

“Bioactive compounds from Florida harmful algal blooms.” C. L. Burleson, B. J. Baker and T. Van Vleet (Poster).

“Malaria screening and the chemical investigation of endophytic fungal extracts.” Wai S. Ma, Tina Mutka, Dennis E. Kyle, Lilian Vrijmoed and Bill J. Baker (Poster).

“Anti-MRSA compounds from mangrove endophytes.” Jeremy Beau, Matt Lebar, Wai Ma, Raymond Chow, Lilian Vrijmoed, Linsey Shaw and Bill J. Baker (Poster).

“Isolation and synthesis of *meridianin A*, synthesis and structure reassessment of *psammopenmin A*

where we demonstrated exceptional pH stability of sol-gel germania-based hybrid organic-inorganic materials (from pH 0 to pH 14).”

Hewlett Packard. The division receives applications from across the country and the award is highly competitive, with submissions by many excellent tenure-track faculty members. Winners are selected from among this group of applicants based in part on the department's enthusiasm, along with the novelty and potential impact of the applicant's research program.

The award will be presented at the Fall 2010 ACS National Meeting in Boston. Dr. van der Vaart will receive the award and \$1000 at a ceremony during the COMP Division poster session, and will be highlighted in *C&E News*. **Dr. van der Vaart** was also invited to give an oral presentation in one of the meeting symposia, with recognition as one of the best young researchers working in the field of computational chemistry.

Out and About...

Mohamed Alkordi (Ph.D. '10) accepted a postdoctoral position at KAUST (King

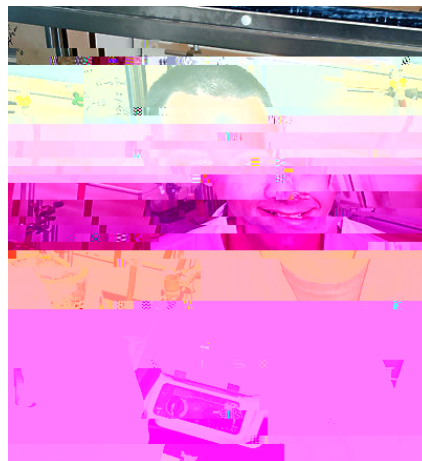


Dr. Alkordi

Abdullah University of Science and Technology), Saudia Arabia.

Mr. Juan Baso, a senior Chemistry major, and a Goldwater Scholarship recipient

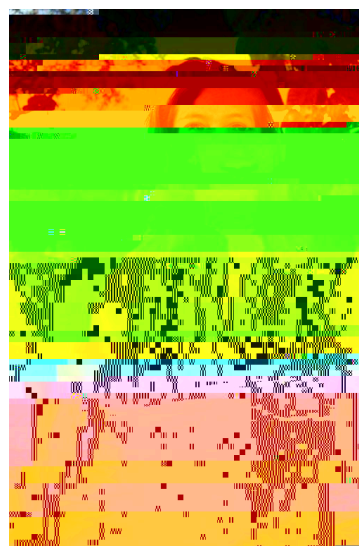
(News Spring '10) who works with **Dr. Jon Antilla** was cited in *USF News* (<http://usfweb3.usf.edu/absoluteNM/templates/?a=2428&z=127>).



Mr. Juan Baso

The article describes his remarkable background and his impressive achievements.

Kathleen Carvalho-Knighton (Ph.D. '00), USF St. Petersburg, Environmental Sciences and Policy, was promoted to associate professor with tenure in June.



Dr. Carvalho-Knighton

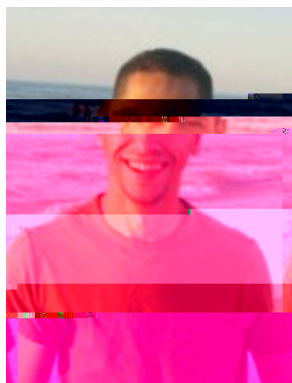
Emma K. Farrell (Ph.D. `10) is a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Biochemistry, University of Missouri-Columbia, where her mentor is Dr. Peter A. Tipton. She will be working on “the roles of AlgJ and AlgF in acetylation of alginate, a biofilm that causes great distress in the lungs of children with cystic fibrosis.”



Dr. Farrell

Her mentors here were **Dr. David Merkle** (Professor of Chemistry) and **Dr. James Garey** (Professor and Chair, Department of Cell Biology, Microbiology, and Molecular Biology).

Farid Nouar (Ph.D. `10) is now a member of the Dr. Christian Sere Group at Universite de Versailles, Versailles, France.



Dr. Nouar

Dorina Sava (Ph.D. `09) is living in Albuquerque, NM while holding a postdoctoral position at Sandia National Laboratory.

[N.B. **Dr. Eddaoudi** served as doctoral advisor to **Drs. Alkordi, Cairns, Nouar, and Sava.**]

Dr. Stewart W. Schneller (Faculty, 1971-1994; Chair, 1986-1994) Professor of Chemistry and Dean, College of Science and Mathematics (COSAM) at Auburn University will soon “leave his leadership role and return to faculty ranks,” according to a letter from that university. He has served for nearly 17 years.

Information received noted that the COSAM “enrollment has increased by 68% during the last eight years, alone... nearly half [of the students] graduate with honors. The

Mildred Acevedo-Duncan, Ph.D.
Mr. Roy Kaplan
Mrs. Leila Amiri
Jon Antilla, Ph.D.
Ms. Lerissa Antonio
Mr. Roberto Avergonzado

Chair's Address:

Dr. Randy Larsen
Department of Chemistry-CHE 205
University of South Florida
4202 East Fowler Avenue
Tampa, FL 33620-5205
rwlarsen@usf.edu