

theCHEMICALbulletin

<http://chicagoacs.org>

DECEMBER • 2007

CHICAGO SECTION AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

Joint Meeting with Chicago Chemists' Club and Iota Sigma Pi

Holiday Party Meeting

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2007

Holiday Inn Willowbrook
7800 Kingery Highway (Route 83)
Willowbrook, IL
630-325-6400

DIRECTIONS TO THE MEETING

Take Interstate 55 (Stevenson Expressway) south to IL-83 (Kingery Rd) exit. Keep right at the fork in the ramp and merge into IL-83 north. Proceed to the Holiday Inn. It is on the east side of Route 83, just 0.5 block north of Interstate 55.

PARKING: Free

This is the Chicago Section ACS/Chicago Chemists' Club/Iota Sigma Pi Annual Holiday party/meeting.

Come join in the celebration with all your fellow chemists and friends. **In addition to our technical program, Santa will be bringing gifts! ENJOY!**

We are asking you to also bring a gift!!! Please bring some canned food or other non-perishable food item (in non-glass containers), clothing, or toy that we, as the ACS, can donate to charities for needy people in the Chicagoland area. See article on page 4.

Let's share our good fortune in the spirit of the season. THANK YOU!!

JOB CLUB 5:30 - 6:30 P.M.

SOCIAL HOUR 6:00 - 7:00 P.M.
Cash Bar
Complementary Hors D'oeuvres

DINNER 7:00 P.M.
Dinner reservations are required and should be received in the Section Office via **phone** (847-647-8405), **fax**

(847-647-8364), **email** (chicagoacs@ameritech.net) or **website** (<http://chicagoacs.org>) by noon on Tuesday, December 4.

The cost is \$35 to Section members who have paid their local section dues, members' families, and visiting ACS members. The cost to members who have NOT paid their local section dues and to non-Section members is \$37. The cost to students and unemployed members is \$18. Seating will be available for those who wish to attend the meeting without dinner. **PLEASE HONOR YOUR RESERVATIONS.** The Section must pay for all dinner orders. **No-shows will be billed.**

Holiday Menu: Fresh Fruit Cup, Tomato Florentine Soup, Tossed garden salad with choice of dressing; Entrée choices: Vegetarian rolled Verdi Ricotta, Baked Salmon with cucumber/dill sauce, or Filet Mignon with mushroom cap and Béarnaise sauce on the side; Baked potato and Prince Albert blend of wax beans, green beans and carrots; Breads and butter; Apple Cobbler; Beverage

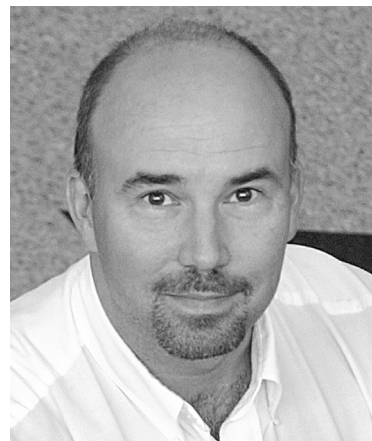
CHANGING OF THE GAVEL 8:10 P.M.
Outgoing Chair Ken Fivizzani will turn over the gavel to the incoming 2008 Chair, Dave Crumrine.

NOTICE TO ILLINOIS TEACHERS

The Chicago Section ACS is an ISBE provider for professional development units for Illinois teachers. Teachers who register for this month's meeting will have the opportunity to earn up to 3 CPDU's.

GENERAL MEETING 8:15P.M.

After-Dinner Speaker



Dr. Peter J. Ludovice, School of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA

Topic: "Labcoats and Other Fashion Statements"

Abstract: In a 2001 lecture to the National Society of Professional Engineers, Dr. Joseph Bordogna, Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer of the National Science Foundation said "Humor can help breach barriers to the connections necessary to embrace the frontier to our purpose." Since most of us have no idea what this means, this presentation will remind us how humor can keep us from ending our lives by our own hands during a really boring lecture. The application of humor in education will be discussed during a stand-up comedy routine that explores the lighter side of the chemical sciences.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

Biography: Pete Ludovice is an Associate Professor of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia. After completing his B.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois and M.I.T. respectively, he did post-doctoral work at IBM, NASA and the ETH-Zurich. He then managed the polymer products group at MSI and vowed never to work for an acronym again.

Professor by day and stand-up comedian by night, Pete has performed in front of both technical and comedy club audiences and is out to prove that those of us in the chemical sciences can be funny and not just funny-looking. His research is in the field of molecular simulation of synthetic and biological polymers which requires regular humor to keep from putting people to sleep. Pete also uses humor in education to engage students and help them communicate technical ideas better. He is host of "Inside the Black Box", a Saturday morning radio show on Radio Sandy Springs in the Atlanta area, with the motto "Science, only funnier".

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CHICAGO SECTION'S ELECTION RESULTS

The ACS Chicago Section's Tellers Committee met on Friday, October 19 to count the ballots for the 2008 election. There were 443 ballots received as of noon on that day. Of these, 433 ballots were counted and ten ballots were invalid. The results are as follows:

Chair-Elect: Amber Arzadon

Vice-Chair: Herb Golinkin

Secretary: Mark Kaiser

Treasurer: Stan Seelig

Directors: Cherlyn Bradley
Keith Kosteka
Fran Kravitz
Margaret Levenberg
Milt Levenberg
Laura Li
Barbara Moriarty
Sharon Northup

Councilors: Cherlyn Bradley
Russ Johnson
Barbara Moriarty

Alternate
Councilors: Amber Arzadon
Frank Jarzembowski
Margaret Levenberg
Paul Young

Officers, directors, councilors, and alternate councilors take office January 2008.

Thanks to all the candidates for participating and congratulations to the winners!

MARGARET SCHOTT, CHAIR
TELLERS COMMITTEE, 2007

THE NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY 2007

This year's chemistry laureate is Gerhard Ertl, Professor Emeritus at Fritz-Haber-Institut der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, Berlin, Germany, who has succeeded in providing a detailed description of how chemical reactions take place on surfaces and has in this way laid the foundation of modern surface chemistry. He is awarded the prize for showing how reliable results can be obtained in this area of research.

More information about this year's prizes, including a scientific background article in English, is to be found at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences' website, www.kva.se and at <http://nobelprize.org>.

HOLIDAY PARTY

Get those fingers ready to make reservations for the annual Chicago Section's ACS holiday party on Friday, December 7. Gifts for the raffle will be numbered randomly and placed on tables in the dining room. Each attendee will draw a number when they register that evening for the meeting. Please attach that number to your name badge.

Gifts will be handed out by volunteers throughout the evening by calling up groups of individuals having a series of numbers. Larger gifts such as dinner certificates or gift certificates will be announced separately throughout dinner. Meeting attendees are asked to claim their gift only during the time their numbers have been announced. Those individuals who forget to claim their gift will have another opportunity to claim them at the end of the evening. Individuals must present their number in order to pick up their gift.

Door prizes of wine will only be handed out to those 21 or older. A substitute prize will be handed out to students under the age of 21. As always, please do not open your wine at the table.

RICHARD CORNELL
HOSPITALITY CHAIR

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"CHEM SHORTS" For Kids

The Elementary Education Committee of the Chicago Section ACS presents this column. They hope that it will reach young children and help increase their science literacy. Please cut it out and pass it on to your children, grandchildren, or elementary school teachers. It is hoped that teachers will incorporate some of the projects in this column into their lesson plans.

Mustard Mystery

Kids, is there really silver in that silver coin? Even though our dimes, quarters, half dollars, and "silver" dollars are silver in appearance, those minted after 1971 actually have no silver in them. Silver was completely removed from dimes and quarters in 1965 and replaced with an outer layer of copper-nickel alloy bonded to an inner core of pure copper. The half dollar and "silver dollar" followed suit in 1971. Believe it or not, our "copper" pennies nowadays are mostly zinc and our "silver" coins are mostly copper!

Dimes and quarters minted before 1965 were composed of an alloy of 90% silver and 10% copper, and they are considered somewhat valuable by collectors. You can easily test for the presence of silver with a simple experiment. Using a plastic knife, apply a generous portion of mustard (yes, the yellow stuff you put on your hotdog) to both pre-1965 and post-1965 dimes and quarters. Let them sit overnight on a paper towel. The next day, rub off the mustard. A black spot will remain on the true silver coin but not on a non-silver coin.

What's happening? Mustard contains natural sulfur compounds. Sulfur is an element that is very common in our day-to-day world. Sulfur reacts with the silver to form a black powder (a "precipitate") of silver sulfide. The chemical formula for silver sulfide is Ag_2S . One of the challenges for this experiment will be in hunting down the pre-1965 coins – good luck and happy hunting!

Here is an interesting tidbit. Eggs also contain a lot of sulfur. If you eat eggs with a silver plated fork you will find that your fork has black tarnish on it when you are finished. You made a new chemical while eating your breakfast!

Check out the ChemShorts October 2000 article on "The Science of Money" for other interesting trivia about coins and paper money (<http://membership.acs.org/C/Chicago/ChmShort/CS00.html>).

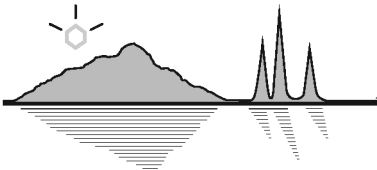
References: Brian Rohrig, "The captivating chemistry of coins", *ChemMatters*, ACS publication, April 2007, page 14 and On-line Museum Educators at <http://www.fi.edu/pieces/knox/mus-tardtrick.htm>

Edited by K. A. Carrado, Argonne National Laboratory

All past "ChemShorts": <http://membership.acs.org/C/Chicago/ChmShort/kiindex.html>.


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WCC COLUMN - AUTHORS NEEDED

Members of the Chicago Section's Women Chemists Committee (WCC) outreach plans for the Chicago-area section members and the community include a column in *The Chemical Bulletin* covering topics such as networking, career development, and vignettes of women in chemistry.

Please consider writing an article about a woman, who is living or dead, by interview or research on the web, or write an article on a topic of interest to women. Both women and men are welcome to join WCC in this activity.

Please make the article around 500 words long and include a photo if possible. Many of the previous articles have been shown as posters at various ACS Chicago Section and National ACS functions with great success.

We have had contributions for 75% of *The Chemical Bulletin* issues in four years. Anne Sherren is the most prolific contributor. Thank you to everyone who has participated in this WCC effort.

MARGY LEVENBERG
SUSAN SHIH
WCC CO-CHAIRS

ATTENTION: CHEMISTS INTERESTED IN BECOMING CHEMISTRY TEACHERS

Have you ever considered becoming a chemistry teacher but did not know how to financially make it happen?

The Hach Scientific Foundation, a private foundation out of Fort Collins, Colorado dedicated solely to chemistry education, would like to help any chemist fulfill their dreams of giving back to society and their science by becoming a teacher!

For folks with chemistry degrees and chemistry work experience become enrolled in any teachers' certification/Master's in education program across the country are welcome to apply for the Second Career Chemistry Teacher Scholarship. The scholarship is \$6,000 for full-time students and \$3,000 for part-time students and is annually renewable through graduation.

Applications for the scholarship are available on the Hach Scientific Foundation website: www.hachscientificfoundation.org by clicking the "Second Career Chemistry Teachers" page. **Applications are due January 31, 2008.** Anyone with questions about this scholarship should contact Bryce Hach at bryce-hach@hachscientificfoundation.org.

AN EVENING WITH CHEMIST AND RENAISSANCE MAN, ROALD HOFFMANN

Roald Hoffmann, a professor at Cornell University and winner of the 1981 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, spoke at the Chicago ACS September meeting at Loyola University in front of a sold out crowd of several hundred. The lecture was titled "More About Mme. Lavoisier than M. Lavoisier" and told the story of the discovery of oxygen, highlighting the role of Madame Lavoisier. Professor Hoffmann started his lecture with a portrait of the Lavoisiers by the neoclassical painter, David. The painting is life-sized with Madame Lavoisier in the center, standing tall, leaning in to the seated Monsieur Lavoisier. Madame Lavoisier is looking at us, the audience, while Monsieur Lavoisier is looking at Madame.

The background is set for the story, a story of art, history, politics, intrigue, love, a bit of seduction and of course, most of all, chemistry and the discovery of oxygen. The key players are Scheele, Priestly, Lavoisier and Madame Lavoisier. In his talk, Hoffmann compared and contrasted the scientific equipment of the three chemists: Scheele's was primitive, Priestly's more advanced, and the Lavoisiers' more modern. Although Scheele and Priestly had primitive equipment, they were able to produce oxygen from the decomposition of oxides and also describe its properties. Lavoisier, meanwhile, was attempting these very same experiments, only to discover that both his competitors had beaten him.

The critical point of the talk was the letter from Scheele to Lavoisier where he stakes his claim to the discovery of oxygen, boldly gives the details of his experiments, and taunts Lavoisier to try to reproduce the Monsieur Hoffmann points out one mistake that scientists in those days made by revealing the secrets of their discoveries before they were published. The letter from Scheele was lost for over 100 years. The irony of the story is that the two discoverers, Scheele and Priestly, had the incorrect explanation for their observations. They supported the phlogiston theory. When we think of modern theories of chemistry, the phlogiston theory is hard to understand. Scientists who believed this theory thought that fire itself was an element and that the loss of fire created the gas we now know as oxygen.

The lecture was informative; however, I would have liked to hear more about the phlogiston theory and the letter from Scheele to Lavoisier. One aspect of the talk, contrary to the title, was that a

large portion of the time was spent setting up the story. The lecture left one longing to hear more about Madame Lavoisier and her life after Monsieur Lavoisier died. The end of the lecture left the audience still puzzled: Was Madame Lavoisier a chemist? The answer came in two parts: 1) no, she was not a chemist or 2) she was not allowed to be. Hoffmann is on to something. In his lecture, he mentioned that Madame Lavoisier might be the predecessor to Madame Curie, who showed up, also in France, 100 years later. When he brings to light the contribution of Madame Lavoisier, her scientific drawings and running her husband's chemistry experiments while he was at work, he points out the role of women in the early discoveries in chemistry. What if Monsieur Lavoisier did not have the help of his wife? He might not have published his research or it would have been without illustrations. Madame Lavoisier parallels the many women in our time that are not recognized as much as their work merits. Perhaps the question should be rephrased, "Can only chemists make important contributions to chemistry?"

WANDA K. HARTMANN
FREELANCE SCIENCE WRITER

CONGRATULATIONS, ZAFRA LERMAN!

We are pleased to announce that **Dr. Zafra Lerman** was the recipient of the 2007 George Brown "U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation Award for International Science and Technology Collaboration" on October 11, 2007. Zafra is Distinguished Professor of Science and Public Policy and Head of the Institute for Science Education and Science Communication at Columbia College Chicago. She has been actively involved for a number of years in activities contributing to science and public service.

FOOD, CLOTHING AND TOY DRIVE

We will be collecting nonperishable food items (no glass items) for charity at the December Holiday Party again. The food is donated to the local Loaves and Fishes Community Pantry for distribution. Loaves & Fishes Community Pantry is a community-based, non-profit organization established to provide food and personal care essentials to residents in need.

This year we would like to again increase our generosity to another good cause. Ada S. McKinley Community Services, Inc. is a social agency in Chicago and Oak Park serving individuals with disabilities or other limiting conditions that need help in finding and pursuing paths leading to healthy, productive and fulfilling lives. They need our help in two programs: a collection of adult and children clothing and a collection of new children's toys.

The collection of adult men and women's clothing is for their clients to use for job interviews. The collection of children's clothing is for their emergency foster care program serving children who have been removed from their homes because of neglect or abuse or because the foster home placement was disrupted. Most of these children will be coming from their homes after being taken from their family; often with nothing but the clothes they are wearing. They are requesting boys' and girls' clothing for the age range from infant to 17 years old.

The second project is a collection of children's toys for toddlers to 12 years old.

Please open your heart to both of these programs and bring a nonperishable food item and a piece of gently used or new clothing or a new toy to the holiday party.

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The following courses will be offered in our
2008 Spring Semester (January 7 – May 9)

- Chem 112 **General Chemistry II** [5 c.h.]
Lec M W F 1:00-1:50pm
Or M W F 3:00-3:50pm
Lab T 9:30am-12:20pm & M 2:00-2:50pm
Or T 1:00-3:50pm & W 2:00-2:50pm
Or M 4:30-8:20pm
- Chem 252 **Organic Chemistry II** [3 c.h. lec/2 c.h. lab]
Lec M W 1:00-2:50pm
Lab TH 9:30am-1:20pm
- Chem 305 **Advanced Inorganic Chemistry** [3 c.h. lec]
Lec M 4:00-5:50pm & W 5:00-5:50pm
- Chem 332 **Physical Chemistry II** [4 c.h.]
Lec W 6:00-9:00pm
Lab M 6:00-9:00pm
- Chem 350 **Sp. Top: Microscopy** [1-3 c.h.]
Seminar Series T 7-9pm starting Feb 5-April 8
Held at McCrone's facility in Westmont
- The following courses are **Allied Health Science oriented**
- Chem 107 **Principles of Inorganic Chemistry** [4 c.h.]
Lec MWF 1:00-1:50pm
Lab W 2:00-3:50pm
Or F 2:00-3:50pm
- Chem 108 **Principles of Organic & Biochemistry** [4 c.h.]
Day Lec M W 1:00-2:50pm
Day Lab T 9:00-10:50am or T 12:00-1:50pm
Eve Lec/Lab M W 6:00-8:50pm
- Phys 202 **General Physics II** [4 c.h.]
Lec M W F 9:00-9:50am
Lab TH 3:00-5:50pm
- Phys 212 **University Physics II** [5 c.h.]
Lec M W F 9:00-9:50am & TH 2:00-2:50pm
Lab TH 3:00-5:50pm

For additional information about the courses, contact:
Dr. Frances Crean at 773-298-3517 or forean@sxu.edu
Updated schedule: <https://claws.sxu.edu> and click
"Prospective Students" to Search for Sections

THANKS FROM THE CHAIR

Our holiday party and dinner meeting will be on Friday, December 7. The speaker will be Professor Peter Ludovice of the Georgia Institute of Technology. Professor Ludovice uses his chemical engineering background as a resource for his humorous presentations of "nerd comedy." If you have never thought there was anything funny about chemistry, plan to attend this meeting.

My term as section chair ends this month. 2007 was an interesting, challenging, and busy year that was at times inspiring, exhausting, and fun. When I was elected chair-elect, Margy Levenberg told me "Don't worry. You will have lots of help with all the activities." That was an understatement. I have often remarked that anyone who assumes that the section chair is "in charge" has probably never served as section chair. It is also incorrect to think the chair is responsible for so many wonderful activities. Your section's Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, and other section volunteers have worked hard to provide a program of activities that should make us proud to be in the Chicago Section. Our dinner meetings are our main events during the year. Keith Kostecka arranged for most of our speakers; his selection was a good mix of technical and general interest topics. Frank Jarzembowski made sure we had a nice facility and a good meal to share with one another. I enjoyed every speaker, but I think the section's highlights would include our Gibbs Medalist, Sylvia Ceyer, in May and Roald Hoffmann in September (we still have three great meetings to go as this is written). Thanks to Margy Levenberg for all of the Gibbs arrangements. The Chicago National Meeting called on the services of many section members. Richard Cornell probably made the most friends at our Hospitality Booth. We did an outstanding job as the Host Local Section!

The ACS Booth at the Illinois State Fair is a great outreach to both adults and students; thanks to Fran Kravitz and Cheryl Bradley for organizing this program. Chemistry Day requires careful planning for the logistics and the program; Dave Crumrine and Susan Shih have led this effort. DuPage Area Engineers Week reaches suburban students; thanks to Barb Moriarty and Susan Shih. Ami LeFevre chaired a team that organizes outreach activities for our high school students, including the Annual Chemistry Exam and Scholarship Awards and Education Night.

Finally, I must thank those who con-

tribute all throughout the year, making our regular activities and processes run smoothly. Much of this is not glamorous or high visibility work, but these people are crucial to the ongoing success of the section. Amber Arzadon has not only kept accurate minutes of our board meetings; she often keeps track of where we are within the agenda. Cheryl Bradley keeps us on deadline for each issue of *The Chemical Bulletin*. I am very proud of our monthly newsletter. Fran Kravitz keeps us thinking about our budget limitations and guides our planning process. Our Comptroller, Herb Golinkin, and our Trustees, Tom Kucera, Sharon Northup, and Milt Levenberg oversee our investments and financial accountability. Milt Levenberg makes our website interesting, lively, accurate, and up-to-date. Gail Wilkening, our office manager, has been a tremendous resource to me and to all of our section members. I cannot imagine that any chair (maybe one of the Levenbergs) has had such extensive mentoring as Barb Moriarty has given to me. Space limitation does not allow me to name everyone who has contributed to section programs and events, but I appreciate all of your work on the section's behalf. I also want to thank those individuals whose contributions I do not even know about.

As the year progressed and I realized how many of you contribute to the ACS Chicago Section, one of my personal goals was to say "thank you" to as many of you as I could. Your contributions are essential, and your participation is what makes the experience so enjoyable. We are always trying to improve our programs and meet the needs of our section members as we become aware of them. But you should be proud of what all of you have accomplished during the past year. Observing your hard work and faithful participation in section programs, I feel as if I have been receiving my holiday blessings throughout the year. Thank you so very much. My wishes for you and your families are a wonderful holiday season and a healthy and happy new year.

KEN FIVIZZANI

FREE T-SHIRTS

The Hospitality Committee raffles one T-shirt at each monthly dinner meeting. The shirt has **CHICAgO** spelled out using the periodic table. So come to a monthly meeting and maybe you'll win one!

JOIN THE BAND...AND INCREASE LAB SAFETY AWARENESS!

Looking for a way to encourage your friends to put safety first?

Check out new eye-catching bracelets from the ACS Committee on Chemical Safety. The safety bracelets are uniquely designed in white and orange colors displaying the ACS logo, the message to "Think Safety", and the web site for gathering further information on ACS safety resources. With 10 in a pack, these bracelets will be ideal for your students, colleagues, family and friends and a great way to promote safety around the lab, office, school and at home.

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30% off - 500 (50 packs) or more

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JOB CLUB

The next meeting of the Chicago Section ACS Job Club will be held on **Friday, December 7 at 5:30 p.m. at Holiday Inn Willowbrook.** The meeting will include a review and discussion of some of the tools that a chemist can use to conduct a job search.

The Job Club provides a continuing opportunity for unemployed members of the Section to meet with one another, share their experiences and develop a network that may help in identifying employment opportunities. Bring plenty of resumes and business cards to distribute to your colleagues. Be prepared to talk about the kind of job you are seeking.

Several participants have received outsource help with resume preparation and marketing strategies to present their best attributes to prospective employers. The group has critiqued some individual resumes and made suggestions for improvements in a positive way!

The Job Club is also for employers seeking chemists. Employers need to be prepared to describe the positions to be filled and requirements for these positions.

Should you wish to attend the Section's dinner meeting following the Job Club, the cost is \$18 and you can continue your networking activities. Please call the Section office for reservations and indicate that you are eligible for a discount.

Also, the Chicago Section's website has a link to the Job Club's yahoo job forum group. If you can't attend the Job Club, you can still find out about job openings and other information.

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CHICAGO CHEMISTS' CLUB

Club History

The Chicago Chemists' Club was chartered December 30, 1919 as a social organization to promote good fellowship and camaraderie among Chicago-area chemists. Through the years, the Club roster has included many prominent members of the chemical profession.

Social Events

The social calendar of the Chemists' Club includes ten dinner meetings per year where spouses and/or guests are welcome to attend. Meetings are usually on the second Wednesday of the month at various restaurants in the Chicago area featuring a variety of cuisines. We present timely, stimulating speakers in fields such as science, politics, medicine, etc., and folk-singers, artisans and world travelers. In the spring, the Club has a dinner-theater party. Each year, jointly with the ACS Chicago Section's Education Meeting, we present the Bernard Schaar Memorial Award to the first-place winner of the ACS high-school chemistry examination. The Club is also a co-sponsor of the ACS Chicago Section's annual Holiday Party in December.

Membership Benefits

Membership dues are \$25 per year. As a non-profit organization, the Club returns a portion of these dues to its members in the form of dinner price reductions.

Joining the Club

Membership is open to chemists, chemical engineers and allied scientists. Contact Judy Reuter at (847) 679-2444.

SAFETY IN ACADEMIC CHEMISTRY LABORATORIES, VOLUME 1, AVAILABLE IN SPANISH.

The ACS Committee on Chemical Safety (CCS) announces that Volume 1 of its flagship publication, *Safety in Academic Chemistry Laboratories* is available in Spanish. *Seguridad en los Laboratorios Químicos Académicos*, 7ma Edición, Volumen 1, is currently available in electronic Acrobat PDF format at: http://membership.acs.org/ccs/pubs/SACL_Spanish.htm

KEN FIVIZZANI
ENVIRONMENTAL & LABORATORY
SAFETY COMMITTEE

Iota Sigma Pi

Iota Sigma Pi is a national honor society for women in chemistry. Its major objectives are:

- to promote interest in chemistry among women students
- to foster mutual advancement in academic, business, and social life
- to stimulate personal accomplishment in chemical fields

It was founded in 1902 and was organized on a nation-wide basis in 1916. Over 10,000 members have been initiated into this organization. More than 40 local chapters have been established in various colleges, universities, and metropolitan areas. The Aulum Iodide chapter in Chicago was established in 1939.

Iota Sigma Pi serves to promote the advancement of women in chemistry by granting recognition to women who have demonstrated superior scholastic achievement and high professional competence by election into the honor society.

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**NEXT ISSUE is
for
January 24
Joint Meeting
with AIChE**

REACH - New European Chemicals Legislation

The new European Chemicals legislation, known as the "REACH" regulation, was adopted in December 2006 by the European Council and Parliament. "REACH," which stands for Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals, entered into force on June 1, 2007.

The REACH regulation's application will imply a registration by the concerned industrial firms of about 30,000 chemical substances under the European Chemicals Agency, over a period of 11 years. It will allow a thorough evaluation of substances believed to be potentially dangerous, and provide an authorization system for the use of highly suspected chemicals. The authorization system will require companies to switch progressively to safer alternatives, where a suitable solution exists.

The major principle of REACH is to give greater responsibility to industrial firms within the framework of chemical risk management because the onus will move from public authorities to industrial firms. In fact, industrial firms (whether manufacturers or importers) and not public authorities, will have greater liability to provide necessary information and take efficient measures in terms of chemical risk management.

If you would like further information on this topic, contact Meritas Global. Meritas Global is a global alliance of over 150 legal experts that deliver localized legal service on environmental work. Their address is 800 Washington Avenue North, Suite 300, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401; Phone: 612-339-8680; Email: meritas@meritas.org.

Section Speakers' Bureau

The Section is trying to rejuvenate its Speakers' Bureau. We have had some individuals volunteer to speak at schools, service organizations etc and a few requests for speakers or demonstrators. We are in need of someone willing to take responsibility for compiling a list of volunteer speakers and topics and for getting this information out to area schools, libraries and service organizations. One person has volunteered to help organize this but cannot take on the project without assistance. If you can possibly fit this task into your busy schedule, please call or e-mail the Section office. If you cannot do this but are interested in speaking, please also let us know.

SUSAN SHIH, CO-CHAIR
LONG RANGE PLANNING

MIDDLE EAST SCIENTISTS FIND COMMON GROUND AT MALTA III CONFERENCE

Scientists from Israel and 13 other Middle Eastern countries will search for solutions to common environmental issues that defy geopolitical barriers when they join together in December for the third in a series of precedent-setting Malta Conferences.

The five-day conference will take place in Istanbul, Turkey, on a date that is embargoed for security reasons. Titled "Frontiers of Chemical Sciences III: A Bridge to Peace in the Middle East," it is expected to attract over 76 chemical scientists along with seven Nobel laureates. In a series of workshops intended to foster collaborative solutions, participants will address such global environmental issues as greenhouse gases, global climate changes and water and air quality.

Nations represented include: Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar. New participants include Iraq and Libya.

"Despite the political differences of our nations, we are bound by our allegiance to science as holding the answers to many of the problems that transcend borders," says Zafra M. Lerman, head of the Institute for Science Education and Science Communication at Columbia College Chicago, who conceived and organizes the symposium. "The conference continues to grow in stature as a model of what our community can achieve when we work together."

The first two conferences were held in Malta in 2003 and 2005. Initiatives springing from recommendations made at them include:

- A collaborative research project on water quality led by Palestinian scientists from the University of Bethlehem, Israeli scientists from Bar Ilan University and the Weizmann Institute of Science.
- Exchanges between visiting Israeli and Palestinian professors through the Weizmann Institute of Science and Palestinian institutions, as well as new admissions of Israeli-Arab students at Weizmann.
- A \$134,000 grant presented by the National Science Foundation to Nobel laureate Roald Hoffman to form a U.S.–Middle Eastern workshop for scientists under 35.

Malta III is sponsored by: The American Chemical Society, the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, Royal Society of Chemistry, the German Chemical Society, UNESCO and

Columbia College Chicago.

For media inquiries, contact David Donze at Hodge Schindler Integrated Communications: ddonze@hodgechandler.com or (312) 666-6662. Other inquiries should be directed to Jeffrey Wade at Columbia College Chicago: jwade@colum.edu or (312) 344-7544.

CHICAGO ACS WELCOMES FRASER STODDARD TO CHICAGO

Fraser Stoddard is joining the Northwestern University faculty effective January 1, 2008. He is the Fred Kavli Chair of Nanosystems Sciences professor at UCLA and, until August 31, 2007, was Director of the California Nanosystems Institute. Fraser is an accomplished researcher in synthetic organic chemistry and has been focused in part on the consequences of Moore's Law whereby computer components are becoming smaller and smaller and where by extrapolation one can expect they will be single molecules. Indeed, Fraser was a principal speaker at a National American Chemical Society Meeting four years ago as part of a Symposium we organized The Chemistry of Computers.

The Chicago Section, together with the Chemistry Division of the Illinois Institute of Technology, has arranged for Fraser to give the IIT Kilpatrick Lecture on his vision for the future regarding where new synthesis of organic molecule techniques are likely to bring us in the realm of molecular electronics. **The event is scheduled to take place on Friday evening, February 22, 2008, at the McCormick Tribune Campus Center at IIT.** His lecture will follow the traditional Section banquet at IIT as part of this regular monthly Section activity.

Further information about Fraser may be found at Stoddard@chem.ucla.edu or via Google. Details about the event can be found at ChicagoACS.org or at www.iit.edu.

PETER LYKOS
IIT

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For more information,
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JULIE JESSOP AT CHICAGO SAS, OCTOBER 9, 2007

Professor Julie Jessop studies light activated polymerization reactions like the one that occurs when your tooth filling hardens with UV light at the dentist office. Dr. Jessop, a professor at the University of Iowa, spoke October 9 at the meeting of the Chicago Society for Applied Spectroscopy (SAS) in Arlington Heights on her research on "Investigation of Inhibition Effects in Acrylate/Epoxy Hybrid Systems Using Raman Spectroscopy."

The term hybrid refers to two types of reactions occurring in the same polymer matrix, cationic and free radical reactions. Her group studies the influence of oxygen and water during polymer formation, the presence of which is detrimental to polymerization. Using confocal microscopy and Raman spectroscopy at wavelengths away from fluorescence (785 nm), she examines chemical reactions at different depths of the polymer layers and unravels the processes going on. Interestingly, in the dark no free radical polymerization occurs, however the cationic reaction keeps going. One of many end goals of Jessop's current research is to determine why high moisture makes it more difficult for hybrid polymerization to occur, a process that is more complex to understand than oxygen inhibited polymerization.

WANDA K. HARTMANN
FREELANCE SCIENCE WRITER

DEADLINES FOR CHEMICAL BULLETIN

Please submit all *Chemical Bulletin* copy to the editor before the deadlines listed below for each issue. Articles can be emailed to the editor, Cherlyn Bradley, cbrad1027@aol.com.

Since we like the Bulletin to be as timely as possible, we need the lead time indicated. You can help by early planning and submission of your information or articles.

2008 Issue	Deadline
February	December 28
March	January 25
April	February 22
May	March 21
June	April 25
September	July 4
October	August 29
November	September 26
December	October 10

IIT HONOR'S TRAILBLAZING ALUMNUS

By Monique Garcia - Tribune staff reporter

In the half-century after his death, much of Charles Warner Pierce's legacy slipped away, forgotten even by family. But October 5, 2007, after a long and unusual scholarly project, dozens of Pierce's descendants gathered at the Illinois Institute of Technology to celebrate the life of a man who was the school's first chemical engineering graduate in 1901, the first black man in the nation to earn such a degree, and, ultimately, a beloved teacher in Chicago public high schools.

"He's a man with his footprints across history," said Courtney Leigh Bisel, a spokeswoman with the school's department of chemical and biological engineering, who helped research Pierce's life.

Rev. Leon Scott, a great-nephew of Pierce and pastor of Berean Baptist Church on Chicago's South Side, said the researchers reclaimed the memory of a man who not only broke society's barriers, but also enjoyed teaching his siblings' children and grandchildren how to fix broken gadgets or take apart a radio. Scott, who graduated from IIT with a degree in electrical engineering in 1961, said he is honored to accept the award on his great-uncle's behalf. "I can only imagine what my uncle went through," said Scott, who was 17 when Pierce died. "I admire him for the hurdles that he overcame, many only he can tell about. It's something that young African-Americans need to heed today."

IIT's quest for its own history led researchers to Pierce and his remarkable story. More than six years ago, in preparation for the chemical engineering program's centennial celebration, officials set out to find its first graduate. They were surprised to find that it was a black man. In 1901, doors of higher education institutions were practically closed to African-Americans.

Researchers pored over thousands of records, fascinated that Pierce went on to become a highly respected teacher at the nation's first historically black colleges, and later a science teacher in Chicago high schools. He served in World War I and gained a reputation for refusing to let his students skate by -- even the star athletes.

Charles Warner Pierce was born in La Grange, GA, in 1876. He and his twin brother, Cornelius, were the youngest of 14 children. Shortly after their birth, the family moved to Texas, where the brothers later toured the state as musicians.

At a fair, the teenage brothers met two

women who ran a school for girls in Chicago, sisters Anise and Albertine Butts. The sisters persuaded the young men to move to Chicago, where educational opportunities were better. At 17, the boys packed their bags and headed north. "In a way, they were the pioneers of Chicago's first wave of black migration," Bisel said.

Once in Chicago, they worked for the Butts sisters at the Kenwood Institute for Girls. In 1896, Pierce applied to what was then known as the Armour Institute of Technology -- an unusual school opened just a few years earlier with the goal of training students of all races and classes in the practical sciences.

Since Pierce had never graduated from high school, he first was admitted to the Armour's preparatory program. He completed that program in a year, and was accepted as a full student in September 1897. He took calculus, carpentry, mechanical drawing, theoretical mechanics and quantitative analysis. He participated in the Glee Club, the mandolin club, the orchestra and the Technical Society. Although by all accounts he was popular, his struggles in the pre-civil rights era were hinted at in the school's yearbook. "Mislike me not for my complexion," Pierce was quoted as saying. His complexion kept him from landing a job in industry upon graduation, so he went into teaching.

He joined the faculty at what is now Tuskegee University, where his colleagues included Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver. In 1907, he moved to Greensboro, N.C., where he eventually became head of the mechanical engineering department at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

As Chicago's reputation as a place of opportunity grew in the African-American community, Pierce returned to the city in 1910. He worked as an electrical contractor, ran a small radio shop and was heavily involved with the YMCA. He became a physics teacher at Phillips High School in 1921, later transferring to the new DuSable High School, where he taught physics and science until he retired in 1941.

In "Bridges of Memory: Chicago's First Wave of Black Migration," Chicago author Timuel Black and a former student of Pierce remembered that coaches at Phillips would advise athletes not to take his classes because Pierce refused to "fix" grades for stars.

Pierce, who was married and had one daughter, died of heart disease in 1947.

"He's an inspiration," Bisel said. "You look at what we complain about and how our lives are today, and then you look at what he accomplished and it's

like, 'Wow.'"

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-pierceoct05,0,1539550.story>

2008 SCIENCE HISTORY TOUR TO EUROPE - FRANCE

Here is the first information available about our proposed trip for the summer of 2008. It will begin in France probably on Wednesday June 18 and end about July 2. Our itinerary will take us to the south of France, including the wine-growing areas of the Languedoc and to some of the interesting areas in the west. One or more of the chateaux of the Loire will be on our route and we will spend a few days in Paris, where there are so many science-related places to see.

During the tour, the story of Gay-Lussac and other scientists, the history of medicine, the historical importance of salt and its role in the development of towns (and in changing the course of French politics), the archeology of the wonderful Roman sites at Nimes and Pont du Gard and probably the mathematics of the construction of Mont St Michel will be investigated. It goes without saying that we will also study wine production in a very practical way. There will as usual be both 3 hrs of inexpensive college credit for those interested and CPDUs for teachers.

The tour cost will include hotel accommodation with private bathrooms, admissions to museums, lecture fees, and taxes along with land transportation. Breakfasts and at least (on average) one other meal per day and usually wine with dinners are also included. The cost of the 2008 tour is not yet calculated, but with the present rate of exchange for the US Dollar against the Euro we do not expect it to be less than \$3,600 per person double occupancy. TRANSATLANTIC AIRFARE IS NOT INCLUDED. But please note - we ALWAYS get high marks for value for money in our tour evaluations!

Many of our participants receive some or all of the tour cost from their schools or colleges, or from their districts. Please apply to them early! Also, some have been able to take a tax deduction for part or all of the cost - check with your tax advisor.

Our last trip to France was fully subscribed, so do let us know early if you are considering joining the group for next year's tour - we are expecting it to be a sell-out. E-mail Lee Marek at Lmarek@aol.com or Yvonne Twomey at ytwomey@mindspring.com to ask to be put on the list of persons interested in next summer's trip.

DECEMBER HISTORICAL EVENTS IN CHEMISTRY

December 3, 1900

Richard Kuhn, who was a researcher on the structures and syntheses of vitamins and carotenoids, was born. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1938 for his work on carotenoids and vitamins. He refused the Prize in 1938 due to Nazi rules but received the diploma and the medal in 1949.

December 5, 1901

Seventy-five years ago, Werner Heisenberg received the Nobel Prize in Physics for the creation of quantum mechanics. He was a researcher in quantum mechanics and developed the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle in 1927. He was born on this date.

December 6, 1778

Joseph L. Gay-Lussac, who discovered law of expansion of gases with heat in 1802 and, in 1809, the law of combining volumes of gases, was born. He isolated boron and was a researcher on fermentation, prussic acid, and composition of water.

December 8, 1845

Thomas E. Thorpe, a researcher on atomic weights, was born. He had also studied the viscosity of liquids and did chemical analyses.

December 9, 1748

Claude L. Berthollet, who analyzed ammonia and discovered the bleaching action of chlorine and the composition of prussic acid, was born. He also showed that acids do not need to contain oxygen.

December 11, 1925

Paul Greengard, who shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine in 2000 with Arne Carlsson and Kric Kandel for discoveries concerning signal transduction in the nervous system, was born.

December 13, 1939

Perkin-Elmer Corp. was incorporated on this date.

December 15, 1852

Antoine H. Becquerel, who discovered radiation (Becquerel rays) from uranium salts in 1896, was born. In 1903, he shared the Nobel Prize in Chemistry with the Curies in recognition of the extraordinary services he has rendered by his discovery of spontaneous radioactivity.

December 17, 1778

Two hundred years ago on this date, Sir Humphry Davy was born. In 1807, he discovered potassium, sodium in 1807, barium in 1808, and strontium in 1808. He invented the Davy mine safety lamp.

December 20, 1890

Jaroslav Heyrovsky, who invented polarographic method of analysis, was born. In 1959, he received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his discovery and development of the polarographic methods of analysis.

December 23, 1912

Anna J. Harrison, the first woman president of the ACS in 1978, was born. She also served as president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1983-84.

December 25, 1642

Sir Isaac Newton, an alchemist as well as a mathematician and physicist, was born. He discovered the laws of gravity and nature of light.

December 28, 1932

Seventy-five years ago Kary B. Mullis, inventor of the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) method for duplicating DNA, was born. In 1993, he shared the Nobel Prize in Chemistry with Michael Smith for his invention of the PCR method.

LEOPOLD MAY

The Catholic University of America
Washington, DC

Additional historical events can be found at Dr. May's website, www.faculty.cua.edu/may/history.htm.

The mission of the Chicago Section of the ACS is to encourage the advancement of chemical sciences and their practitioners.

BLACK SCIENTISTS ORGANIZATION PLANS ITS 2008 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE), announces that it will hold its 35th annual national conference March 16 - 21, 2008, in Philadelphia, PA.

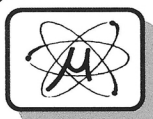
The conference, "NOBCChE: 35 Years of Catalyzing Scientific Opportunities," will serve to foster connections between minority scientists in academia, government, and industry. It will be held at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown Hotel.

The conference will offer technical sessions, exhibitions, professional development workshops, and networking opportunities. Proposals from speakers and abstracts are being accepted online at www.nobcche.org.

The conference supports the mission of NOBCChE to prepare young people to excel academically and to pursue careers in science and technology. As such, the conference will host the 20th Annual Science Bowl and Science Fair competitions for middle and high school students, as well as an undergraduate research competition.

NOBCChE on-line registration opened September 10, 2007, at www.nobcche.org. For more information, contact Sandra Parker at (989) 638-7951 or nobccheconf@aol.com.

Founded in 1972, the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE - pronounced No-be-shay) (www.nobcche.org) is a professional society of minority scientists and engineers. It is committed to the discovery, transmittal, and application of knowledge in science and engineering through educational partnerships with school districts, municipalities, businesses, industries, other institutions and organizations in the public and private sectors.



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EVERYDAY CHEMISTRY

Did you know that one of the inventors of instant mashed potatoes is a chemist?

Through his research with potatoes at the University of Idaho, Dr. William Davis, a graduate of Talladega College, AL, found a way to combine isolated arabinogalactans with potato flakes to form the beginnings of instant mashed potatoes. These same isolated arabinogalactans have been used as natural sweeteners and their binding qualities are what make non-dairy whipped toppings and soft-serve ice cream possible. At the age of 80, Dr. Davis currently serves as the chairman of the Department of Natural Sciences at St. Philip's College in San Antonio, Texas.

Read more about Dr. William Davis in the Spring 2007 issue of *Here We Have Idaho*, the University of Idaho magazine at <http://www.uidaho.edu/herewehaveidaho/> and also in the November-December 2007 issue of *In Chemistry* magazine.

DVD AVAILABLE

A DVD entitled "Local Sections Connecting Chemistry and the Community" is available for loan by calling the section office at (847) 647-8405.

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You can get help improving your resume through the Career Consultants. These are volunteers trained by the American Chemical Society to assist its members with writing resumes, contacting prospective employers, and provid-

ing tips on interviews.

There are several Career Consultants in the Chicago Section who are willing to meet with you and help improve your resume. **Simply call the Section office at 847-647-8405 and set up an appointment. Fifteen to thirty-minute sessions will be arranged at our monthly meetings.** Should you require more time arrangements can be made with your consultant to continue discussions by telephone, by e-mail or by additional face-to-face sessions. **You also can attend the Section's Job Club where you can network with other people having similar concerns.**

We are here to help. All you need to do is pick up the telephone and bring copies of your resume to the next monthly meeting.

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CALENDAR

December 7: Chicago Section's Holiday Party and dinner meeting at the Willowbrook Holiday Inn. Peter Ludovice, Georgia Tech, is the after-dinner speaker. **See details in this issue.**

January 24, 2008: Chicago Section's joint dinner meeting with AIChE. This is a Thursday meeting.

January 26-30, 2008: LabAutomation2008, a conference focused exclusively on the rapidly growing field of laboratory automation, will be at the Palm Springs Convention Center, Palm Springs, CA. For information, go to **labautomation.org/LA08**.

February 22, 2008: Chicago Section's joint dinner meeting with IIT.

March 2-9, 2008: PittCon Conference and Expo, New Orleans, LA.

March 27, 2008: Chicago Section's Public Affairs Meeting. Bob Massie, CAS president, is the after-dinner speaker. This is a Thursday meeting.

April 6-10, 2008: The 235th ACS National Meeting & Exposition, New Orleans, LA.

April 17, 2008: Chicago Section's joint dinner meeting with the Joliet Section. This is a Thursday meeting.

May 16, 2008: Chicago Section's Gibbs Award Banquet.

June 20, 2008: Chicago Section's luncheon meeting.

September 19, 2008: Chicago Section's Education Night jointly with Loyola University.

October 24, 2008: Basolo Medalist Lecture at Northwestern University and dinner at Zhivago's.

November 19, 2008: Stieglitz Lecture jointly with University of Chicago.

December 5, 2008: Chicago Section's Holiday Party jointly with the Chemists' Club and Iota Sigma Pi.

*Have a Happy
and Safe
Holiday Season*

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