



# UWF Chemistry News

Charting a Course in the Pursuit of Science

[www.uwf.edu/chemistry](http://www.uwf.edu/chemistry)

## Back to 1969

by  
Michael T. Huggins

This year marks the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first graduating class from the Department of Chemistry at the University of West Florida. To celebrate this joyous occasion, the theme of this year's newsletter is the Class of 1969. In preparing for this newsletter, we have been digging through the archives where we came across quite a few pictures from this wonderful time. We hope you enjoy this flashback in time. I certainly have enjoyed helping put it together.

I did not recognize many of the faculty in these pictures - I had never seen Dr. Gurst without a BEARD and Dr. Tanner looks like a teenager!



## News From The Department

by  
Pam Tanner

The 2003-2004 academic year was exciting and productive for our faculty. Dr. Leo ter Haar was appointed to a Fellowship in the office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Currently, he has a shared appointment with the chemistry department. Dr. Timothy Royappa was promoted to Associate Professor and won two teaching awards last year. He has now won every UWF teaching award at least once! Dr. Michael Huggins received the College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Teaching Award presented at the Honors Convocation held April 2.

Several of us attended workshops or seminars to continue to improve our teaching. Drs. Pamela Tanner and Tara Sirvent attended a POGIL guided inquiry workshop at the University of Florida. They were able to incorporate a modified version of this method into the Concepts in Chemistry lab for non-majors and the Fundamentals of General and Organic Chemistry Lecture and lab. Tim Royappa attended an ACS workshop on nanotechnology and an NSF workshop on teaching Chemistry to non-science majors. Dr. Jerry Gurst attended the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Circular Dichroism in Budapest, Hungary in September of 2003. He completed arrangements for the 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference to be held on Pensacola Beach in August, 2005. Jerry Gurst and Mike Huggins will have major roles in the planning and conduct of the meeting. The 25<sup>th</sup> Gulf Coast Chemistry Conference was held on Pensacola Beach last September and the 26<sup>th</sup> is set for September 2004. Jerry Gurst continues to serve as co-chair for this annual event. Mike Huggins and Tara Sirvent attended the Organic Faculty of Florida Conference in March.

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### *1969 graduates:*

Jerome R. Bagley  
Anthony J. Ging  
Karl F. Henderly  
Arthur E. King  
James C. Moore  
Dana K. Nagel (Stuckey)  
Michael K. Pastorcich - Deceased  
Randall T. Richardson  
Alex R. Saunders  
Dennis E. Giles  
Elizabeth Calhoun (Schwartz)  
Jerry E. Flannigan

## University Happenings

It's been an explosive year at the University of West Florida. In addition to welcoming aboard new Provost Dr. Sandra Flake, an abundance of new programs, new facilities and new initiatives set sail at the university this year.

Argo Hall opened in January and provides double occupancy rooms with micro-fridge units and high speed Internet access for resident students. The International Center and Japan House opened in June and now provides additional classrooms and houses the university's international programs, as well as a Japanese tea room and Japanese gardens. And, construction continues on the highly anticipated new 107,000 square foot health, leisure and sports science facility expected to be completed by spring 2005.

The university also began focusing on several downtown campus initiatives this year. Providing educational opportunities in the heart of Pensacola, UWF opened its first educational facilities in the J. Earle Bowden Building in Historic Pensacola Village as well as the Public History Center. Physically declaring his commitment to developing a UWF downtown campus, the President will set up temporary residence in the Dorr House until a permanent presidential home can be built on the UWF Main Campus.

## Student Affiliate ACS

The department of Chemistry at UWF boasts an active chapter of the Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society (SAACS). This group currently numbers close to twenty students, most of whom are undergraduate Chemistry majors, although some are from allied disciplines. It is a registered student organization at UWF, and is thus eligible to receive funds from the Student Government Association for its various activities, some of which are listed below.

SAACS sponsors monthly departmental Chemistry seminars, which usually feature speakers from around the country. During the 2003-2004 academic year, for example, there were speakers from the University of Alabama (materials science), the University of Florida (organic Chemistry), and Georgia Institute of Technology (polymer Chemistry), among others. SAACS also collaborates with the Pensacola section of the ACS in organizing the annual Fish Fry, a social event held each fall, and in National Chemistry Week activities. One favorite activity each year is putting on chemical demonstrations for UWF's annual Big Argos/Little Argos community outreach event, in which hundreds of local middle school students are introduced to the fun of Chemistry. For these efforts, the UWF chapter was awarded an Honorable Mention by the ACS last year.

# Chairman's Letter

by  
Peter Tanner

First of all I thank all of you who donated to our Foundation Accounts. These funds enable us to offer scholarships and provide other program support.



A number of alumni participated in the recent review of the chemistry programs. Dr. Margaret Merritt of Wellesley College and a member of the Committee Professional Training of the ACS chaired the review committee, the other members of which were Dr. Johan Liebens of the UWF Environmental Studies Department and Dr. Joseph Peters, who is Chair of UWF's Division of Teacher Education. We thank Alumni Ron Hambrick (84), Bruce Lysek (92), Brian Blanchard (93), Patrick O'Neal (96) Michael Ishee (96) Anna

Lomasney (98), Joshua Lee (03) and Brian Roberts (03). The program review is published on the UWF website [upic.uwf.edu](http://upic.uwf.edu). (From this site go to 'Planning Communications', to Publications and finally to Program Review.

This year we were able to enhance the instrumentation through the purchase of a new ion-chromatograph, an FT-IR instrument and a vapor-phase osmometer. We will continue to try to replace obsolete equipment and to upgrade facilities.

Although the number of chemistry majors remains relatively constant, there has been a large increase in enrollment in our lower division courses. This semester's General Chemistry I class has a total enrollment of 220 in two lecture sections and eight laboratory sections. We anticipate some increases in the number of chemistry majors when the new BA programs finally escape from the Curriculum Committees.

June of this year marked the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our first graduating class in 1969. We are featuring the members of this class in this newsletter. We were able to contact most of the 1969 graduates to ask them to provide biographical information which we could publish. Unfortunately, we were not able to locate Randall Richardson, Arthur King or Alex Saunders. If any of you can provide information or put us in touch with them please do so. In our efforts to contact 1969 alumni, we learned that Michael Pastorich had died earlier this year from cancer. All of us express our condolences to his family and friends.

Next year, we hope to include information on the class of 1970, and so perhaps the members of this class could send us some biographical information and perhaps a photograph. (Digital if possible).

It has been a fairly successful year and we have made some progress. We still have some hurdles to overcome. These include the hiring of an analytical chemist and the initiation of the new degree programs.

We thank you for your continuing support and hope you will visit us when you are in the Pensacola area.

# Note From The Dean

## Educating the Competent Chemist



From my vantage point in the Office of the Dean, I have been impressed by how regularly advocates attempt to lay claim for their respective disciplines as the “most central” or “most important” discipline in the liberal arts. Chemistry’s claim to that honor is a strong one. Deepak Chopra once suggested that “to think is to practice brain chemistry.” That interesting perspective underscores how fundamental chemistry is to every aspect of our lives.

The kind of thinking in which contemporary chemists engage is itself quite fascinating. And our own Chemistry Department has been taking a more serious look at what characteristics constitutes the skill set of the expert chemist. Along with other departments at UWF, Chemistry is engaged in articulating what the undergraduate major should be able to know and do after completion of the program as well as planning how best to achieve those student learning outcomes by refining the curriculum.

For many people, the prototype of the chemist involves the solitary scientist who singlemindedly and steadfastly experiments with test tubes in a constant quest to solve the unknown. Obviously, the scope of necessary skills for today’s chemist is so much broader than just knowing your way around a centrifuge. The well-prepared contemporary chemist needs an array of adaptive abilities. For example, they should be able to:

- communicate with diverse constituents (including individuals who don’t speak *chemistry*) through a variety of media.
- collaborate effectively
- exercise strong self-regulation skills to complete projects in a timely fashion
- use traditional and emerging technologies
- sort good from bad information
- adhere to appropriate ethical expectations
- calculate precisely
- exercise the chemical imagination
- exhibit entrepreneurial skill
- anticipate legal ramifications of their activity.

Our own Chemistry Department has long recognized as one of the most stellar programs in the state for the high quality education they provide, I believe that this talented group is poised to be able to make nationally significant contributions in optimal designs for undergraduate chemistry programs. I’m proud of their accomplishments.

I encourage you to stay in touch with them not just so you can hear about their accomplishments. Keep them informed about your own chemical “trajectory” in life. Let us know what you think of our competence goals. That feedback will be very helpful to the continuous refinement of the program.

## News From The Department

### Continued from page 1

Not only did we excel at teaching, but we were very successful at obtaining outside funding. Drs. Michael Huggins, Tim Royappa and Tara Sirvent were awarded a three year Merck/AAAS Undergraduate Science Research Program in collaboration with three biology faculty: Drs. Theodore Fox, Phillip Ryals and Venkat Sharma. The program is designed to expose undergraduate students to interdisciplinary research. These partnerships promise to be long and fruitful, see <http://uwf.edu/chemistry/workgroup> for more details. Tara Sirvent was awarded a National Science Foundation Grant for her project entitled “Cloning Polyketide Biosynthesis Genes in *Hypericum Perforatum*.”

The department successfully completed our Five-Year External Program Review. One of the highlights of the review was our proposed B.A. degree with tracks in forensics, environmental chemistry, business and education. It was no surprise that the dean noted that our faculty “have a high quality, rigorous reputation and have carefully grounded their planning in the best practices of the ACS.” She also praised the dramatic contribution to research “driven by the collaborative efforts of the younger faculty” which “opens up new opportunities for students to experience research with good mentors.” She predicts that some wonderful things lie ahead for our department.

On a personal note Tara, Daniel and Gabriel Sirvent welcomed a new member to their family. Jasmine was born in June and occasionally accompanies her mom to work. Tara may be trying to get a head start on a future scientist! At Tim Royappa’s surprise 40<sup>th</sup> birthday party (yes he was surprised) guests learned what we had long suspected: he has always had a unique fashion sense to go along with his unique charm.



# Chemist

## UWF Graduate

### Jerome R. Bagley



After graduation from UWF, I spent over three years as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, including a year in field artillery in the Western Pacific, where I received a Vietnam Service Medal. Upon my honorable discharge in 1973, I entered graduate school at the University of Mississippi, earning a MS and finally a Ph.D. in medicinal chemistry in 1980. I began postdoctoral research in the field of antiestrogens at the University of

Georgia in 1981. In 1984, I joined the intravenous analgesics and anesthetics team at British Oxygen Company in Murray Hill, NJ. I advanced from a bench chemist to chemistry section manager, discovery team leader, and finally the only Ph.D. scientist to be elevated to senior research fellow. While there I provided the analgesic Mirfental for clinical trials. My career has yielded nine U.S. patents and thirty-seven publications. In recent years, I have been in a retirement mode, traveling to many foreign countries and wearing out my red jeep Wrangler in the lower 48.

My education at UWF gave me a good foundation for excelling in the pharmaceutical arena and making a good living.

### Elizabeth Calhoun



In the years since I left UWF I have raised a family, become a grandmother and of course, worked. All in what seems a very short 35 years. In only seems like yesterday that I was a student, now my son Robert (who I had only one month after graduating) has grown up, gone to college and had a family of his own. He and his wife, Angie, 3 years ago presented us with a beautiful and sweet granddaughter that I spend as much

time with as possible.

For most of my employed years I have worked for Celanese and have survived the many changes to the company, which has been so typical of industry in the U.S. We have been through mergers and de-mergers in that time and changes to our industry and Celanese continue to come fast and often. In the past 30 years I have held numerous interesting and diverse positions from technical development and service to environmental, health and safety with stops along the way in sales and marketing and quality management.

In the last 7 years I have held the position of Director of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) for Celanese Acetate one of the major divisions of Celanese which includes significant sites worldwide. In this role I have the overall responsibility for providing the business effective and efficient environmental health, safety, product stewardship and toxicology programs and services, which promote regulatory compliance and fosters responsible risk management. This includes leading the efforts in developing company

strategies and position for EHS and for providing guidance and counsel on EHS issues that affect policy, products, processes, people and the environment. I am also a Registered Environmental Manager (REM) and Certified Environmental Systems Manager (CESM) so schooling has never really ended.

This position requires a significant amount of travel worldwide and has earned me the nickname from my granddaughter "global granny". She looks forward to my trips, as she knows I will always bring a special treat home to her.

In my spare time I love to stay active in a variety of ways. I enjoy music, photography and most sports. I particularly like those activities, which allow me to be outside. And in the hunt to stay healthy and youthful, I took up running several years ago and have completed several marathons (26.2 miles) and half-marathons including the most prestigious marathon, Boston in 2000.

### Jerry E. Flannigan



As I sit here and look at the photograph, I wonder what happened to this young man and I realize how quickly 35 years passed since saying so long to the faculty of Gamma College at UWF and graduation. I wonder what happened to the young man pictured? Richard Nixon was President, Claude Kirk was Governor of Florida, and Harold Crosby was President of the University, most of which is remembered only because

it is written on the slightly yellowed diploma hanging on my office wall. I can still remember the faces, although not all the names, of fellow chemistry majors as we pursued our major in scattered labs and classrooms. Slowly, memories of paths taken reappear on a misty cloudy day.

Several years after graduation in 1969 I left Monsanto and joined St Regis Paper Company to work in technical service and travel throughout the country working with sales on packaging and paper related projects. After a stint back inside as manager of the technical service group, the lure of outside work beckoned and I joined the sales force in Atlanta. Champion International, Stone Container, and Plastic Coated Papers all were subsequent corporate transitions made in sales until 1993 when I formed a paper sales company, Jerry Flannigan & Associates, which I am still active in while I enjoy semiretirement, golf, and grandchildren.

### Dennis E. Giles

BS Chemistry 8/69; MBA 8/76

US Army Combat Engineers, Fort Belvoir, VA, 12/69-11/71.

10 years with Monsanto Nylon Research in high performance polymer systems and fibers.

# Class of 1969

11 years with Farmland Industries in inorganic phosphate chemicals. Currently retired. Hobbies include daylilies, beach sunsets, and the Virginia wine industry.

## Anthony J. Ging

1970 -1978 Geigy Chemical co, Agriculture Chemicals McIntosh Ala. Chemist.

1978-1994 Courtaulds Fibers. Axis Ala, Rayon Manufactory. Lab Manager. Completed about 27 hours of Chemical Engineering courses at University of South Alabama, did not receive a degree.

1995-2001 Globe Manufacturing Co, Tuscaloosa Ala. Spandex Manufactory. Quality Control Manager and Head of ISO 9000 program. Retired 2001

2004-present Part-time tech with Atmospheric Research and Analysis, Pensacola Fla. Collecting data for atmospheric pollution study. Search II program.

This is about all I did since graduation but had a very good and enjoyable career and thanks to UWF for a good Education.

## James C. Moore

I started my career in 1969 teaching mathematics and science in secondary education. After three and a half years I left secondary education to accept a position with the State of Florida as an environmental chemist for a year and a half before accepting a research position with the Environmental Protection Agency. I was supervisor of EPAs Analytical Chemistry Laboratory for 14 years.

I completed two graduate degrees from UWF: a masters degree in Mathematics and Statistics in 1982 and a doctoral degree with a dissertation in mathematics and statistics in 1999. I have taught statistics courses at UWF as an adjunct faculty member in the College of Arts and Sciences Department of Mathematics and Statistics, and in the graduate school for the College of Professional Studies. Currently I am directing the Statistical Research Program for EPAs National Center for Environmental Research in Washington, DC. I represent the Office of Research and Development on the Statistical Policy Advisory Board for the EPA, and I represent the EPA on the Federal Committee for Statistical Methodology.

My wife Joyce has taught secondary education for 29 years at Gulf Breeze High School. We have two children: Timothy, who is finishing an undergraduate degree at the UWF, and Wesley, who holds a BS degree in biology from UAB, will graduate a second time from UAB with a BS degree in nursing. Wesley will continue in the graduate program at UAB in anesthesiology.

One of the most memorable experiences for me as an undergraduate student in chemistry was the time I spent one semester working for Dr. Chang doing an independent research project. We published the results of this work in a peer-reviewed journal and I became one of the few students to publish work as an undergraduate. To date I have authored or coauthored more than 90 articles including one book chapter.

## Dana Stuckey Nagel



BS Chemistry Education

Dana married Allen Nagel in 1969. She taught Chemistry I and II at Pensacola High School ('69 -'70) and Washington High School ('70 -'73). In 1974, her daughter Shanna (BS psychology, M Ed. Elem. Ed., UWF) was born. While devoting time to raising a family, she assumed leadership roles in her church and took college classes to stay current in her profession. In 1989, she began substitute teaching and tutoring. In 1995, she returned to teaching full time

at Pensacola High School, where she currently teaches Chemistry II and III in the International Baccalaureate Program. Proud of her alma mater, she has had the privilege of taking her students to the university to work in the lab and observe the instruments such as GC/MS, NMR and HPLC which are a part of their curriculum. She appreciates seeing the same personal, small-school atmosphere she experienced as a student.

## Michael K. Pastorcich

Michael Kent Pastorcich died on April 14, 2004 at the age of 56. After graduation from UWF, Mr. Pastorcich received his Masters Degree in Chemistry from the University of Tennessee. Mr. Pastorcich was a volunteer with the Boy Scouts of America for many years and was the Scout Master for Troop #231. For 27 years, he worked for Ciba Specialty Chemicals. During the early 80's, Mike was in the Process Analyzer Group as a Project Chemist. His responsibilities included development, construction and start-up of fully automated analyzer systems.

In the mid 80s, he was promoted to Group Leader for the Process Development Analytical Department. The Process Development Department had recently been relocated to McIntosh from the Northeast and Mike was chosen to head up and establish a fully functional analytical group to support the efforts of the new department. The new analytical group was started from scratch and Mike successfully brought all of the necessary analytical chemists on board, purchased all new analytical instrumentation, developed procedures and got the group up to speed. During this time he also established a small Process Analytical Group responsible for providing on-line monitoring for the development chemists. Mike continued leading these groups until the late 90s and was also responsible for establishing and implementing the ISO 9001 standard while serving as the "Quality Coordinator" for the department.

In the late 90's, Mike was promoted to Manager of Analytical and Quality Control Department where he served as head of the site's QC function for the remainder of his career. During this time he served on the Global Analytical Committee for the Corporation where he was instrumental in working with analytical colleagues all over the world to establish uniform standards for analytical testing.



# Faculty Research Spotlight - Tara Sirvent



The study of medicinal plants involves the intersection of several scientific disciplines. In our lab, we are interested with the biologically active metabolites that medicinal plants synthesize and have four main projects. *Hypericum perforatum* or St. John's wort has been a plant used for over three centuries for treating skin and mood disorders. We know that one family of compounds called the hypericins is responsible for the anti-viral and anti-microbial action of the plant. These compounds (which are members of the polyketide super-family) are synthesized via a pathway similar to fatty acids. We have received funding from the National Science Foundation to study hypericin biosynthesis. In addition, we are intrigued by the fact that *H. perforatum* accumulates heavy metals. We are, therefore, trying to dissect the relationship between heavy metal accumulation and hypericin production.

*Melaleuca alternifolia*, also known as tea tree, is a second project that our group is looking at. This plant produces several terpenoid compounds that are responsible for its potent anti-microbial activity. Although this plant is growing in popularity, not much is known about the specificity of its extract components in terms

of biological activity as well as the influence of various environmental factors on the growth and production of its secondary metabolites. We are hoping to develop a fast screening method using GC/MS to analyze extracts. In addition, we aim to determine the relationship of environmental conditions and extract potency.

Our third project is a collaboration with Dr. Ted Fox in the Biology department. As a member of the Working Group in Biological

Chemistry here at UWF, we successfully secured funding from a Merck/AAAS program for undergraduate research. Dr. Fox's and my contribution to the grant is to study the bioactive metabolites from an invasive weed growing here in NW Florida called *Dioscorea bulbifera*, air potato. This plant is thought to produce several steroidal compounds similar to those found in contraceptives. My lab is responsible for the isolation and characterization of the steroids produced by *Dioscorea bulbifera*.

Finally, my lab is interested in developing a tissue culture method for *Serenoa repens*, an important pharmacological herb known as Saw palmetto. This plant synthesizes several flavonoids and at least one important steroid,  $\beta$ -sitosterol, that is effective at treating begin prostrate hypertrophy (BPH). This condition affects thousands of men each year in the US alone. Currently Florida is the number one producer of Saw palmetto berries, which are used for preparing the extract used in the herbal industry. There are several complications to growing and harvesting *S. repens* including the length of germination (up to 220 days), time required for flowering (at least 4 years), and difficulty of harvesting due to the saw-like projections on the petioles of the palm fronds. Thus, developing a tissue culture system that would produce the same compounds found in the extract is an exciting scenario.

## UWF Chemistry 1969

by Jerry Gurst

When the first graduation of a chemistry class took place in June 1969, the faculty had expanded from the original three, Ralph Birdwhistell, Jerry Gurst and Peter Tanner (all hired in the spring of 1967), to a total of five with the addition of Grace Chiu and Cliff Chang in September 1968. Carol Lowe was the first to brave the title of secretary for the department. Bill Halpern had been hired and was scheduled to arrive for the beginning of the 1969-70 academic year. (And, by the way, chemistry still has just six full-time faculty in tenure-track positions along with one full-time instructor and a number of adjuncts to handle a greatly expanded set of teaching responsibilities.) The original academic plan included neither the teaching of 'freshman chemistry' nor organic chemistry at the entry level as most of our students were community college graduates. But, like many ideas in the beginning, this too changed rapidly as many entering students were not quite prepared for science degrees. It was decided that both sequences would then be taught beginning in September 1967 along with the major's courses.

Chemistry was one of a disparate number of disciplines housed in Gamma College- one of the three 'cluster' colleges' led by a Provost (A. B. Chaet). The others were Alpha College, which included mathematics, and Omega College, which included physics. The founding President, H.B. Crosby, apparently was concerned about allowing scientists to 'hide' in their laboratories where they would not interact with others. This administrative concept was the first of many. By the 1977-78 academic year, Gamma College disappeared and we moved into Alpha College. Since then, chemistry has been housed in a College of Arts and Sciences, a College of Science and Technology, and now, we are back in a College of Arts and Sciences.

Faculty offices were in Building 18, along with others from Gamma College, and separated from the labs which were located in Building 13 along with the labs for biology and physics. We had not obtained an NMR instrument by then, although it had been promised in April 1967. Simple bench-top mass spectrometers were not yet on the market. We did have infrared and ultraviolet spectrometers, but that was about it for major equipment.

And, by June 1969, it was obvious that the initial plans which called for the initiation of a master's degree in chemistry by 1969 and a doctoral program in the early 1970's weren't going to happen any time soon (and haven't, yet). But, despite these problems, the foundation had been set for the future! In a very short time, UWF Chemistry had earned a reputation amongst the general faculty, students, employers and community colleges, as a unit which worked hard, had high standards and which had every intention of meeting its responsibilities. The students of the class had faith in the faculty's ability to lead them and help them meet their individual goals, and the faculty believed in the student's ability to get where they wanted to go. It seems that time has proven the point. We all worked hard, and enjoyed it. (Remember the beach parties?) And, we took pride, and continue to take pride in our accomplishments.

# UWF Students Hard at Work

# 2004

# Awards

## Class of 2003-2004

Miranda Cheney - Attending graduate school at the University of South Florida

Dustin Dixon - Attending graduate school at the University of California, Irvine

Suan Hester - Attending Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine - Bradenton Campus

Daniel Witter - Attending graduate school at Oxford University in England

Christopher Molaison - Employed Locally

## 2004 Departmental Awards

*Merck Awardee* - Miranda Cheney

*Merck Awardee* - Michelle Hester

*Solutia Awardee* - Dustin Dixon

*Undergraduate in Analytical Chemistry Awardee* - Michael Bloomer

*Freshman CRC Awardees* - Julie Buck and Matthew Potter

## Alumni News

From time to time, we get updates and news from many of our alumni, unfortunately not as many as we would like. Please drop us a line with any announcements that you would like to share with the department or other alumni. You can send us an email at [chemistry@uwf.edu](mailto:chemistry@uwf.edu), [stanner@uwf.edu](mailto:stanner@uwf.edu) or [mhuggins@uwf.edu](mailto:mhuggins@uwf.edu), and we will include your news in the next installment of the newsletter and post it on the Department's website. Here are the most recent tidbits from alumni.

**Todd LaFrenz** has recently taken a position at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, MN. They have sold their home in Tennessee and are currently living in Apple Valley, just outside St. Paul.

**From Jenny Leupin** (1988) - "My life is good. I work for P&G. I have worked in laundry detergent formulation, products research, consumer research and now I am in an technical external relations group where I work with Washing Machine Manufacturers. Ten years at P&G in a nutshell. I have 2 kids, girls, 9 (Megan) and 3 (Kara). My husband, also a PhD Chemist once with P&G, does Chemical consulting and also owns a Signs and Graphics Company."

**Loren Price** (1997) stopped by the Department for a visit during the spring. He is doing well and enjoying his position at Pfizer in Connecticut.

**Tamara Heath** (1996) - "I am doing everything possible to stay out of the field of chemistry. I worked for a while in quality control for a drug company - boring. Then I worked in R&D for an inorganic coating company. Dr. Tanner would laugh knowing how much I hated inorganic. The main ingredients were silanes. I am sure that I killed a few brain cells with the methysilane. It was fun for a while. I was also in charge of production. That included becoming a certified forklift trainer. I can't even parallel park my car and they let me drive and train forklifts. Then I taught math at DBCC, worked in their Learning Center and I even worked for Harley Davidson (what fun). I am planning on going back to school to get my masters in math ed. Teaching math is a lot more fun than chemistry and much safer. But until then I am trying to heal and get on with my life."

**Patrick O'Neal** (1996) - Recently received a promotion at Solutia, Inc, to Yarn Control Lab Facilitator where he has been working since graduation.

Share your success stories with us! Whether you just landed your dream job, got married or won the lottery, your fellow Argos want to know. Send your news and photos to [alumni@uwf.edu](mailto:alumni@uwf.edu) or submit news online at [alumni.uwf.edu](http://alumni.uwf.edu). You can also reconnect with your fellow class mates through the on-line alumni directory, update your personal profile and make your annual gift of support to the chemistry department. Thanks and we hope to hear from you soon.



Dr. Jerome E. Gurst, ass't. professor, chemistry - 1969



Chemistry Club of 1969-

Karl Henderly (sitting back left)  
Read Sunders (standing back center)  
Beth Calhoun (standing back right)  
Dana Stuckey (sitting front left)  
Randall T. Richardson (sitting front middle)  
Mike Pastorcich (sitting front right)  
James C. Moore (sitting center)  
Arthur King (standing left center)  
John Haynie (standing right center)

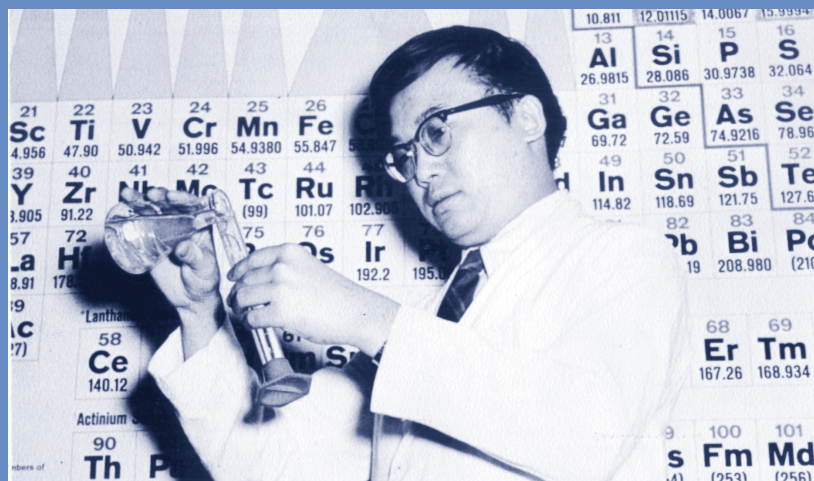


# UWF Chemistry News

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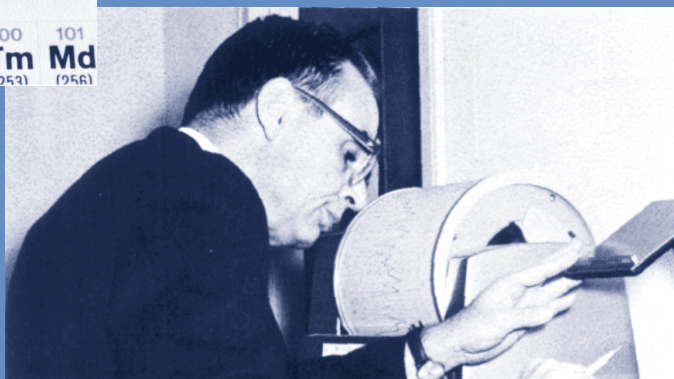
1969 Chemistry Club at Graduation



Dr. Clifford Chang, Faculty of chemistry, 1969



Dr. Stephen Tanner, faculty of chemistry, 1969



Dr. Ralph Birdwhistell, chairman of chemistry dept., 1969

*University of*  
**West Florida**  
*Chemistry Department*