

### Award Delivers New Tools to Advance Undergraduate Education

The Department of Chemistry has received an alumni family gift of \$250,000 toward the purchase of a mass spectrometer as well as instrumentation and fellowships that will enhance undergraduate education.

The gift will enable the department to continue delivering a state-of-the-art education to students with a focus on hands-on experiments and opportunities for collaboration in the newly renamed Morrisroe Family & Pilot Chemical Company Instructional Lab.

The award provides \$100,000 toward the purchase of an Agilent Q-ToF mass spectrometer in the department's instrumentation room, adjacent to the Instructional Lab in Seeley G. Mudd. Funding also includes \$50,000 toward future instrumentation in the Undergraduate Teaching Lab as well as \$50,000 toward future upgrades to the Instructional Lab's computers and projection system. Another \$50,000 will provide undergraduate research fellowships ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000.

The investments will provide crucial new equipment to complement the department's comprehensive teaching lab renovation completed in 2015. "Each of this generous gift's components is aimed at helping students by facilitating deeper learning, increasing enthusiasm, and inspiring and preparing students to pursue research and careers in science and engineering," said Surya Prakash, department chair and professor. "The Morrisroe Family and Pilot Chemical Company understand the importance of staying at the forefront of chemical education, and their investment allows us to address these priority areas in the department."

The gift by Rhoda and Paul Morrisroe carries on a tradition of giving to the department by Pilot Chemical Company, a privately owned, independent global specialty chemical company. The gift was facilitated by Rhoda and Paul's daughter, Sarah Mester (Civil Engineering '05, MBA '15).

Paul Morrisroe is a retired CEO of Pilot Chemical, and the family previously provided significant funding for a chemistry lab renovation in the 1980s. Paul's brother, Peter Morrisroe, deceased, graduated with a USC business degree in 1965, and served as Pilot Chemical's chairman and CEO from 1988-1999.

Funds for undergraduate research fellowships are critical for attracting top students and involve them in research and scientific mentorship early in their academic careers.

The new mass spectrometer, a roughly \$500,000 instrument, will provide high-resolution data for chemical biology, catalysis, and synthetic and medicinal chemistry experiments in upper division laboratory courses taken by Chemistry, Biochemistry and Chemical Engineering students.

Other new instrumentation to be provided by the award will enable experiments applicable to nanoscience, drug discovery, organic electronics, solar cells and other topics at the forefront of chemistry and chemical engineering research.