

Pot Luck

Friday,
Sept. 20Savannah River Section
of the
American Chemical Society

Invites You to the September Meeting

Place: ASU Science Building (see www.aug.edu for map);
Suggest using McDowell St. entrance instead of Walton Way Gate

You may also enter via Arsenal Drive. New Science Building is the large new building in the middle back of the campus.

We will meet on the first floor. Parking should be okay on Friday night, students tend to go elsewhere...

Time: 6:00 pm, Friday, September 20, 2002

Event: Pot Luck meal with tour of the new Chemistry Facilities at ASU

Need: Bring a dish (veggie, salad, desert) to compliment meats provided by ACS-local,

Bring a guest -- someone interested in chemistry, the school, or you

Please contact/reserve/indicate dish: Ms. Glenda Blystone @ 803/725-2605

[we need a rough head count for plates, cups, etc.]

Calendar of Events

September 20	Pot Luck Night with Tour of New Science Bldg -- New Science Bldg, Augusta State -- 6:00 pm "Bring a dish of eatable chemicals"
October 17	Guest Speaker: Prof. David Hercules, Vanderbilt U. - "Analyses of Surfaces" ASU Towers
October 20-25	National Chemistry Week -- "Chemistry Keeps Us Clean"
Nov. 13-16	54th SERMACS - Regional Meeting, Charleston, SC. http://sermacs2002.cofc.edu/
Nov 12	Guest Speaker: Dr. Carl Fliermans, "Environmental Chemistry" ASU Towers

Section Contacts

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Note: complete addresses are available from S.Serkiz or L.Baker

Volunteers wanted— contact any of above to offer help

Notes from the Chair - [Steven Serkiz]

I hope everyone had a pleasant and reinvigorating summer. Having caught our breath somewhat, the fall is booked with a full slate of events from your local section.

On the educational outreach front, events include National Chemistry Week, College Night, and Science Education and Enrichment Day (SEED). These programs have been a mainstay of our organization and I would like to thank all those who have made these activities successful. Recently, I came across the following Greek proverb that sums up my motivation for such activities.

"A civilization flourishes when people plant trees under which they will never sit."

Dr. Tovo is stepping down as coordinator for the section's SEED program and we are looking for her replacement. Please contact me directly if you are interested in heading up this activity.

This past spring the Savannah River Section of the ACS and USC Aiken sponsored the National Chemistry Olympiad. The screening exam was given to 491 area high school students. Six students (Howard Chen and Amit Patel from Lakeside, Lauren Harris and Justin Ingersoll from South Aiken, Travis Bone from Westminster, and Tram Le from Davidson Fine Arts) qualified to compete in the National Chemistry Olympiad exam that was administered at USC Aiken on Saturday, April 20. Congratulation to the students for their success and thanks to Drs. Monty Fetterolf and Cathy Cobb for coordinating this activity.

Nominations are due again for the Denise Creech award for outstanding teaching in high school chemistry. Information flyers have been sent to all area high schools. If you know of someone who is deserving of this award, please complete a nomination form or contact Rob Lascola at (803) 725-2380.

National chemistry week is coming the week of October 20-26. Plans for this week are being finalized and will be communicated soon. Last year's National Chemistry Week video "Chemistry of the Familiar" was a finalist for two ChemLuminary awards at the National ACS conference in Boston. Although we didn't win, it was quite an honor to be finalists in two categories. A special thanks to Bill Trammell, Stephanie Myers, Tom Crute, and Rob Lascola for their extraordinary effort.

Thanks to all that have returned survey results for the Chemistry Connections directory. For those who have not completed the survey, please do so as soon as possible so the results can be compiled and communicated to the members.

Finally, it is nomination time for local section officer elections. If you would like to nominate someone or self-nominate as a candidate, please contact Rob Lascola at (803) 725-2380.

I look forward to seeing you at one or more of the many of upcoming events.

Steven Serkiz

The Orlando ACS National Meeting was another successful event for the Society with an attendance of 14,380. The Fall National Meeting is scheduled for August 18-22 in Boston, MA, with the next Spring National Meeting scheduled for New Orleans, March 23-27, 2003. Exposition space for Boston was sold out prior to the Orlando meeting.

President Eli Pearce has followed through on his intention to support diversity issues during the 2002 National Meetings. A number of activities were held including a symposium on diversity in the 21st century workplace sponsored by the Woman Chemists Committee, a symposium on transitioning from two-year to four-year colleges sponsored by the Committee on Minority Affairs, a Presidential reception celebrating diversity, and a reception by the National Organization for Gay and Lesbian Scientific and Technical Professionals. A new Board Task Force on Minorities in Academe has been formed and has established a vision statement to develop and implement programs to increase the participation of under-represented minorities in the chemical academic community. The task force has six subcommittees that will present specific recommendations to the Board later this year. Additionally, the Committee on Membership Affairs has formed a new subcommittee on membership diversity.

President-Elect Elsa Reichmanis expressed concern about the under-representation of industrial chemists chosen to be ACS Award winners. The majority of the awards continue to go to academics. Other areas of interest to her are the communication channels with public figures and the general public on the issue of support for fundamental research in the chemical sciences and the rapid establishment of technical programming to support multidisciplinary topics.

The Board of Directors has expressed ACS opposition to the Department of Energy STI Publications initiative to develop peer reviewed journal publications online. The Society views this as direct competition from a government agency in an area already served by the private sector and competition specifically directed at ACS Publications Chemical Abstract Service. There will likely be further developments in this area.

The petition to increase the size of the Society Committees, on which Chris is a signatory, was presented to the Council for 'Urgent Action' in Chicago and postponed until Orlando, was postponed yet again pending a study by the Committee on Committees. The petition impacts two Society Committees, ComSci (Committee on Science) and SocEd (Society Committee on Education) that are perceived to be two of the most desirable committees for councilor

participation. Currently they are restricted to between nine and fifteen members each, the petition would increase membership to between twelve and twenty, therein standardizing their numbers with those of the Standing Committees of the Council which were increased at the San Diego Council meeting. Surprisingly the greatest opposition to the increase is coming from the committees themselves and appears to be in keeping with their desire to maintain the highly selective nature of their membership process.

The next contentious issue facing the Council in Boston is a Petition on Local Section and Division Support by the Society. The issue is extremely complicated, but the concern facing many local section councilors, including Chris, is that the current proposal may make the problem worse by shifting the financial problem from the Divisions to the Local Sections. There is general agreement that additional Division revenues are needed, but the long-term ramifications of the current formulation for this support are unclear.

The Council passed unanimously the petitions from the Woman Chemists Committee to change its status from "Other" Committee of the Council to that of Joint Board-Council Committee as well as for a name change for the Cellulose, Paper, and Textile Division (Cell). The division will now be known by the name: Cellulose and Renewable Materials. The Council approved the automatic dues escalator thereby increasing the Society membership dues for 2003 to \$116. The Society reported a net deficit of \$8.3 million at the end of 2001, but ACS Capital Funds lost only 1% in value during the current market downswing.

A report from the Committee on Membership Affairs reported that in 2002, 53% of unpaid members held BS degrees and this remains an area of concern to the Society. The membership count rose to 163,502 at the end of 2001, a net increase of 486 members compared to 2000, with a 94% retention rate. Starting in 2003, a new system will allow for online dues renewal. The committee continues its Mini-Grant Program and awarded six grants in 2001, including \$1000 to the Division of Agrochemicals to improve their electronic communications capabilities.

Starting in Boston, the National Employment Clearinghouse (NECH) will be paperless. The logistics of this will be difficult and the space constraints in Boston may cause some startup issues. The interview and resource/training areas will be divided between two locations, necessitating additional movement for candidates participating in NECH. The Orlando NECH saw 131 employers, 988 posted jobs, 867 candidates, and 3088 interviews conducted.

"What's Up Doc" ...B. Bunny Christopher J. Bannochie, Ph.D.

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A Book with Meaning for Us

Uncle Tungsten: Memories of a Chemical Boyhood

--[note: comments submitted to the CSRA Chemist by Bill Trammell]

An eleven-year old boy with hydrofluoric acid in gutta-percha bottles! Tossing lumps of Sodium metal into ponds! Just the thought would send shivers up the spines of our colleagues at ACS Headquarters. What were this child's parents thinking?

Actually, they were thinking of his growth and development. Oliver Sacks' "Uncle Tungsten: Memories of a Chemical Boyhood" is an autobiographical account of his early life in a family where curiosity and inquisitiveness were encouraged. Sacks' uncles, Dave (Uncle Tungsten) and Abe (Uncle Tin) Landau ran a firm making early light bulbs. They exposed him to chemistry and set his mind and hands free to explore.

His parents let him take over a space in the house for his experiments. His escapades reminded me of the old A. C. Gilbert Chemistry Sets of my youth. You can only find something like this on eBay now. Fear of lawsuits and the desire to protect everyone from any possible harm has led to the watered down versions of experimental chemistry available to youngsters today.

The American Chemical Society (ACS) is sponsoring David Hercules from Vanderbilt University at Augusta State University (USC) in Washington Hall Tower on October 17, 2002. The topic is Analytical Chemistry of Surfaces. Dinner starts at 7:00 pm (\$15.00; \$10.00 for students) and the lecture starts at 8:00. For reservations, please contact Glenda Blystone at 803-725-2605 by 4 pm Tuesday, October 15, 2002.

Talk Detail

Speaker [Dr. David M. Hercules](#)

Title Analytical Chemistry of Surfaces

Abstract A variety of modern spectroscopic techniques are available for the analysis of surfaces. These techniques probe surfaces with beams of photons, ions, or electrons and measure particles emitted from the surface. The spectroscopic techniques is surface sensitive for one of two reasons: 1) the escape depth of particles or photons is limited by the basic physics of the process; or 2) it is possible to sort out the signal from surface species in the presence of a signal from the bulk. Two- and three-dimensional imaging of surfaces continues to assume increasing importance in studies of chemical systems. Some examples will be presented to contrast techniques with regard to the above. Techniques of particular interest will be x-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS), secondary-ion mass spectrometry (SIMS), low energy ion scattering spectroscopy (ISS) atomic force microscopy (AFM) and scanning electron microscopy (SEM). Another comparison of techniques for surface analysis is how they perform in providing different kinds of important information. Particular emphasis will be given to consideration like deriving useful chemical information, sensitivity, selectivity and specificity, spatial resolution, speed of analysis, and the effect of the technique on the surface being analyzed. A particularly important question is the capability of a technique to perform quantitative chemical analysis, particularly for different similar chemical species. Some examples of the use of combinations of surface techniques to investigate important problems will be presented. These will be drawn from recent work in our research group dealing with polymer and catalyst surfaces. Typical examples would be: identification of the active species for a catalytic reaction; characterization of homopolymers by SIMS; studies of surface segregation in block copolymers; and comparison of methods with regard to surface sensitivity.

Directions can be found at www.aug.edu under maps building # 19 (Washington Hall) on Katherine St. off of Walton Way.

November 12 -- Section Meeting

The American Chemical Society (ACS) is sponsoring Carl Fliermans at Augusta State University (ASU) on November 12, 2002. The topic is Environmental Chemistry. Dinner starts at 7:00 pm (\$12.00; \$5.00 for students) and the lecture starts at 8:00. For reservations, please contact Glenda Blystone at 803-725-2605 by 4 pm Monday, November 11, 2002.

National Chemistry Week 2002 Is On The Horizon

The ACS Office of Community Activities invites you to participate in National Chemistry Week 2002, October 20-26. Involve your community in learning about the importance of chemistry by using the theme for this year "Chemistry Keeps Us Clean." Join with chemists across the country as they share the chemical story of the relevance of chemistry to cleaning by conducting presentations, demonstration shows, and hands-on activities for the public. Consider becoming involved in the unifying event for NCW 2002, "Chemistry Makes Cleaning Possible" a personal hygiene collection campaign to benefit local charities. For more ideas and information about NCW, call 1-800-227-5558 ext. 6097 or visit the website at <http://chemistry.org/ncw>.

Ponderings

Always you have been told that work is a curse and labour a misfortune. But I say to you that when you work you fulfill a part of earth's furthest dream, assigned to you when that dream was born, and in keeping yourself with labour you are in truth loving life . . . — Kahlil Gibran

To be what we are, and to become what we are capable of becoming is the only end in life. —Robert Louis Stevenson

The only job you start out at the top on is digging a ditch. —William Ensley

And the day came when the risk it took to remain tight inside the bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom. —Anais Nin

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