

Contents:

Boyd Professor Isiah Warner turns 70	1
Spring 2016 Awards	2
Welcome to Dr. Weiwei Xi	3
Obituary: Professor Barry Dellinger	3
News Brief	3
Undergraduate Alumni Spotlight	4
Graduate Alumni Spotlight	4
Professor Philip W. West and Former Students	5
New Research Grants	5
Upcoming Stories	6

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A Wonderful 70th Birthday



*Mrs Della Blount-Warner &
Professor Isiah M. Warner*

From July 18-20th, a celebration was held to commemorate the 70th birthday and accomplishments of Professor Isiah Warner. This included two symposia – the Boyd Adventures in Education Symposium on July 19th and the West Research Symposium on July 20th. There was also a reception, a dance and a banquet and roast on different evenings. Colleagues, former students and current students flocked to the series of events that included research presentations from undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty members and scientists working in industrial and government settings. Approximately 200 attendees participated in the banquet and roast on his birthday, July 20th.

These birthday celebrations closely followed the announcement that Boyd Professor Isiah Warner had been named SEC Professor of the Year. Each year, this honor is given to a single faculty member, based on their elite record in teaching, research, and scholarship. Provosts of the SEC schools select the overall winner from amongst the 14 recipients of SEC Faculty Achievement Awards, i.e. one from each SEC university. In a press release, Nicholas S. Zeppos, Chancellor of Vanderbilt University and President of the Southeastern Conference, said, “On behalf of the 14 SEC Presidents and Chancellors, I am delighted to extend congratulations to Dr Isiah Wanrer from LSU on being named the 2016 SEC Professor of the Year. Dr Warner embodies the most desirable qualities we seek in the professoriate, and his commitment to students and passion for research are to be commended.”

In April, it was announced that Dr Warner was to be included amongst the 2016 new inductees into the American Academy of Arts & Sciences (AAAS). The AAAS was founded in 1780 and, according to their website is “one of the nation’s oldest learned societies and independent policy research centers, the Academy convenes leaders from the academic, business, and government sectors to address critical challenges facing our global society.” On October 8th, Dr Warner participated in the induction ceremony including signing the Book of Members, a tradition that goes back to the founding of the Academy.

LOVE PURPLE
LIVE GOLD

Spring 2016 Awards



Emeritus Alumni Professor William H. Daly - was inducted into the College of Science Hall of Distinction at a banquet and ceremony on April 22nd. To quote from the nomination letter, "An internationally respected polymer chemist, an award-winning teacher, a superb Departmental, College, and University citizen, a community servant on the work-a-day level, Bill Daly has done and continues to do all the things we expect from our very best faculty." He was also the recipient of the Kiwanis Club of LSU Distinguished Leadership Award this year.



Charles H. Barre Distinguished Professor M. Graça Vicente – 2015 Distinguished Research Master in STEM – Vicente currently serves as PI on an NIH R01 grant (\$1,230,460 total costs over 4 years), an NSF grant (\$390,000 over 3 years) and the MBRS (Minority Biomedical Research Support Program) IMSD (Institute for Maximizing Student Development) Program Grant (\$2,007,020 over 5 years). Her research is in the field of organic materials based on porphyrin, phthalocyanine and boron dipyrromethene cores. In the past decade (2005-14 inclusive), she has published 99 refereed articles, along with 6 book chapters. In her 15 years at LSU, she has mentored 26 graduate and 35 undergraduate students in her lab. A collaborator of Vicente observes that she has a "strong command of the biomedical issues surrounding delivery of molecules ... her ability to combine biomedical expertise with capabilities in molecular design and chemical synthesis enables her to tackle important scientific problems."

Professor John B. Hopkins – 4th Annual Dr Marion D. "Soc" Socolofsky Faculty Award – The citation from the College reads, "Soc was known for his love of science, and incredible dedication to his students. He was a great man, educator, mentor, and fierce advocate for his students. Dr. Hopkins was selected to receive this award because we believe he embodies the pedagogic and personal qualities for which Soc was known." In recent years, Dr Hopkins has pioneered the dual enrolment program for Chemistry, whereby he trains high school teachers to teach Chem1201/1202 (General Chemistry) in their schools, giving students a jump on college chemistry. He teaches the "chemistry majors only" section of these to give them special treatment instead of them being lost in a large

section. He mentors students in the Master of Natural Sciences (MNS) program and is the long term faculty advisor to the Vietnamese Students' Association. In the words of a 2014 freshman chemistry major, "Overall Dr Hopkins is an amazing instructor. He is very enthusiastic about teaching and genuinely cares for his students. Although his class was extremely difficult, I found myself learning chemistry more than I ever had."

Tiger Athletic Foundation Undergraduate Teaching Awards: LSU Foundation Professor Kevin M. Smith and Assistant Professor Revati Kumar

LSU Chemistry 2016 Outstanding Staff Award: Ms Connie David

Traynham Award: Dr Paulina Kolic

Neil Kester Physical Chemistry Graduate Student Award: Dr Tony Karam

Kiran Allam Award & Dow Macromolecular Award: Ms Sunting Xuan

Timothy S. Evenson Polymer Award: Dr Leah Garber

RA Scholar Awards: Mr Troy Loeffler, Dr Nicholas Speller and Ms Mirza Saputra

TA Scholar Awards: Dr Vinny Seneviratne, Ms Nerissa Lewis, Ms Kristina Deveaux, Mr Ning Zhao, Mr Raju Kumal and Mr Zachary Highland

Hypercube Scholar Award: Ms Asenath Francis

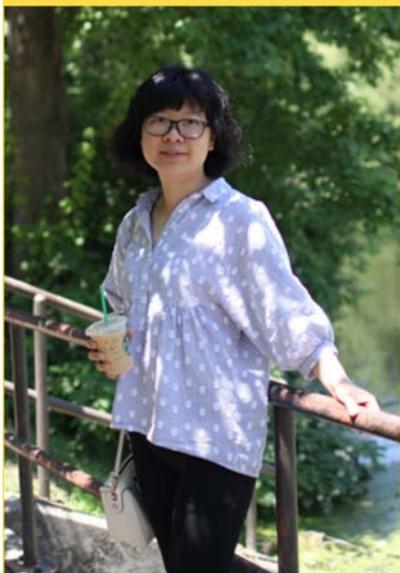
Outstanding Undergraduate Research Achievement Award: Mr Christian Deveaux

Dr Benjamin Pierre Boussett Outstanding Student Award: Mr Mark Ditusa



Dr Nicolas Speller (left) and Professor Emeritus Jim Robinson (right)

Nicholas Speller – James W. Robinson Award in Analytical Chemistry – Nicholas came to Louisiana State University with a BS in Chemistry and a BS in Biology from Morehouse College. During his time at LSU, he was a recipient of a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship and has thus far published three papers from his research with Professor Isiah Warner. Nicholas graduated in August 2016 and is returning to Atlanta, to take up a postdoctoral position at the Georgia Institute of Technology in the lab of Amanda Stockton. His research there will focus on development of organic analysis systems targeted towards terrestrial and extraterrestrial environmental analyses. Professor Robinson was featured in the "Who am I?" section of the last newsletter.



Assistant Professor
Weiwei Xie
Inorganic Chemistry

New Faculty Focus: Dr Weiwei Xie

Dr Xie has joined LSU Chemistry as an Assistant Professor in inorganic, solid-state chemistry. She comes to us with an exceptional background, with a PhD from Iowa State (Miller) and a postdoc at Princeton (Cava). Her group's research focuses on experimental and theoretical solid state materials, with a specific emphasis on functional metal-rich compounds, like superconductors, semiconductors, and magnetic materials. Her interests involve nonmolecular inorganic materials involving almost the whole periodic table and diverse theories and methods to design, predict and synthesize new materials.

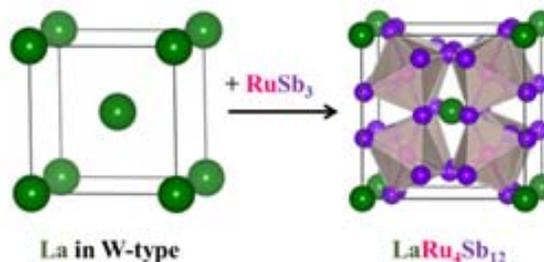
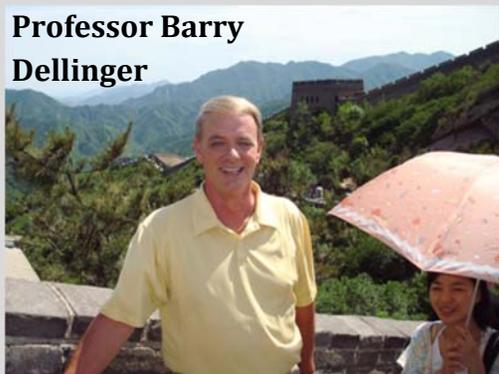


Figure. The design of new W5Si3-type superconductors T5Sb3-xRux (T = Hf, Zr) lead us to propose that Ru-Sb may be a third critical charge-transfer pair of elements for superconductivity in the periodic table along with Cu-O and Fe-As.

OBITUARY

Professor Barry Dellinger



After a long illness, Barry passed away in the early evening of March 9th, 2016. He was born in Charlotte, NC, on September 14th, 1949. He received his BS from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in 1971 and his PhD from Florida State University with Professor Kasha in 1975. From 1971-1981, he served his country in the US Air Force and retired at the rank of Captain. He performed postdoctoral studies with the late Professor Robin Hochstrasser at the University of Pennsylvania. He spent 16 years at the University of Dayton Research Institute prior to joining LSU as Professor of Chemistry and Patrick F. Taylor Chair in 1998. During his years at LSU, he published more than 225 papers, brought extensive research funding into LSU including the establishment of the Superfund Research Project, graduated 12 PhD students and advised several postdoctoral researchers and research associates. He has received numerous awards for his contributions to science, including the ACS Award for Creative Advances in Environmental Science and Technology (2014), election to the Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) (2010) and the Astellas USA Foundation Award (2008) for having significantly contributed to scientific research that improved public health through his and his laboratory's contributions in the chemical and related sciences.

Chemistry News Brief

- ◆ Dr Paul Magut (PhD 2014, Warner) was appointed Head of the Department of Chemistry at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology in Kenya
- ◆ Dr Brandon Borill (PhD 2015, Hall) has started a tenure-track faculty position at LSU Eunice.
- ◆ Proud Parents: Assistant Professor Revati Kumar and her husband, Raahul Sathyanarayana welcomed Vikram Raahul Kumar on August 3rd, 2016.
- ◆ Promotion to Full Professor: David A. Spivak and Robert L. Cook joined the ranks in August 2016.
- ◆ Emeritus Professor Paul Edward Koenig passed away on August 20th, 2016. He was a former Professor of Organic Chemistry and Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs at LSU.

Undergraduate Alumni Spotlight



Dr Christie Sayes
*Environmental Science
& Toxicology,
Baylor University*

Christie M. Sayes moved around a lot as a child, ultimately graduating from St. Michael's Catholic High School in Baton Rouge, LA. She received an ACS Certified BS degree in Environmental Chemistry from Louisiana State University in 2001. Asked what she appreciated most about her time in LSU Chemistry, Christie says, "The professors. They were so impressive and friendly. I knew from the very beginning I wanted to do what they do. I thank [them] for providing the foundation I needed to succeed in science." Looking back, the only thing she wishes she had done differently in her career-to-date is to have kept in touch with her classmates in the LSU Department of Chemistry. It's not too late to fix that!

Christie then attended Rice University in Houston, TX, for graduate school. Like most graduate students, self-doubt was something that clouded her mind from time to time. "I constantly doubted myself when I was in graduate school ... I wanted to be a wife, a mother, and a professor. I didn't think it was possible. My major professor at Rice (Vicki Colvin) demonstrated by example that it was possible." Christie took advantage of the many opportunities that she earned and her confidence grew. She received her PhD in 2005.

Since that time, Christie has held several positions, in both the private sector and academia. She was a Visiting Scientist at E. I. DuPont Nemours & Co. and later served as Chief Technical Officer (CTO) at Nology LLC, a start-up company exploring opportunities in the nascent field of nanotechnology. She served as a faculty member at Texas A&M University and also in the University of North Carolina System.

Today, Christie is an Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Toxicology at Baylor University in Waco, TX. Her research focuses primarily on the health effects of nanotechnology-enabled products – from cradle to grave. She also teaches Environmental Health to the undergraduates and Fundamentals of Toxicology to the graduate students.

Dr Sayes visited LSU recently. The evening of Thursday, September 29th, she talked to a packed SAACS meeting about the twists and turns of her career-to-date. On Friday, she delivered the Chemistry Colloquium, titled, "Nanotoxicology in Education, Industry, and the Regulatory Environment."

GRADUATE ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: DR MICHAEL GRIFFITH

Michael Griffith received a BS in Chemical Engineering from Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, in 1963. He was the first PhD student of Boyd Professor Emeritus William A. Pryor. He received his PhD in physical organic chemistry from LSU in January 1968. He did post-doctoral studies at the University of Minnesota in 1968. Dr Griffith started his career with duPont, and spent a total of 30 years in industrial research and development before retiring in 1998. He is the retired Vice-President (VP) of Research & Development (R&D) for ARCO Chemical Company, a position he held for 7 years. Prior to that, from 1983-1990, he was VP of R&D for Owens-Corning Fiberglas. In each position he was responsible for the company's worldwide research, development of new products and processes, and technical support for all the business units. ARCO Chemical had R&D laboratories in the USA, Europe (Paris), and the Asia-Pacific region (Singapore). Among the many achievements that occurred under Griffith's leadership were a revolutionary new metallurgy to make glass fibers for insulation in the extremely harsh conditions the process requires, and a breakthrough catalyst to make chemicals used for flexible polyurethane foams. He is a charter member of the 1860 Society at LSU, where he has created a legacy fund for a professorship in the Department of Chemistry. He is a member of the LSU Alumni Association and the Tiger Athletic Foundation. Dr Griffith started a fund for a Professorship in Chemistry through the LSU Foundation in the name of his PhD thesis advisor, Professor Pryor, and made further contributions with others to create a Chair. He is currently serving on the search committee for the chair.



Professor William Pryor (Left) and Dr Michael Griffith (Right) in the lab in 1966.



Dr Michael Griffith at his 2013 induction into the College of Science Hall of Distinction

Faculty Searches!

- Dr William A. Pryor Chair in Chemistry
- Assistant Professor in Organic Chemistry
- Assistant Professor in Environmental Chemistry

Legacy of Professor Philip W. West and Former Students



Left to right:
Dowling, West, & Sachdev

Philip W. West (1913-2001) began his independent career at LSU in 1940 and was one of the first to be named a Boyd Professor. He published over 180 scientific articles on a range of topics in analytical and environmental chemistry. He is remembered fondly by his former students for his science, entrepreneurial spirit and love of flying. We are told that "Dr. and Mrs. West flew their plane out of the old Downtown Baton Rouge Airport, which you may now know as Independence Park." In recent months we have received equipment donations from two of West's former students.

Fred Dowling graduated from Millsaps College in 1959 and spent time as a graduate student at LSU. He was enticed to join Drs Choppin and West in their venture that founded Kem-Tech Laboratories up on McKinley Street, just north of campus. Fred was a 50-year member of the Air and Waste Management Association (AWMA) and a member of the steering committee for what became the Institute of Professional Environmental Practice (IPEP). He was a founding partner of Emission Testing Services (ETS) which performed environmental testing around the Gulf Region for 29 years. Fred passed away on June 27th, 2015. Fred's widow, Betty Dowling recently donated some equipment and supplies to the Department. Fred's oldest son, Jay said, "my father would have appreciated knowing that it went to further an aspiring chemist's education."

Sham Sachdev received BS and MS degrees from Punjab University in India. He came to LSU in September of 1961 for higher education in the field of chemistry. Next year after clearing his qualifying exams, he joined Dr. Phillip W. West and chose Analytical/Environmental chemistry as his major. His 1966 doctoral dissertation, under Professor West, was titled, "New Methods for the Determination of Trace Quantities of Vanadium." He spent the following four years as a visiting assistant professor at LSU and published several research papers in his field. In the 1970s he was asked to join Kem-Tech Laboratories, working as an environmental health chemist and as Director of Industrial Hygiene Laboratory. He developed methods to evaluate workers' exposures to such materials as asbestos, silica and chlorinated hydrocarbons. After starting another laboratory and getting industrial work experience at Exxon Chemicals, he founded Entek Environmental Laboratories in 1984 and has served as Manager and Technical Director from the company's inception. In addition to running his business he had been member of ACS, Sigma Xi, American Water Association, American Industrial Hygiene Association, editor of Academy of Industrial Hygiene newsletter, president of local section and several national technical committees. After providing Environmental and Industrial Hygiene monitoring for 32 years at Entek he decided to retire. Sham and his wife, Meena love to travel and spend time with their 2 children and 6 grandchildren. In the throes of retirement, Dr Sachdev has donated much of Entek's equipment to LSU Chemistry which has been put to good use.

New Research Grants

John Pojman with Qinglin Wu (LSU School of Renewable Natural Resources): LSU Board of Regents Enhancement
Enhancing Nanocellulose Manufacturing Facility for Advanced Material Research and Development

Kermit Murray: NIH STTR (Small Business Technology Transfer) Phase II, with Co-Is from Anasys Instruments
Single Cell Analysis via Nanoscale Tip-Enhanced Laser Ablation Mass Spectrometry
with Fabrizio Donnarumma: LIFT2 (Leverage Innovation for Technology Transfer)
Infrared Laser Ablation Capture for Forensic Evidence Collection"
BOR Proof of Concept / Prototype (PoCP)
Laser Ablation DNA Extraction and Sequencing

Donghui Zhang: GoMRI with Vijay John (PI, Tulane) and Co-Is Diane Blake (Tulane) and Yuri Lvov (LaTech)
The Design of Synergistic Dispersant and Herding Systems using Tubular Clay Structures and Gel Phase Materials
NSF Division of Macromolecular, Supramolecular and Nanochemistry (MSN)
Investigating the Structural Coupling of Main chain and Sidechain Packing in the Solution Structures of Amphiphilic Coil-Comb Block Copolymers with Crystallizable Sidechains

Daniel Kuroda: ACS-PRF Doctoral New Investigator (DNI)
Structure, Dynamics and Solvation of a New Class of Designer Solvent by Ultrafast Nonlinear Infrared Spectroscopy

Les Butler: NSF Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI) Division of Chemical Measurement and Imaging (CMI)
Tomography and X-ray Interferometry of Flame Retardants and Additive Manufacturing

Doug Gilman and Caroline Schneider:
LSU Board of Regents Graduate Fellowships (starting Fall 2017)

Evgueni Nesterov:
LA Economic Development Association Graduate Fellowship

Coming Soon to a Newsletter Near You!



On Friday, September 23rd, the Department of Chemistry hosted the 2016 Benjamin Pierre Bousset Lecture. The lecture was delivered by Professor Delia Milliron of the University of Texas at Austin. Delia and Benjamin were graduate students together in the Alivisatos Laboratory at UC Berkeley.



Dr Sandra McGuire will receive the 2017 National ACS Award for Encouraging Disadvantaged Students to Pursue Careers into Chemical Sciences!

A significant measure of a great university is the support it receives from its alumni. Join us as we work on the leading edge of discovery and innovation to educate the next generation of scientists. If you would like to support LSU Chemistry, regardless of the amount, we would be most appreciative. All donations are tax deductible and qualify for Tiger Athletic Foundation (TAF) points.

To make your gift **online**, go to www.lsufoundation.org/givetoscience . Click 'Designations' and choose 'Chemistry Development Fund'.

To send your gift by **mail**, make your check payable to "LSU Foundation," note "Chemistry Development Fund" on the memo line and mail your check to: LSU Foundation, 3838 West Lakeshore Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808

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