



# *The CSRA Chemist*

SAVANNAH RIVER SECTION  
OF THE  
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

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# The CSRA Chemist

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Mailing Address: Savannah River Section - American Chemical Society, c/o Lewis C. Baylor, Equitech Int'l Corp., 1359 Silver Bluff Rd., Ste. G6, Aiken, SC 29803. All newsletter articles should be sent to this address. All subscriptions, ads, and payments should be sent c/o Brian Anderson.

Advertisers: Brian Anderson is the Advertising Manager. 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](mailto:service@acs.org).

# ACS-SR J A N U A R Y E V E N T

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## CHEMICAL JEOPARDY

- Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2001
- Location: Etherredge Center, USC-Aiken Campus, Aiken, SC
- Schedule: 6:30 p.m. Social, 7:00 p.m. Dinner, 8:00 p.m. Program
- Speaker: The Chemistry Quizmaster
- Cost: \$14.00 for members and guests, \$8.00 for students; no cost for attending the program only.
- Menu: Dinner, dessert and coffee. Details available after Jan. 15  
Contact Sara Diamond or Rob Lascola (803) 725-2380.

Reservations: Contact Sara Diamond at (803) 725-2605. Leave a message on voice mail if necessary, indicating the names of those attending and whether you will be having dinner or just attending the program. Please sign up early!! The deadline is 4 pm, Friday, January 26.

Program: The format will follow the TV show, with 4 teams of 4 players each. Come see professionals and students match wits and show off their chemical knowledge!

Directions: From N. Augusta/Augusta, take the Aiken-Augusta Highway (US 1) to the traffic light at the old K-Mart building just outside of Aiken. Turn left onto University Parkway, go past the hospital on the right and you will come to the USCA campus on the left. Turn into one of the two main entrances and proceed to the back of the campus. The Etherredge Center is located at the back of the campus between the science building and the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center.



# CHAIR'S THOUGHTS

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Ah, New Year's resolutions... Make them in January, break them in February, and get over the guilt in March. I sure hope the exercise equipment we've just bought for our home doesn't start accumulating dust quite that fast. Of course, New Year's resolutions would be a lot easier to keep if they were reminders for really fun things. We wouldn't even need the new year as a catalyst to get started.

If you're looking for a fun and easy resolution, I think I've come up with a good one that everybody in the Savannah River Section will want to keep. If you haven't been to one of our events in a while – if you're wondering what your Local Section dues are going for – make it a point to attend a Local Section event this year! Take a look at our schedule, which you can find on the inside back cover of this newsletter. You'll find four speakers with interesting topics. You'll find community outreach programs geared for all age levels. You'll find a career development workshop that's not limited to graduating seniors. And if you're interested in more hands-on activity, there are a number of committee chairs who would welcome your participation – just look down the list and give one a call.

Maybe you're wondering – why the sales pitch? Well, I haven't been part of the Savannah River Section for

very long, but for the time I've been here I've noticed mostly the same faces at the events I've attended. And while I've met a fun group of people, I wonder how many more chemists there are in the CSRA who could be getting more out of their Section. If you think you might not know what you're missing, give us a try! And if you think there's nothing to miss, then let us know what you'd like to see. Call me or any of the committee chairs – we're always looking for ways to improve the Section.

One more thing... In 2001, ACS is celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Be on the lookout for national and local celebrations of the history of American chemistry and its role in the growth of our country. There's even a spiffy new logo! (If you're Web-enabled, you can find out more by surfing over to <http://www.acs.org/125anniversary>.) It's going to be a fun year!

- Rob Lascola

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## LOCAL SECTION DUES

Don't forget your Local Section dues when you pay your ACS National membership! Your dues contribution is a vital part of our Local Section's income. Last year it accounted for nearly 25% of the Section's income.

- Lewis Baylor

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## TAG NEWS

The Savannah River Section Technician Affiliate Group (TAG) has a current membership of 22. The officers for 2001 are:

Chair Jeannine Mills

Chair-Elect Vacant

Secretary Vicki Dukes

Treasurer Tony Curtis

Publicity Chair Bertha Carter

Member At Large Cathy Coffey

Member At Large Whildon Moyer

Anyone interested in the chair-elect position should notify Jeannine Mills at 725-2701.

The January meeting of TAG will be held on January 18 at Damon's in Augusta, GA. The guest speakers will be Gary Dobos and Curt Sexton. They are glassblowers at the Savannah River Site. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm.

The guest speaker for the February TAG meeting will be Dr. Keenan Garvin. Dr. Garvin is a forensic pathologist. This meeting will be held on February 15 at 7:00 pm at Eejay's in Aiken, SC.

Fisher Scientific will hold a "mini-expo" for the TAG on March 15. This will be held at the Hampton Inn in Aiken, SC. There will be an emphasis on lab ergonomics. Fisher will also

feature some of the latest equipment for the laboratory.

A tour is in the forecast for the April meeting.

-Jeannine Mills

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## DO YOU HAVE JOB SECURITY?

*And what are you going to do about it?*

Perhaps you have heard that today's business environment no longer offers job security for employees. Taken in the traditional sense, this is true. While employees from previous generations could begin and complete a whole career with a single company, corporate loyalty is usually not reciprocated by the employer anymore. When constantly facing the threat of downsizing, is there job security anymore?

The answer is a resounding YES! Your job security is not a guarantee of keeping your current job, but rather your ability to find a new job. Thus an employee in even the most volatile of circumstances has job security given the ability to find another job.

So how is your job security? Are you keeping up with the latest trends in your field? Are you knowledgeable in allied fields? Is your resume up to date? Do you take advantage of

*Continued on page 6.*

Continued from page 5.

opportunities to network?

The ACS offers many resources to help you improve your job security. The ChemCenter web site ([www.acs.org](http://www.acs.org)) and click on *Build Your Career*) and ACS Career Services Department are available at the national level. ACS conferences (national and regional) offer short courses, mock interviews, and networking opportunities. At the local level we are also trying to help. Printed career management resources are available to you as well as consultations with ACS members who have career assistance training. You can network at local meetings (as well as have a generally nice evening).

Starting in January, the Career Assistance Committee will host once per month meetings to help you polish your "job security" skills. The first meeting will be held on **Monday, January 22 at 7:00 PM** in the Conference Room of the New Science Building of Augusta State University. The topic will be "Career Directions-Where Should You Take Yours?" and hors d'oeuvres will be served. In the meantime, feel free to contact me at 706-667-4517.

- Tom Crute, Chair

Career Assistance Committee

## NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK HIGHLIGHTS

The student affiliate ACS chapter at Augusta State University helped bring National Chemistry Week to a close at Fort Discovery Saturday, November 11, in rousing style. All day long, visitors to the museum were entertained by informative demonstrations of chemistry in our everyday lives.

We had "Super Soakers," the chemistry involved in disposable diapers. As the median age of our nation moves higher, the adults saw the application of this in Depends as a long-term benefit to them also. The "Can Ripper" brought out the macho in young boys as they and their younger, female siblings attempted to tear aluminum cans in half. However, the latter had a little "chemical" help in the form of cans with interiors exposed to copper chloride, weakening the metal. Oxygen was made safely using yeast and peroxide and its chemical "magic" displayed. A series of "fruit batteries" were constructed, using different metals as electrodes. Acids and bases were identified using the markings from radishes rubbed on cards. We even had a few demonstrations of science borrowed from Lee Marek's "Weird Science" presentations on the "David Letterman Show," such as the "Soft Drink Geyser" and what happens when a thin veil of fine steel wool is exposed to a 9 V battery.

We had lots of handouts for the visitors with material obtained from the national ACS office in Washington. The Savannah River Section had an attractive table out front with the ACS banner, the Mayor's proclamation of National Chemistry Week and two very fine display boards of the Periodic Table and pictures of the Section involved in public activities over the years.

Up in the Power Station, three separate shows were performed. Along with the visitors, much of the staff on duty at Fort Discovery came to see these, since this is an area of science they don't get exposed to every weekend. Using this as a "warm up" or "dress rehearsal" for their show at Augusta State, the faculty and students did interesting variations of acid / base indicators and luminol cold light, as well as the "Genie in the Bottle" hydrogen peroxide reaction. Audience participation was encouraged, with all wearing proper eye protection. The volunteers were cautioned that these safety glasses made them "chemists for life" but none of them backed away from the challenge.

- Bill Trammell, Event Coordinator



## 2000 BUDGET SUMMARY

Our Section ended this year under budget by twelve hundred dollars. Following is a summary of the budget and financial activities for 2000. The two categories where we did over spend were the newsletter and meeting expenses. In the coming year, this will be addressed by increasing the newsletter budget and holding down the cost of speaker meetings. This spending was cushioned and compensated for mainly in two ways; our income was higher than expected and many of the other categories were under spent. Our investments were flat this year although our Utility fund performed better than our high-tech Jennison fund. The amount of cash in our money market fund continues to rise because of a decent interest rate (about 5%) and under spending the budget. All in all a financially bug-free Y2K year.

*See tables on pages 8-9.*

## BUDGET FOR 2000

<b>Income</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Difference</b>
ACS allotment	5,051.00	4,744.00	307.00
Local dues	1637.06	1,500.00	137.06
Interest	358.26	200.00	158.26
Meetings (See Meeting Expenses)			
<i>Totals</i>	7046.32	6444.00	602.32
<b>Expenses</b>			
Awards	213.48	250.00	36.52
Chem. Olympiad	356.52	500.00	143.48
Invested	300.00	300.00	0.00
Meeting Expenses:			
Outflow	3,492.84		
Inflow	<u>(1,786.00)*</u>		
Total	1706.84	1,600.00	-106.84
Miscellaneous	238.81	300.00	61.19
Nat. Chem. Week	402.13	600.00	197.87
Newsletter	1407.75	1,200.00	-207.75
Public Relations	445.51	600.00	154.49
Scholarships	250.00	250.00	0.00
Service Charge	125.00	125.00	0.00
TAG:			
Dues	(136.00)		
Supplies	132.21		
Total	-3.79		3.79
Travel	125.00	500.00	375.00
<i>Total</i>	5567.25	6,225.00	657.75

<b>Investments</b>	<b>12/31/99</b>	<b>11/30/00</b>
Prudential Utility Fund CL B	1636.32	2,087.53
Prudential Structured Maturity Fund	2851.31	Sold 4/12/00
Prud. Jennison Growth Fund		2,056.25
Prud. Short Term Corp. Bond Fund		270.07
<i>Total</i>	4487.63	4,413.85
Gain Since 12/31/99		-73.78

<b>Money Market Funds</b>	<b>12/31/99</b>	<b>11/30/00</b>
	4,136.00	6,174.00

Investment and Money Market data through 11/30/00. December statement not available at press time.

- Tom White

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## ELECTION RESULTS

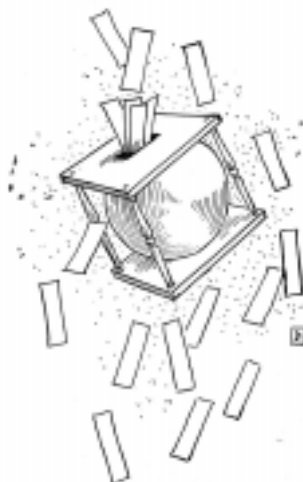
The results of the election of officers are in, with nary a chad in sight.

Chair	Dr. Rob Lascola
Chair-elect	Dr. Steve Serkiz
Secretary	Ms. Linda Baker
Treasurer	Dr. Tom White

- Roy Beck and Lewis Baylor

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GET *THE CSRA CHEMIST*  
ME BY E-MAIL!



## QUILL AND FLASK



Well, this is the first edition of The CSRA Chemist in the new millennium and as you can see, there have been a few changes. On the cover is a special logo celebrating the 125th anniversary of the founding of the American Chemical Society. The articles are also indexed by page on the front cover and the pages inside are numbered. The main meeting announcement has been moved to page three so that it can easily be found. I've also acquired access to a mind-boggling number of graphics to add variety to that aspect of the newsletter. Finally, gone is the "Editor's Choice" column, replaced by the "Quill and Flask". Incidentally, I use neither a quill to write this column, nor do I use any flasks at work - so it seemed like a good name.

- Lewis Baylor

## NEW LOCAL SECTION IN THE WORKS

If all goes well, the Savannah River Section will be getting a new neighbor. A Middle Georgia Section has been proposed to ACS National and if approved, it will encompass the counties surrounding Macon. We currently have seven counties in our Section: Columbia, Richmond, and Burke in Georgia and Aiken, Barnwell, Edgefield, and McCormick in South Carolina. Our Section's Executive Committee has proposed adding the counties of Screven, Jenkins, and Emmanuel to our territory, while sending a letter of support to the Middle Georgia Section organizers. While there are currently no ACS members in these three counties, there may be at some time in the future, and the Executive Committee as well as the Middle Georgia organizers feel they would be best served by our Section.

- Lewis Baylor



# 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 "TBA"	TBA	TBA
March 15	Fisher Expo (w/ TAG)	Hampton Inn	Aiken
March 19	Career Workshop	ASU - New Science Bldg.	Augusta
April 16	Career Workshop	ASU - New Science Bldg.	Augusta
April 28	Girl Scout Roundup	Aiken Fair Ground	Aiken
May	Plant Tour	TBA	TBA
Sept. 10-14	J. Ernest Simpson "Chemistry of Wine"	TBA	TBA
September 11	CSRA College Night	Civic Center	Augusta
Sept. 14-16	Arts in the Heart	Riverwalk	Augusta
October 13	SEED	USC-Aiken	Aiken
Nov. 4-10	National Chemistry Week	Various	CSRA
Nov. 12-16	James F. O'Brien, Awards "Absinthe: A Chemical and Artistic History"	TBA	TBA

American Chemical Society  
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