



The CSRA Chemist

SAVANNAH RIVER SECTION
OF THE
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

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The CSRA Chemist

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Advertisers: The current ad prices are as follows: Full page (4.5" x 7") for \$100, Half page (4.5" x 3.5") for \$65, Quarter page (2.25" x 3.5" or 4.5" x 1.75") for \$40 and Business Cards (2.25" x 1.5") for \$15. We cannot accept ads that are larger than these size requirements. Send your camera ready art or computer diskette and payments to the mailing address above c/o Brian Anderson. The deadline is three weeks prior to the meeting date.

Meeting Announcements: *The CSRA Chemist* will announce scientific meetings of interest to chemists and chemical engineers (when space is available). For information and deadlines, contact Lewis Baylor.

Change of Address: Send new address and member number to address above and ACS, PO Box 3337, Columbus, Ohio 43210. You may also send e-mail to service@acs.org.

NOVEMBER EVENT

Annual Section Awards and "Chemistry of Sherlock Holmes"

- Date: Friday, November 16, 2001
- Location: Etherredge Center, USC-Aiken Campus, Aiken, SC
- Schedule: 6:00 p.m. Social, 6:30 p.m. Dinner and Awards,
7:30 p.m. Speaker
- Speaker: Dr. James F. O'Brien
- Cost: \$14.00; \$8.00 students; no cost for program only.
- Menu: Dinner, dessert, and coffee. Details available after
November 1.

Reservations: Contact Sara Diamond at (803) 725-2605. Leave a message on voice mail if necessary, indicating the names of those attending. Please sign up early!! The deadline is 4 pm, Tuesday, November 13.

Program: The Denise L. Creech Outstanding High School Chemistry Teacher Award will be presented and Dr. Rob Lascola will be giving out the annual Section awards.

Dr. James F. O'Brien from Southwest Missouri State will be giving a talk titled "Chemistry of Sherlock Holmes." Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, like his creation Sherlock Holmes, had acute deductive powers and published an article in the British Medical Journal in 1879 that dealt with poisons. His interest in chemistry is apparent in his fictional writings as well. Poisons, for example, are mentioned in 22 of the 60 Holmes tales. There is, in fact, so much chemistry in the Sherlock Holmes stories that practically every story has some, whether it be poisons, gems, brandy, acids, or even the famous 7% solution of cocaine. This lecture will discuss the scientific Holmes with quotes from the master himself.

Directions: From Augusta / North Augusta take the Aiken-Augusta Highway (US 1) to the stoplight at University Parkway and the old KMart building in Aiken. Turn left and proceed to the last entrance for USC-Aiken on the left, which is marked for the Etherredge Center. Go straight back through campus, turn left into the parking lot at the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center and park. The Etherredge Center is directly opposite the RPSEC.

CHAIR'S THOUGHTS

The last newsletter of the year, and my last "Chair's Comments" before our Chair-Elect, Steve Serkiz, takes over and I return to civilian life. Every month, I've always wondered what I'd write about, and always found that my column pretty much wrote itself. This month is no different, because National Chemistry Week (NCW) is coming up soon (November 5-10) and the Savannah River Section is pulling out all the stops. Most of the things we're doing are detailed inside the newsletter. Remember that NCW is our society's big push to publicize and promote chemistry to the community. Take a look at what's in store, and see if there's anything you'd like to visit or volunteer for!

I particularly want to emphasize the NCW video project, which has come together remarkably well with tremendous efforts from Bill Trammell, Tom Crute, and Stephanie Myers, and help from the folks at National Science Center. The video, aimed at the 6th-grade level but really suitable for a wide range of ages, is entitled "Chemistry of the Familiar", and it's an entertaining hour full of great demos showing the chemical and physical forms in which energy is created, stored, and released. (If you don't believe me, you will after seeing Tom crush a 55-gallon drum using nothing more than steam and ice). The video will be broadcast on November 9 to public schools in SC

and GA, and we are looking to distribute copies of the video to private schools in the area and beyond. If you know of a school that might (or should) be interested in having the video, whether in the CSRA or not, please contact Bill, Tom, Stephanie, or myself to find out how to get copies to that school and in the classroom. The video really is good, and we'd like to get as wide a distribution as possible.

-Rob Lascola

DENISE L. CREECH TEACHING AWARD

The Local Section is pleased to announce that there are four nominees for the Denise L. Creech Outstanding High School Chemistry Teacher Award. Each nominee will be visited by the nomination committee for a first hand view of the teaching method used by the nominee. The committee will most likely struggle to decide on one awardee. Congratulations to all the nominees!

Ms. Elizabeth Luquire, North Augusta HS

Ms. Marcheta Sherer, Augusta Christian HS

Ms. Susan Smith, Westminster Schools of Augusta

Ms. Karen Utsch, Hephzibah HS

-Roy Beck

ARTS IN THE HEART WAS A SUCCESS!

It was a pair of picture perfect fall days for the Arts in the Heart of Augusta festival. A group of volunteers from our Local Section helped staff the ACS booth and introduce the community to the beauty of chemistry. They needed it, for this was the weekend following the tragedies in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania. The crowds were large and appreciative of people who gave their time to help others take their minds off these recent events.

Our booth was not next to the Architect's booth, so we didn't have to compete head-to-head with a big collection of Lego toys. Stephanie Myers came up with the idea of bubbles. We borrowed a device from Fort Discovery that was made from PVC piping. It allowed the visitor to make a sheet of bubble film. At least, they were able to do this when the wind died down enough to allow the film to form. We had some small 3-dimensional forms and allowed the visitors to immerse them in bubble solution and blow bubbles. Amazingly, to them at least, the bubbles were always spherical. They could see the bubble film pull in to minimize its surface area even before a bubble was blown. Ah, the marvels of simple science at work!

We also did an activity that's part of our NCW program "Chemistry and Art." This gave us a good chance to see how this would work and what a great venue to try it out at. It is called the "Universal Indicator Trout." The visitor is given a sheet on which is drawn the outline of a trout that has been painted with Universal Indicator. They were then to paint it with lemon juice, a baking soda solution, Sprite or laundry detergent to get the rainbow effect from the acid-base color changes. Lemon juice works well; baking soda and laundry detergent give varying results. However, an email to Shirley Ford with ACS National headquarters resulted in us getting 17 color change wands that they had lying around. It's amazing what people will do if you just ask them nicely. We know that will change the indicator, plus it's safe and not messy. So we have a leg up for NCW.

We had a number of people helping out: Bill Trammell, Rob Lascola, Stephanie Myers, Angela and Andi Brown, Tom and Sydney White, Roy Beck, Charles Crawford and Kerry Cast, Don Brown and Tom Crute. We can always use more, so don't short-change yourself on the fun. Come volunteer to help at the NCW activities.

-Bill Trammell

SEED HIGHLIGHTS

"Two children step up to a table. In front of them, the race starter/judge has just added phenol red to bottles containing NaOH solution. Now the solutions are pink. The children's palms grow sweaty and their hearts beat faster. The starter says go and immediately the children blow through the straws. Their cheeks puff out and their faces turn pinker as they try their best to get as much carbon dioxide into the solution as quickly as possible. The spectators shout words of encouragement as they anxiously anticipate the victor. Finally one solution turns yellow and a winner is declared. There are cheers, congratulations and some mention of the quality of the contestants' breath." This was the scene at the carbon dioxide races held on Saturday, October 13, 2001 at the sixteenth annual Science Education Enrichment Day (SEED) at the University of South Carolina, Aiken. Our Local Section, with the carbon dioxide races, was one of 36 exhibitors at the event that provides approximately 2000 participants (i.e. students, parents, teachers) exposure to hands on science activity stations. Race starters and judges were Alice Murray and Bill Spencer from WSRC, Bill Trammell (retired chemist), and Richard Jones, Ian Rivera, and Bob Texas from the ASU Chemistry Club. These volunteers were quite enthusiastic and enjoyed sharing their knowl-

edge of acids, bases, and indicators with the participants. The Section greatly appreciates their efforts. A great day at the races was had by all!
-Laura Tovo

ACS AND BSA TEAM UP

On Saturday, February 9, 2002 at Augusta Tech, the Georgia-Carolina Council, Boy Scouts of America will be hosting "Merit Badge University." This jamboree-like activity is designed to help youngster get certified for various merit badges. Counselors are needed - at least two per merit badge. Last year, unfortunately, there were no counselors available to help Scouts trying for their merit badge in Chemistry.

You can find information on this and other merit badges at www.meritbadge.com. Included there are the requirements and a form for recording the scout's progress toward achieving this award. Forms to become a Merit Badge Counselor are also listed.

If you have any questions, contact Bill Trammell at 706.854.0090 or w.trammell@worldnet.att.net or Roy Beck at 803. 279.0968 (home) or rbeck30@home.com. If you have any other area of interest that you'd like to act as a counselor for, let us know.
-Bill Trammell

NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK

NCW GETS OFF WITH A BANG!

This year's National Chemistry Week activities got off with a bang. For months, Tom Crute, Stephanie Myers, Rob Lascola and Bill Trammell have been planning a video for middle school students who can't attend Augusta State University's live show in November. Now, the show is "in the can."

The filming began on Monday, September 10 at the ETV studios at Fort Gordon. The National Science Center is one of the cosponsors of this show, along with our ACS Section and ASU. Filming went well that day, with Rob doing some comic relief segments. The next day was something else. Due to the terrorist attack New York City the ETV crew agreed to film Tom and Stephanie in the lab at ASU. Our first segment there featured Tom igniting some acetylene, formed from the reaction of calcium carbide and water, in an ice tea pitcher. The top blew off, as Tom expected, but the cameraman didn't. Thank goodness no expletives got onto the sound track.

We made full use of the ASU campus, filming inside labs and outside. We crushed a 55-gallon drum using air pressure, dropped gummi bears into molten potassium chlorate just to see them oxidize and ignited nitrogen triiodide with the touch of a

feather. Good chemistry and great theater. While no substitute for seeing it live or for doing some of the safer demos themselves, this provides an excellent introduction to chemistry for middle school students.

Our video "Chemistry of the Familiar," with energy as its main theme, will be broadcast on Thursday, November 8 at 1:00 PM. The satellite coordinates will be available on the National Science Center's web site www.nscdiscovery.org.

-Bill Trammell

MORE ON NCW

There are lots of other things planned for National Chemistry Week locally and you have a chance to join in and help.

On Saturday, November 10 between 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM, we'll be doing four "Chemistry and Art" activities in the lower lobby of Fort Discovery. We have two recent graduates in Chemistry from ASU and a current student helping out but we can use more. The activities are simple, aimed mainly at elementary and middle school students. Come out, give us a hand, help kids and adults get to know more about chemistry and have some fun.

Also during the week of November 5 through 9, Beverly Lipscomb and her

team from Air Products will be at Fort Discovery doing "Slime" activities for the visiting school children. There will be a daily 50-minute interactive TV show going out to schools around Georgia via satellite. The show's themes include "Kitchen Cabinet Science," "Colors of Chemistry" and the "Science of Forensics." Hosted by volunteers from Fort Discovery, they tie in well with National Chemistry Week.

-Bill Trammell

TAG NEWS

It has been a very good year for our Technician Affiliate Group (TAG). My number one goal for 2001 was for the TAG to meet on a regular basis. Attending a professional meeting is something new to most of our members. Even so, I am happy to report that we averaged at least 70% attendance at our meetings. We can all be proud of that! Several of our members are planning to volunteer for National Chemistry Week at an ACS display at a local Wal-Mart on November 10th. I am glad to see some of our members take their personal time to promote chemistry to children. Remember - part of our mission is to promote the career of laboratory technician as a career choice. Your volunteer effort will do just that.

We attended programming on the Chemistry of Wine with the ACS in September. In October, Linda Wright of Toastmasters spoke to our TAG on presentation skills. Our program in November will be Technicians and National ACS Meetings. I will make a presentation to the group based on my trip to ACS in Chicago. We will explore the meetings and find out just what it takes to make a trip to a national meeting happen. This meeting will be held on November 15th.

Last, but certainly not least, I am happy to report on our new officers for the year 2002. We have a great slate of officers to lead our organization forward. I am excited to see just where they will take us! They are:

Chair: Bert Carter
 Chair-Elect: Tony Curtis
 Secretary: Vicki Dukes
 Treasurer: Kim Prettel
 Past Chair: Jeannine Mills

I thank everyone in the Local ACS Section and in our TAG for the support they have given me as TAG Chair. We have done a lot in a short period of time. I hope that each of you will renew your membership for 2002, and encourage your coworkers to join us. Please, above all, let us all show our support for our new officers as they lead us into 2002. Remember, **TECHNICIANS MAKE IT HAPPEN!!**

-Jeannine Mills

COUNCILOR'S REPORT - CHICAGO ACS MEETING

The Chicago ACS National Meeting was another successful event for the Society with an attendance of 15,290, 6,089 papers presented, and 543 exposition booths representing 328 exhibiting companies. Next year's National Meetings are scheduled for April 7-11 in Orlando, FL and August 18-22 in Boston, MA.

By now you have all received ballots for the ACS President and Region IV Director races. I would like to encourage all of you to review the candidates' statements and cast your ballots for these two offices. This is the single most significant way you can influence the direction and programs of the Society, your Society.

President-Elect Eli Pearce indicated in his address to the Council that he intends to support diversity issues during the 2002 National Meetings. This focus will coincide with the 75th Anniversary of the Women Chemists Committee and anniversaries of the National Organization of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers and the Chinese-American Chemists Society.

There was a great deal of discussion surrounded a special appropriation recently approved by the Board of Directors. The \$300,000 was requested by President Atilla Pavlath to act as 'stop gap' funding to alleviate existing financial problems for

Local Sections and Divisions. Half of the money will be distributed in CY01 and the remaining half in CY02. A task force recommendation for distribution of the funds was made to the Board of Directors in Chicago, but appears to have been replaced with a plan for the eligible Local Sections to apply for the funding through a proposal process overseen by the Local Section Activities Committee (LSAC) and Office of Local Section Activities. The Savannah River Section has submitted a couple proposals for funding, though one was after the stated deadline, and we are awaiting a decision. The task force reports (majority and minority positions) appear on the ACS web site at <http://membership.acs.org/p/ptf/> for those of you interested in learning more about this issue.

A petition to increase the size of the Society Committees was presented to the Council for 'Urgent Action' and I was a signatory on the petition. The request for urgent action was withdrawn, which means a vote on the petition will be postponed until the Orlando meeting. The two Society Committees, ComSci (Committee on Science) and SocEd (Society Committee on Education) 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 have increased membership to be-

tween 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.

The National Employment Clearinghouse in Chicago had 1392 posted jobs, 169 employers, and 1105 candidates and conducted 4001 interviews. The number of candidates was up from 897, but the number of employers was down from the 208 seen in San Diego, though the number of posted positions in Chicago were much higher than 819 seen during the Spring meeting.

The date for National Chemistry week has been changed from the first week in November to the fourth week in October starting in 2002. The change was made to eliminate conflicts with election activities.

The Committee on Professional Training presented an issue to the Council that has become a concern of theirs. They have noticed a significant digital divide between Ph.D. granting and BS/MS granting institutions and their respective abilities to upgrade their library holdings to include electronic journals and SciFinder access for students. I will report more on this issue when and if it becomes available.

-Chris Bannochie

QUILL AND FLASK



This newsletter is my last one as Editor of *The CSRA Chemist*. I have enjoyed my three years at the helm, but it is time to step aside and let in some new blood to give the Section a fresh perspective.

I thank everyone who has contributed articles over these few years; the job of the editor is even more difficult if he must create the text for the articles! In no particular order, and with apologies to anyone I have missed, my thanks go out to: Tom Crute, Stephanie Myers, Brian Anderson, Tom White, Jeannine Mills, Roy Beck, Rob Lascola, Monty Fetterolf, Steve Serkiz, Joyce Morningstar and Bill Trammell. I want to extend a special thank you to Chris Bannochie, the previous editor, for the wonderful format he created and that I have largely kept intact.

If I may toot the horn of everyone involved in the newsletter: Our former Chair Brian Anderson, now in the Memphis, TN section by virtue of a career move, told me at the EAS

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Date	Event	Venue	Location
January 22	Career Workshop	ASU - New Science Bldg.	Augusta
January 31	Chemical Jeopardy	USCA - Etherredge Center	Aiken
February 7	SRS Technology Day	Civic Center	Augusta
February 19	Career Workshop	ASU - New Science Bldg.	Augusta
February 20	McIntyre "Mac" Louthan "Metallurgy, Chemistry and Corrosion Fatigue"	Snug Tavern	Augusta
March 15	Fisher Expo (w/ TAG)	Hampton Inn	Aiken
March 19	Career Workshop	ASU - New Science Bldg.	Augusta
April 21	Boy Scout Roundup	Riverwalk	Augusta
April 28	Girl Scout Roundup	Aiken Fair Ground	Aiken
May 22	Augusta-Richmond County Water Treatment Filter Plant Tour		Augusta
September 14	J. Ernest Simpson "Chemistry of Wine"	North Augusta Comm. Ctr.	N. Augusta
Sept. 15-16	Arts in the Heart	Rieverwalk	Augusta
October 13	SEED	USC-Aiken	Aiken
October 22	CSRA College Night	Riverfront Marriott	Augusta
Nov. 4-10	National Chemistry Week	Various	CSRA
Nov. 16	James F. O'Brien, Awards "Chemistry of Sherlock Holmes"	USCA - Etherredge Center	Aiken

Meeting this fall that he didn't realize how good our newsletter was, until he saw the one produced in Memphis, a much larger section than ours.

-Lewis Baylor

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