The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry congratulates Dr. Qian Wang for receiving the 2009 Governor’s Young Scientist Award for Excellence in Scientific Research. Wang received a BS (1992) and Ph.D. (1997) in chemistry from Tsinghua University in China. After postdoctoral research with Prof. Manfred Schlosser at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, and Prof. M.G. Finn at the Scripps Research Institute, he started as an assistant professor at the University of South Carolina in August 2003. He was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 2008. Currently, he holds a Robert L. Sumwalt Professor in Chemistry position.

His research is divided into four distinctive but interconnected topics: 1) development of fluorescent probes for protein imaging and cell recognition, 2) development of nano-vehicles for drug delivery and diagnosis, 3) using self-assembly of bionanoparticles for biomaterials development, and 4) designing novel nanoscale materials for tissue engineering. All this research points in one direction: to build three-dimensional programmable scaffolds that mimic the native extracellular matrices and can be used to probe cellular activities. In particular, he has established his leading position in studying the hierarchical assemblies of bionanoparticles with defined patterns at the nano- and micrometer levels and using such organized assemblies to study and to manipulate cellular responses and behaviors. From his research group at the University of South Carolina, more than 80 research papers have been published in high-impact, peer-reviewed research journals. His work at USC established him as an internationally acknowledged scientist in the field of bionanotechnology and bioorganic chemistry.

Wang’s work has been reported in *Nature* and *Science* and as the cover articles for many leading journals in his research field. In addition, his research has been covered by many media reports. His paper was recognized by the “Top-50 most cited articles award” as published in *Tetrahedron Letters* 2004–2007 and 2005–2008. In addition, he has been invited as associate editor for *Letter in Organic Chemistry* and is serving on the editorial board of *Experimental Biology and Medicine* and *The Open Nanomedicine Journal*. He has given numerous invited talks at international meetings and more than 50 seminars at universities and institutes internationally.

In his lab, 12 postdoctoral research associates, 17 graduate students, and more than 30 undergraduate students have been trained. His group members have presented their research at international scientific meetings and received awards for their cutting-edge work. His continuous support for undergraduate research provides students with a unique opportunity to gain insight into the scientific process. He also supports the local community by organizing a special summer camp for high school students each year under the theme “Adventure in Bionanotechnology.”

Due to Wang’s achievements in education and research, he has been awarded $800,000 from the W.M. Keck Foundation to establish an Open Laboratory for Bionanoparticle Research. He has also received the National Science Foundation CAREER Award, the Department of Defense MURI Award, the University’s “Two Thumbs Up” Award, the Alfred P. Sloan Research Scholar award, the Camille Dreyfus Teacher Scholar Award, and the CAPA Distinguished Junior Faculty Award.

For more information about Wang, his group, and his research, visit: www.chem.sc.edu/people/faculty/StaffDetails.asp?SID=245.
I became department chair on July 1, 2008, succeeding Dan Reger, who did an exceptional job leading the department for the previous seven years. As when Dan became chair in 2001, the big news of 2008 was the budget cuts in the state appropriations to the University. The good news, however, is that the department has continued to thrive despite the even more severe cuts in 2008, compared to 2001. No faculty or instructor positions were lost due to the cuts, and we were still able to proceed with a new assistant professor–level faculty search in organic polymer chemistry. The main reason we fared relatively better than many departments is undoubtedly due to the dramatic increase in our undergraduate enrollment of more than 50 percent during the previous five years. We now teach more than 7,000 undergraduate students during the course of the year—and their tuition has helped buffer the budget losses from state funds to the college.

Here is a brief summary of our department highlights for 2008–2009.

Three new faculty were hired in 2007–2008 and therefore initiated their research efforts in the department during 2008–2009. Sheryl Wiskur and Sophya Garashchuk joined the department as assistant professors of organic and physical chemistry, respectively. Sheryl’s research expertise is in organic synthetic methodologies and organocatalysis and Sophya’s is in theoretical and computational chemistry, including quantum effects in large molecular systems. Brian Benicewicz came to the department from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute to be the Center of Economic Excellence Endowed Chair and to develop a research cluster in the area of organic nanocomposites to include two additional faculty, one in our department and one in chemical engineering. The three faculty in this cluster will be located on one floor of the nearby Horizon I building, still under construction. Brian successfully chaired the search committee for the new chemistry organic polymer faculty hire and attracted Dr. Chuanbing Tang to the department in 2009–2010 following completion of postdoctoral studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Three of our faculty became associate professors in 2008–2009: John Lavigne, Paul Thompson, and Qian Wang. All three have been highly productive in not only their research endeavors but also their teaching efforts. Dan Freeman and George Handy were both promoted to senior instructor, recognizing their outstanding records of achievement in the classroom. Tom Bryson, who had previously been graduate director for five years, returned to this position in 2008–2009. During the course of the year, five of our faculty were courted by other universities with outside offers. Successful retention offers were made to John Ferry, Paul Thompson, and Tom Vogt, but as the year came to a close, we unfortunately lost Cathy Murphy to the University of Illinois and Lee Ferguson to Duke University.

Faculty and staff have been the recipients of numerous awards during the 2008–2009 academic year. Cathy Murphy and Tom Vogt were both named Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Wayne Outten was named a Cottrell Scholar, and Paul Thompson was named a Dreyfus Teacher/Scholar. Qian Wang received both the Governor’s Young Scientist Research Award and a Sloan Research Fellowship and, at the start of 2009, was named the Robert L. Sumwalt Professor of Chemistry. Scott Goode and Lukasz Lebioda received awards from the South Carolina American Chemical Society Section: Scott the Distinguished Service Award and Lukasz the Outstanding Chemist Award. Mike Angel received the USC Educational Foundation Research Award for Science, Mathematics, and Engineering, and John Lavigne was the recipient of the Michael J. Mungo Undergraduate Teaching Award. Hanno zur Loye was the recipient of the International Precious Metals Institute Henry J. Albert Award. Finally, Sam Burgess, business manager of the department, received the College of Arts and Sciences Pam W. Young Classified Staff Excellence Award. All of these awards recognize the hard work and outstanding achievements of our faculty and staff.

Numerous large grants were also received by several of our faculty: Paul Thompson earned grants from the America College of Rheumatology Research and the National Institutes of Health; Brian Benicewicz, from BASF and the Office of Naval Research; Ken Shimizu, Hanno zur Loye, John Dawson/Lukasz Lebioda, and Mike Angel, from the National Science Foundation; Qian Wang and Hanno zur Loye, from the Department of Defense; and Cathy Murphy and Hanno zur Loye, from the Air Force.

Despite budget difficulties, our department continues to be strong because of the outstanding quality of our faculty, staff, and students. Our undergraduate teaching evaluations remain very high. Thus, we are succeeding in our joint mission of excellent teaching and high-level research. One area of concern continues to be the difficulty in maintaining the numbers and quality of our graduate students. You can significantly aid our efforts in this regard by making contributions to either the Odom or Teague funds. Named for two of our legendary teachers, Jerry Odom and the late Peyton Teague, these funds enable us to offer fellowships to incoming students in addition to their normal stipend. This helps us attract the best graduate students into our program. I hope you will consider making a contribution to these funds.

John H. Dawson
Dr. John J. Lavigne, associate professor, has received the Michael J. Mungo Undergraduate Teaching Award. John joined the department in August 2002 as a tenure-track assistant professor in our organic chemistry division. Before coming to USC, Lavigne worked at a start-up company, LABNETICS Inc., that focused on point-of-care medical diagnostics. The basis for the company stemmed from efforts Lavigne started during his doctoral work with Professor Eric Anslyn at the University of Texas at Austin. As part of his dedication to teaching and his interest in following an academic path, John completed his M.Ed. at St. Lawrence University, a small liberal arts college in upstate New York, where he also earned his bachelor’s degree with honors in chemistry.

In his first six and a half years at USC, he has established a strong research group with two postdoctoral research associates, 15 graduate students (thus far six Ph.D. and one MS degree awarded), 20 undergraduate students, and a high school student. Additionally, Lavigne has won funding for his research from the Research Corporation, the American Chemical Society—Petroleum Research Fund, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institutes of Health.

Lavigne has been an outstanding member of our faculty, often volunteering to teach the largest class of organic chemistry offered by the department. First- and second-semester organic chemistry have been his principle undergraduate teaching assignments. These are service classes taught primarily at the sophomore level. Lavigne’s evaluations by faculty peers have been uniformly excellent while his student-based evaluations rank him consistently in the top of our department. Comments from both students and faculty alike who have observed his teaching indicate that he is very skilled in explaining concepts and that he readily develops positive interactions with his students. It is clear that all of the students have a high respect for Lavigne and feel comfortable enough that they ask questions and are even willing to take a chance and be wrong.

John Lavigne is an outstanding faculty member whose performance models a strong synergy between teaching and research.

Hankins Heads to Germany on a Fulbright

While scrambling to finish his senior thesis and final exams, former USC undergraduate student Patrick Hankins heard some good news a few weeks before his May 2009 graduation. He was informed that he would be the recipient of a 10-month Fulbright grant to Germany. The Fulbright program, established in 1946, is often considered the most widely recognized and prestigious international exchange program in the world and currently operates in more than 155 countries.

After much deliberation, he decided to accept the Fulbright grant and to defer his enrollment to graduate school. Since September 2009 Patrick has been living in Hannover, Germany, where he works as an English teaching assistant at the Otto-Brenner-Schule and is enrolled at the Leibniz Universität Hannover. Not wanting to forget his science roots, he reports that he also teaches a weekly bilingual chemistry course. “Since I’m here as a foreign language assistant, the schools gives me a little more flexibility to teach what I want, and I love trying to pick topics that I think will engage them a little bit more,” Patrick says. “Teaching at the Otto-Brenner-Schule has really been great, and after one of my first major solo lessons, one student asked the main teacher if I could teach the next week too!”

Patrick graduated magna cum laude from the University of South Carolina College of Arts and Sciences in May 2009 with a B.S. in Chemistry and a B.A. in German. As an undergraduate at USC, he worked in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry as both a departmental general chemistry teaching assistant and as a research assistant for Dr. Catherine Murphy. When his year in Germany comes to an end, Patrick plans on beginning his graduate studies in inorganic chemistry at Northwestern University in fall 2010.

Lavigne Wins Mungo Award

Dr. John J. Lavigne, associate professor, has received the Michael J. Mungo Undergraduate Teaching Award. John joined the department in August 2002 as a tenure-track assistant professor in our organic chemistry division. Before coming to USC, Lavigne worked at a start-up company, LABNETICS Inc., that focused on point-of-care medical diagnostics. The basis for the company stemmed from efforts Lavigne started during his doctoral work with Professor Eric Anslyn at the University of Texas at Austin. As part of his dedication to teaching and his interest in following an academic path, John completed his M.Ed. at St. Lawrence University, a small liberal arts college in upstate New York, where he also earned his bachelor’s degree with honors in chemistry.

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John Lavigne is an outstanding faculty member whose performance models a strong synergy between teaching and research.

Staff Awards

Brian Genge received a patent titled “Biocompatible Cement Containing Reactive Calcium Phosphate Nanoparticles and Methods for Making and Using Such Cement.”

Samuel Burgess won the College of Arts and Sciences Classified Staff Excellence Award.

Dr. George Handy and Dr. Daniel Freeman were promoted to Senior Instructor.

State Service Awards

Samuel Burgess, 20 years of service
Riley wins Rotary Scholarship to Study in Germany

Nicholas McIlvain Riley of Louisville, Ky., was honored with the Rotary International Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarship and studied German as a cultural scholar in spring 2010 at Goethe-Institut Schwäbisch Hall in Schwäbisch Hall, Germany. A McNair scholar, Riley is a member of the South Carolina Honors College, where he is president of the Honors Council and the McNair Scholars Association, serves on the Honors Housing Building Committee, and is active in the Waverly community. He also spends his time playing USC Men’s Club Rugby and USC Men’s Club Volleyball as well as participating in several intramural sports. He has served as a resident mentor, University ambassador, orientation leader and orientation team leader, University 101 peer leader, and out-of-state student mentor. Some of Riley’s recent honors include the Jo Anne J. Trow Scholarship through Alpha Lambda Delta National Honors Society, Outstanding Freshman Advocate 2009 for USC, a Magellan Scholar award, and a “Man of the Moment” highlight in last spring’s Garnet and Black magazine.

As Riley began his studies in February, he participated in a cultural immersion program through the language institution in the small southwestern German town of Schwäbisch Hall. The classes were all language classes focused on enhancing his German skills. Having already completed four semesters of German at USC, this opportunity gave him a chance to apply his knowledge and grow as a student of the language. He also had the fortunate opportunity of living with a host family, which greatly augmented his learning process and contributed to his immersion experience. When asked about his travels before leaving, Riley commented, “I feel incredibly fortunate to have been selected for such an opportunity. I always jump at a chance to try something new and exciting. This will be a great experience that will really improve my German, but moreover help me develop as a citizen of the world.” Rotary International’s theme in sponsoring these scholars is to have them serve as “ambassadors of goodwill,” something for which Riley is well-suited. We wish him well in his studies and know his adventures will contribute to his growth as well as that of the USC community.

A Fond Farewell

Dr. Benjamin Twining joined the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences to conduct interdisciplinary research on the biogeochemistry of metals in marine and aquatic systems. Ben joined our faculty in 2005 after earning his Ph.D. from Stony Brook University in Stony Brook, N.Y.

Dr. P. Lee Ferguson joined the faculty at Duke University as an associate professor. Lee joined our faculty in 2003 after earning his BS in Marine Science from the University of South Carolina and his Ph.D. at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

We wish them both continued success in science in their new positions.

Goode Awarded for More than 30 Years of Service

Dr. Scott R. Goode has received the Distinguished Service Award from the South Carolina Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS). Goode has worked with the S.C. ACS section in outreach projects for more than three decades, including teacher education, high school student/class outreach, and chemical education.

Goode was an author of the 1991 Instrumental Methods Examination and chair of the committee that wrote the 2001 Instrumental Methods Exam for the ACS Examinations Institute. He also arranged the ACS ChemCom teacher workshops in Columbia in 1997 and 1998.

Scott was elected alternate counselor to the ACS in 1999 and held that position until 2005, when he was elected counselor. In that role, he provided information about the national organization and their policies and changes. In addition, he is a member of the ACS Committee for Chemical Safety, which not only provides up-to-date information, but also represents the section well in the national arena.

He has arranged many of the local meetings that the ACS holds in Columbia and is a tireless worker on behalf of the organization. In recognition of his long record of service to the South Carolina Section of the ACS, he is well deserving of the Distinguished Service Award.

New Assistant Professor Hired

Chuanbing Tang joined the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and the NanoCenter as a tenure-track assistant professor in 2009. His research area is organic polymer synthesis and macro-molecular self-assembly. He received his BS in polymer science and engineering at Nanjing University, China, and his Ph.D. at Carnegie Mellon University under supervision of Profs. Krzysztof Matyjaszewski and Tomasz Kowalewski. He was a postdoctoral scholar at the University of California-Santa Barbara in the groups of Profs. Edward Kramer and Craig Hawker. At USC, his research includes renewable polymers from biomass, organometallic polymers, and conducting polymers for organic solar cells. Chuanbing is also a member of the polymer nanocomposite program at the USC Nanocenter. He collaborates with many faculty at USC in chemistry and engineering, aiming to develop polymeric materials for applications in the areas of automotive, packaging, energy, lithography, catalysts, etc. He lives with his wife, Chao Cai, and two kids, Cathy and Colin.
I was very fortunate to start my independent professional career in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of South Carolina. I chose USC for three main reasons: 1) the faculty: I could tell that they would be great and supportive colleagues; 2) the Electron Microscopy Center: it was a good central facility, with staff to run it (in comparison to other places, where the microscopes were either maintained by an individual professor's group or were off campus); and 3) a solution to the infamous two-body problem was found: USC came up with an academic job for my husband, in the form of a math instructor position.

With all these pluses in mind, my husband, Bob, and I came to USC in late summer 1993, with a grand total of $400 between us, our pet bunny named Bunny, and a moving truck filled with grad-school-level furniture. We arrived in South Carolina on August 1, and classes started around August 21.

At that time, John Baynes was chair. The inorganic faculty were Jerry Odom (shortly to become dean and then provost), Dan Reger, and Rick Adams. Hanno zur Loye's arrival was a year or two in the future, and as we kept reminding him for years later, he was originally hired as an “electrochemist.” Dan was my official mentor and was always available for consultation, which meant I could stop by his house for a glass of wine and discuss issues—which I did!

With the three new faculty hires in 1993, the department then stood at 18 tenure-track faculty members—quite a low from the mid-1980's, I heard, when there had been 28. There had been a wave of retirements and departures right before I arrived, but senior people were still around: Bob and Ruta Bly were very active, Peyton Teague served as graduate admissions secretary, Ed Mercer was working on the Reger-Goode-Mercer general chemistry textbook, and Joe Bouknight.

There is a lot to learn, being an assistant professor. Going to the library to look at actual print journals (in 1993), and using the books of Chem Abstracts to look up references. Writing proposals. Learning about budgets and indirect costs. Hiring a postdoc. Preparing lectures and class handouts. Grading. Encouraging graduate students to do interesting experiments. Dealing with graduate students who do not want to do interesting experiments. Committee meetings. Faculty meetings. Student meetings. My calendar books started out with only a few things to do each week; then within a year there were a few things to do each day—then a few things to do each morning, and a few each afternoon! Luckily Bob, my husband, was used to this: we started dating in college after I started working in a research lab, and Bob knew I always “had to get back to work.” The chemistry and sponsored programs staff throughout the years have been terrific and have helped me and other new faculty navigate the byzantine state bureaucracy (especially purchasing).

In 2000 all of the chemists, with the exception of Mark Berg, who needed a basement for his ultrafast lasers, moved to the new building, the Graduate Science Research Center. My students moved my lab and office over one weekend while I was out—great for me! We were still on the fourth floor, and our new neighbors were John Dawson, Vitaly Rassolov, and Paul Thompson. My research group changed direction a bit in 2000, from quantum dots to gold nanoparticles, and we struck gold, so to speak, in the burgeoning “nano” area. Thanks to the generosity of the Lipscomb family, I became the Guy F. Lipscomb Chair of Chemistry in 2003, and we used Lipscomb resources to increase our multidisciplinary collaborations across campus, from engineering (Sarah Baxter in mechanical and Harry Ploehn, Michael Amiridis, and Chris Williams in chemical) to medicine (Edie Goldsmith) to philosophy (Davis Baird and Alfred Nordmann) to art (Chris Robinson). I became a coauthor on a general chemistry textbook (Chemistry: The Central Science, known popularly as “Brown LeMay Bursten” for the first three authors). I became an editor for the Journal of Physical Chemistry—the people who have to find reviewers for submitted manuscripts, and then accept or reject the manuscripts. I had always wondered: Who would want to do that job? But it turns out, when someone eminent asks you (George Schatz of Northwestern University in this case, editor-in-chief of the journal) and tells you how much you would contribute to the field by doing it, and how it isn’t really a lot of work if you have a good assistant, you accept. And thanks to Harriet Bradham, my editorial assistant, we have not yet been fired from J. Phys. Chem.!

Finally, in mid-2007, I was approached by the University of Illinois, my alma mater, about taking an endowed chair there. I waffled for a long time, but in the end, Bob and I decided that this was the time to make a move. The University of Illinois is a stellar place to do both chemistry and materials science. Its microscopy facilities are off-scale; Bob has a position in the math department there too; both of our families are close by, in the Chicago area; and we found a house very similar in feel to our home in South Carolina. I encourage all of our good friends from USC to come visit.
Copenhaver, Teague, and Odom Funds Provide Critical Graduate Support

If you are interested in making a donation to the graduate program of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, please consider making a contribution to one of the funds we have for this purpose. Each of these funds enhances the research efforts of our faculty by providing vital resources for our graduate students. The money from the funds is used either to provide a summer stipend for an entering graduate student to come ahead of schedule and get an early start on their graduate studies by doing summer research in one of our labs or as a supplement to the standard stipend of our best applicants in an effort to induce them to join our graduate program.

The James E. Copenhaver Memorial Fund is named for a highly regarded member of our faculty from 1926 to 1942 who was especially effective in engaging undergraduate chemistry majors to do research in his laboratory. This often led to scientific publications coauthored by the undergraduates and helped convince them to go on to pursue graduate studies in chemistry. For example, Professor H. Willard Davis, a former student of Copenhaver, went on to earn his Ph.D. at the University of Cincinnati after receiving encouragement from Professor Copenhaver. He then returned to become a chemistry professor and eventually chair of the department as well as dean of the college and then of The Graduate School. The Copenhaver funds are used exclusively to support exceptional undergraduates to do research in our department for the summer prior to starting their graduate studies.

The Peyton C. Teague Fund is named after a legendary teacher of ours who also served as graduate director and then, after retirement, as secretary of the Graduate Admissions Committee. Teague won the Amoco Teaching Award for his outstanding efforts instructing undergraduate students in the challenging task of learning organic chemistry. Early in his career, Peyton received one of the first external grants in support of research ever awarded to the University. For the latter half of his career and then in his retirement, he worked tirelessly to run and coordinate our graduate program. He was the go-to person for our graduate students to solve various problems pertaining to registration, progression toward their degree, etc. In short, for more than 40 years Peyton was a strong advocate for our graduate students as well as a major force in the continuing effort to improve the quality of our graduate program. The Teague funds are used solely for the purpose of providing supplements to the normal offer given to top graduate applicants in order to help encourage the best applicants to accept our offer of admission and join our department for their doctoral studies.

The Jerome D. Odom Fund is named for the former provost, dean, and department chair and was initiated with funding from the USC Educational Foundation when Odom stepped down as provost of the University a few years ago. Another legendary teacher from our department, Odom won both the Amoco Teaching Award as well as the Mungo Undergraduate Teaching Award in recognition of his exceptional ability to bring excitement to our freshman science majors taking general chemistry. Equally gifted in research and mentoring graduate students, Odom also won the Russell Award for Excellence in Research in Science and Engineering. Now executive director of the USC Educational Foundations, this fund honors Odom for his accomplishments both as a professor and as an administrator and recognizes him for his continuing support for our graduate program. The Odom funds are used both to support incoming graduate students doing research for the summer prior to starting their graduate studies as well as for the purpose of providing supplements to augment the standard offers of admission given to our very best graduate applicants.

The Copenhaver, Teague, and Odom funds are used to encourage the best students to enroll in our Ph.D. program. These accounts recognize three former faculty members who each made important contributions to the growth of our graduate program. Please consider helping us further improve our graduate program by making a contribution to one of these funds. For more information visit us online at www.chem.sc.edu/donationpage.asp.

Angel Receives Russell Research Award

Dr. Stanley M. Angel, professor and Fred M. Weissman Palmetto Chair in Chemical Ecology, received the 2009 Russell Research Award for Science and Mathematics. Angel has been at the University of South Carolina since 1993 and has been a full professor since 2000. This award is based on his tremendous accomplishments in research, teaching, and service during that time.

The area of remote optical measurements is one of the most rapidly developing areas of analytical chemistry, and Angel’s creative work in this area has kept him at the forefront of this field. The most immediate impression upon reviewing his research is the number of firsts he has achieved and the wide range of problems he has studied. The measurement techniques he has developed have uses beyond analytical chemistry, and he has collaborators all over the world, including physicists, oceanographers, astronomers, and theoretical chemists.

Angel has written more than 120 research publications, in journals with strong reputations such as Analytical Chemistry, Applied Spectroscopy, and Applied Optics. The excellence of his research has been widely recognized, both nationally and internationally. He has written invited reviews and A-page articles for journals such as Analytical Chemistry (2006) and Spectrochimica Acta. Part A (1995). Angel has been invited to give more than 45 lectures and seminars at conferences and universities throughout the world.

Research by Angel has also contributed to the education and training of students at the undergraduate, graduate (13 Ph.D.’s since 1993 and several MS degrees), and postdoctoral (10 total) levels. The high quality of this training is evident in the number of students who have gone on to academic careers, academic research centers, and national laboratories.
2008–2009 Science and Engineering Fair Chemistry Award Winners

Junior Division
1st Place
Kitty L. Janvrin
Dent Middle School

2nd Place
James Cardona
Logan Elementary School

3rd Place
Geena E. Griffith
Newberry Middle School

Honorable Mention
Colin Kuhlkin-Hornsey
St. Joseph Catholic School

Senior Division
1st Place
Anurag Deeconda
Spring Valley High School

2nd Place
William L. Ivey
Spring Valley High School

3rd Place
Stephanie M. Ackerson
Spring Valley High School

Honorable Mention
Hitomi Saito
Spring Valley High School

Undergraduate Awards

American Institute of Chemists Foundation Award:
Vaughn Braxton

Analytical Chemistry Award of the American Chemical Society:
Mollie Carter

College of Arts and Sciences
Rising Senior Award:
Jeremy W. Gleaton

College of Arts and Sciences
Rising Senior Award in Mathematics: Eric Douglas Matthews

CRC Freshman Chemistry Achievement Award:
Brandi Bailey

CRC Freshman Chemistry Achievement Award for Honors Chemistry: Nicole Prochak

Harper Award: Erin Lowe Vickery

Hiram and Lawanda Allen Award for Excellence in Chemistry: Patrick Hankins

Hiram and Lawanda Allen Scholarship for Excellence in Chemistry: Ellen Heath

Hypercube Scholar Award:
Kaitlin Duffey

Joseph W. and Julia L. Bouknight Scholarship:
Lisa M. Lovett and Leah Rutkowski

Merck Index Award:
Sean M. Bannon

S.C. Section of American Chemical Society Outstanding Undergraduate Award: Hamer Manning

Tommy L. and Fred E. Hickman III Scholarship: Christina Dreyton

Victor Laurie Junior Year Scholarship: Jennifer Link

Victor Laurie Senior Year Scholarship: Huong Gian Thai Nguyen

Other Undergraduate Awards

2nd Place for the Best Student Platform Presentation for the Society of Environmental Toxicology: K.C. Hyland

Excellence in Japanese Studies:
Amanda Agrawal

Fulbright Grant: Patrick Hankins

Isao Hirata Wellness Award:
Laura Elta Golson

Magellan Scholars Fellowship Award: Mallory Mueller

Nicholas McIlvan Riley

Morgan Harrell

Micheline Goulart

Eren Davis

Huong Gian Thai Nguyen

Judith Gomes

Amanda Michele Craig

Outstanding Freshman Advocate Award: Nicholas McIlvan Riley

Rotary International Scholar:
Nicholas McIlvan Riley

SAS Student Paper Award at the 2008 Federation of Analytical Chemistry Spectroscopy Society:
Christina Young

Of the Chemistry and Biochemistry population:
25 students were awarded Palmetto Fellows Scholarships.
35 were awarded LIFE Scholarships.
1 was awarded the HOPE Scholarship.
In addition to these state programs, 98 institutional scholarships were awarded to chemistry students in 2008–09.

2008–2009 Graduate Awards

Cancer Research Travel Award:
Kevin Bicker

Chemistry and Biochemistry Graduate Student Poster Competition: Justin Jones

Copenhaver Summer Fellowships:
Chengnien Shieh
Ravish Akhani
Joy Ihekwazu
Brett Cagg
Adrienne Dlouhy
Khaleh Thomas
James Mazzuca
Yuen Onn Wong
Joe Swanstrom
Anand Viswanath

Graduate Symposium Competition
Guy F. Lipscomb Award:
Jingjing Hu

Hiram and Lawanda Allen:
Lydia Gibson

IRIX Pharmaceuticals Award:
Eszter Trufan

James R. Durig Travel Awards:
Roger Rasberry
Jay Ratliff
Irina Roof

Lim Andrew Lee
Haoran Li

Jerome D. Odom Fellowship:
Michael Geer

Joseph W. Bouknight Teaching Awards:
Fall 2008
Laura Lanni
Sandipan Dawn
Heather Rust
Rachel Stroman
Nikil Swamy
Amy Taylor-Perry

Spring 2009
Amy Taylor-Perry
Laura Lanni
Dali Nunez-Milland
Eve Suthiwangcharoensak
Jessica Frankel
Sandipan Dawn
Lesa Celeste
Shana Williams

Peyton C. Teague Graduate Fellowship: Heather Rust

Students for the Advancement of Chemical Sciences (SACS) Officers:
Dan Collins, president
Samuel Tenney, vice president
Elizabeth Balzani, secretary
Ardis Copenhaver, treasurer

Voridian Analytical Travel Awards:
Indika Bandara
Jasmine Ervin
Yiling Cui
Champak Khurmi

Due to the sensitive nature of information and privacy laws in place, individual University undergraduate scholarship and award information is no longer available for publication.
Other Awards
1st Place in Chemistry, Biological Science, and Chemical Engineering Oral Presentation Graduate Student Day: Eszter Trufan
2009 Microscopy Society of America Presidential Award: Laying Wu
2nd Place for Graduate Student Day Poster Competition: Laura Hill
ACS Women Chemists Travel Award: Rebecca Frey
College of Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Travel Award: Yagang Zhang
Graduate School 2008 Summer Dissertation Fellowship: Theppawut Israsena Na Ayudhya
Graduate School Graduate Incentive Continuing Scholarship: Shaken Daniel
Graduate School Travel Awards: Justin Jones
Sunning Wang
Indika Bandara
Laura Hill
Mahender Dewal
Sandra Milo
Patrick Sisco
Eszter Trufan
Jay Ratliff

Outstanding Student Poster Presentation at the Federation of Applied Chemistry and Spectroscopy Society: Laura Hill

South East Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (SEAGEP): Shaken Daniel

Chemistry BS Graduates
*ACS Certified
August 2008
Meredith Allen
Whitney Carlson
Niquita Cook
Jason Covar
Jonathan Degange
Brittney Derrick
Benjamin Garrett*
Jennifer Harrington
Rachael Hipp*
Dennis Jeffords*
Zeeshan Khaliq
Amber Miller
Allen Roberts
Matthew Slack
Ross Smith
Butch Sokolowski
Daniel Sullivan*
Danielle Van Delden

December 2008
Ashley Aylesworth*
Brian Brechko
Heather Flick*
Brandon Harp
Nathaniel Krueger
Saira Mackillop*
Carver Roberts
Heather Taylor*
Richard Webb

May 2009
Amanda Agrawal*
Monica Basinger
Vaughn Braxton*
Ryan Brunner*
Bradley Bugher
Zachary Coffman*
Kaitlin Duffey*
Samuel Durrett
David Elliott
Morgan Gauthreaux
Anthony Glenn
Oliver Gothe
Patrick Hanks*
Chelsea Helsley
Katherine Hyland
Heather Jenkins
Whitney Kellett
Pierre-Olivier Laferriere*
Hamer Manning*
Whitney Meek
Jessica Michaud*
Amber Moore*
Mallory Mueller*
Giel Muller
Samantha Myers
Mitchell Nelson
Samir Patel
Rocio Pellerano*
Robert Rawlinson*
Gabriel Ross
Rosline Sumpter
David Lee Webb
Andrew Wodarczyk*

May 2009 Graduates
Ph.D.
Carla Ayala-Castro
Preston Craig
Jasmine Ervin Gardner
Lydia Gibson
Cole Hexel
Roger Rasberry
Jay Ratliff
MS
Ben Lasher

List of Graduates 2008–2009

August 2008 Graduates
Ph.D.
Erin Boswell
Joseph Ellsworth
Wenli Ma
Tinesha Osborne

December 2008 Graduates
Ph.D.
Jessica Clark
Mahender Babu Dewal
Eric Zhiming Dong
Brian Furmanski
Luisa Profeta
Will Tilford
MS
James Bozard
Saswat Kabisatpathy

May 2009 Graduates
Ph.D.
Carla Ayala-Castro
Preston Craig
Jasmine Ervin Gardner
Lydia Gibson
Cole Hexel
Roger Rasberry
Jay Ratliff
MS
Ben Lasher
Alumni News

Rosline Sumpter (BS, 2009) is now employed as an analytical scientist at Roche Pharmaceuticals in Florence, S.C.

Andrew S. Lipton (Ph.D 1993) is currently a senior research scientist at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

Yogesh Patil (MS, 2008) is currently an organic chemist.

Donald W. Shenenerberger (BS, 1992) is a dermatologist, U.S. Navy, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Va., is active in graduate medical education.

Sarah Johnston Hudson (Ph.D., 1980) received the Daniel J. Antion Teacher of the Year Award from the South Carolina Section of the American Chemical Society on April 22, 2009, at the section’s annual awards dinner, held at Claflin College.

Karen L. Pompeo (Ph.D., 1993) is currently an adjunct assistant professor at the University of South Carolina Sumter.

Michael P. Pompeo (Ph.D, 1992) is the director of research and development at PhibroWood LLC in Sumter, S.C.

Heather Flick (BS, 2008) is currently working at Shire Pharmaceuticals as a development specialist working with protein purifications, UF/DF, and cell culture.

Luisa T.M. Profeta (Ph.D., 2008) is now a postdoctoral research associate at the Pacific Northwest National laboratory.

Christina Young (BS, 2005) is enrolled at the Georgia Institute of Technology working on her Ph.D. in Chemistry.

Simona Hunyadi (Ph.D. 2007) is a senior scientist at Savannah River National Laboratory in Aiken, S.C.

Marc S. Maynor (Ph.D. 2007) is currently a postdoc at the University of Texas-Austin.

Kenneth J. Brown (BS, 2005) is an assistant professor at Winston Salem State University.

Maribeth Coleman (BS 2003) is currently a forensic chemist for the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED).

Kenneth J. Brown (Ph.D. 2003) is an assistant professor at Winston Salem State University.

In Memoriam

Eric D. Coulter received his Ph.D. degree in the laboratory of John Dawson in 1996. After a one-year postdoctoral position with Dave Ballou at the University of Michigan, he moved to the University of Georgia (UGA) with his soon-to-be wife, Zanna Beharry, who, as an undergraduate, had also worked in the Dawson lab. They both worked for Donald Kurtz at UGA. They later both moved to Houston, where Eric took a position with Lexicon Genetics. In January 2006, Eric was diagnosed with cancer; he died later that year. During his Ph.D. studies at USC, Eric was an exceptionally productive, valuable, and a well-liked member of the Dawson lab. He could always be counted on to go the extra mile to help others in their research while at the same time focusing intensely on his own work. He had a great sense of humor and was always full of enthusiasm about his research.

Dr. Charles Frederick Jumper, a 1957 MS graduate, died Nov. 29, 2008.

Faculty Recognition

2008–2009 Faculty Highlights

Tenure Track Faculty Appointments
Dr. John Lavigne, associate professor
Dr. Paul Thompson, associate professor
Dr. P. Lee Ferguson, associate professor
Dr. Qian Wang, associate professor

Other Appointments
Dr. Thomas Bryson, director of the graduate program

Faculty Awards and Honors
Dr. Brian Benicewicz won the Center of Economic Excellence Endowed Chair.
Dr. Hans-Conrad zur Loye was named editor for the Journal of the South Carolina Academy of Science and was an invited professor to the Universite d’Angers, France.
Dr. Paul Thompson was named a nominating committee member for the ACS Division of Biological Chemistry.

2009–2010 Faculty Highlights

State Service Awards
Dr. John L. Ferry, 10 years of service
Dr. John H. Dawson, 30 years of service
Dr. James M. Sodetz, 30 years of service

Faculty Awards and Honors
Dr. Michael Angel won the USC Educational Foundation Research Award for Science, Mathematics, and Engineering.
Dr. Paul Thompson won the Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award.
Dr. Thomas Vogt and Dr. Catherine Murphy were named fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
Dr. Qian Wang won the Governor’s Young Scientist Award for Excellence in Scientific Research.
Dr. John Lavigne won the Michael J. Mungo Undergraduate Teaching Award.
Dr. Lukasz Lebioda won the South Carolina Section ACS Outstanding Chemist Award.
Dr. Scott Goode won the South Carolina Section ACS Distinguished Service Award.
Dr. Hans-Conrad zur Loye won the IPMI (International Precious Metals Institute) Henry J. Albert Award.

We apologize if you received a particular award and it wasn’t included in our publication. Please notify us at chemweb@chem.sc.edu, and we will be sure to update our records and include that information in our next publication.
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