INTERVIEW WITH ACS EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR MADELEINE JACOBS. PART 2

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December 2004
FIFTY YEARS AGO IN THE SOUTHWEST RETORT

The winner of the 1954 ACS Southwest Regional Award is Boyd Professor Philip West of LSU. West was born in Crookstone, MN, in 1913. He received B.S. and M.S. degrees in chemistry from the University of North Dakota and a Ph.D. in microchemistry from the University of Iowa. He worked for the North Dakota Geological Survey, the University of Iowa, the Iowa State Department of Health, and the Economics Laboratory in St. Paul, MN before joining LSU in 1940. West was promoted to Professor in 1950 and became Boyd Professor in 1953. His research activities have centered on spot test methods of analysis and application of coordination chemistry and organic reagents to inorganic analyses. He is author or coauthor of over eighty scientific papers and three books.

The Southeastern Texas ACS Section is sponsoring a Symposium on Hydrocarbon Chemistry at the Rice Hotel in Houston Jan. 27-28. Speakers will be: D. B. Stevenson, Shell Development Co.; J. D. Roberts, Cal Tech; Guy Waddington, U.S. Bureau of Mines; G. B. Kistia-kowsky, Harvard; Michael Szwarc, State University of New York College of Forestry; W. E. Doering, Yale; E. W. R. Steacie, NRC of Canada; and W. A. Noyes, Jr., University of Rochester.

The Chemistry Department at UT-Austin initiated its first Open House Oct. 27 under sponsorship of Phi Lambda Upsilon. Fifty-four members, by 20 professors, and staffed by about 100 graduate students, were opened to the general public and undergraduate students. Professor Matthew Van Winkle of the Chemical Engineering Department was given a $10,000 NSF grant for investigating surface tension and viscosity of homogeneous liquid mixtures at their boiling points.

Dr. Virgil Tweedie is the faculty advisor for the Baylor Student Affiliate ACS Chapter. Approximately 35 new members have been nominated for membership in the affiliate this quarter. At the Oct. 14th meeting of the student affiliate chapter, Dr. William Boyd Cook gave a talk on physiologically active compounds causing color hallucinations. Two carloads of Baylor chemistry faculty and students made the trip to Texas A&M for the Oct. 14 ACS local section meeting to hear LSU’s Paul Delahay lecture.

University of Arkansas President John T. Caldwell addressed an open meeting of Sigma Xi on the topic “Education in Pakistan.” Dr. Richard T. Arnold of the University of Minnesota spoke at the first meeting of the U of A ACS section for this academic year on the topic “Cyclic Transition States in Organic Chemistry.” Dr. Edward Amis attended the Southeast Regional ACS meeting in Birmingham, where he participated in a symposium on organic reaction mechanisms. Mr. and Mrs. Norman Foster are the proud parents of a baby girl, Karen
Phi Lambda Upsilon. Fifty-four research active laboratories supervised by Ruth. Karen has two older sisters.
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Editorial and Business Offices:
Editor: E. Thomas Strom, 1134 Medalist Dr., Dallas, TX 75232, 214-376-9602; FAX 817-272-3808; tomstrom@juno.com.
Managing Editor: Mary Teasdale, PO Box 461051, Garland, TX 75046; 903-468-8138; FAX 903-886-5723; owlcritic75@yahoo.com
Business Manager: Ken Ashley, Chemistry Dept., Texas A&M-Commerce, Commerce, Texas, 75429; 903-886-5384; FAX 903-468-6020; ashleyk@tamu-commerce.edu
Associate Editor: Bob Landolt, Chemistry Dept., Texas Wesleyan University, Ft. Worth, TX 76105; 817-460-6931 (voice &fax); landoltr@txwes.edu
Associate Editor: Ken Ashley, Chemistry Dept., Texas A&M-Commerce, Commerce, Texas, 75429; 903-886-5384; FAX 903-468-6020; ashleyk@tamu-commerce.edu

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Page 2 Southwest Retort
An Interview With ACS Executive Director Madeleine Jacobs. Part 2

Interviewer: E. Thomas Strom

Editor’s Foreword. Here is the rest of my very interesting interview with Madeleine Jacobs Sept. 30 at SWRM in Fort Worth. Madeleine is the fifth Executive Director of the ACS and the first woman in that slot. The previous directors were Frederick Wall (1969-72), Robert Cairns (1972-77), Raymond Mariella (1978-82) and John Crum (1983-2003). Before that, the title of the chief ACS executive officer was Executive Secretary or General Secretary. There were five of them altogether, the first in 1893!

My previous question dealt with the challenges and opportunities for ACS in the next four-to-six years. In the course of answering this question, Madeleine stated that many chemists “don’t automatically think of ACS as their professional home. Many professional societies are facing this. What is the value we bring to our potential members? I think this is the fundamental challenge.” Madeleine then continued—

Jacobs: The opportunity is wonderful, though, because we do have a wide variety of services and products. We do offer in our journals a multidisciplinary feast. The journals division has been very nimble to introduce new journals to capture new areas. We are launching a new journal, Chemical Biology, in late 2005 or early 2006, but we do have to get those young people to see us as one of their professional homes. We also have to try to appeal to other chemists who have left us to go to other societies. We need to figure out whether we need to do some alignments or partnerships with those other societies or to try to get them somehow back into our fold. Some people might say, “Why do you want to do that?” I think it’s important that we try to stay relevant. Chemistry has changed dramatically, and we have to change, too. We have to keep our core membership happy and satisfied, but we also have to reach
out to these chemists, and they are chemists who may be working in a physics or materials science department to see us as their professional home. We have to find out what it is they want. We have a member needs survey out right now that will be finished at the end of October. We have used a randomly selected sample of our membership. It’s the first time we have done anything this comprehensive. That will tell us about our current membership, but it doesn’t tell us anything about the people who haven’t joined us. We will be doing some research there as well. I think this is one of the fundamental challenges.

Some people have asked, “Is this because of size?” No, it’s because of relevance. I don’t care if we are smaller as long as we are representing the profession, because that’s in our charter to advance the profession of chemistry for the public good. If we don’t have the chemists who are working at all these interfaces as part of who we are, then we are really not professionally representing the field of chemistry. Our size enables us to have clout and credibility on Capital Hill as we advocate for funding for science research, and as we advocate for policies that are going to help protect jobs in this country.

That’s an enormous challenge, and that’s number one. The second challenge is on our publications and publishing side. Let’s look at journals first. There is enormous competition in the marketplace for journals.

We are doing very well. Everyone of our journals have impact factors of one or two. However, there is a lot of activity right now with the open access movement insisting that all back articles be free. There are journals now where all of the articles are free online. The Public Library of Science Biology, for example, the Harold Varmus publication. Their model is that they charge the author. Long ago most publishers said that we should charge the user, not the author. Charging the author is not my idea of open access. To me, that is inhibiting the free flow of information.

On the Chemical Abstracts side, there’s one word that describes the issues there, and that word is “free.” You have Google and Yahoo and other search engines that return fairly reasonable searches because they are able to search the meta data, the table of contents of other journals. They don’t have the value added that Chemical Abstracts has; they don’t have the databases we have; they don’t have the patent databases we have, but these search engines are a definite challenge for Chemical Abstracts. Both the publications division and Chemical Abstracts have been successful financially and in terms of advancing the science. SciFinder has revolutionized the way research is done. Our journals are outstanding. We have seen a 20% increase in manuscripts this year.

ETS: Does the existence of SciFinder mean that there are no longer
bound editions of *Chemical Abstracts* available?

**Jacobs:** They still do some print editions, but their revenues are in the vicinity of 90% electronic. Both of these organizations return a net contribution to the Society. They make it possible for us to fund a lot more than 14 million dollars worth of activities for our members, but they need to reinvest in their technology and in their operations. That means that the Society needs to find other sources of revenue, so our third challenge is to raise those other sources of revenue to take the pressure off of our businesses so that we can invest properly in the future. My answer to this is twofold. I have one person on my staff who is called a new business development director. He is looking at opportunities that already exist within the Society that should be made self-sustaining but that aren’t now and at new business opportunities that are relevant to our core. I don’t know what they are yet, because he’s still doing an inventory of everything that we have. The other thing is fund raising. The Board of Directors at the Philadelphia meeting approved an expanded development office. We raise over a million dollars right now with very little staff. That money is raised primarily for Project Seed, ACS scholars, and National Chemistry Week. We had a task force look at the case for ACS and make recommendations to the Board. The case for ACS is the future of our profession. We believe that there are a lot of chemists who would want to give back to the profession by supporting scholarships -- Project Seed scholarships, ACS scholars, and perhaps other fellowships that we have. If we were to raise two to eight million dollars a year and build some endowments, we would be able to take some of the financial pressure off *Chemical Abstracts* and publications. That would be important.

**ETS:** Doesn’t it seem inconsistent to have a billion dollars in assets and still have to come up with a few million extra a year?

**Jacobs:** No, it isn’t because those billion dollars in assets are not ours to spend. Five hundred million dollars is in a restricted fund, the Petroleum Research Fund. Three hundred fifty million dollars is in a pension fund, which you’re not supposed to touch. Also, any company needs to have rainy day reserves. That is typically one and a half to two and one half times your operating budget. I see no inconsistency at all, because you just can’t spend down those reserves. We also depend on investment income from those reserves to fund programs. Right now we have to spend members’ dues on some of these programs, and I think it would be a lot better if we could raise the money. We have a good story to tell in these fellowships. For example, Project Seed is a 35-year-old program, and we know where almost everyone who participated in that program is today. We can tell you if they continued on in chemistry and what they did. The ACS Scholars program will be ten years old in 2005. We know where
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all of those scholars are, and that program has worked. It was intended to change the face of Ph.D. chemists. We know that eight people from that program have already gotten their Ph.D.’s, and that is remarkable when you think of the number of minorities that get Ph.D.’s in chemistry. That is in less than ten years, and that is a college program.

ETS: Clearly, many more women are now going into chemistry, and there has been some increase in minorities. Coupled with what seems to be a lack of, for want of a better term, white males going into chemistry. Do you have any ideas about that?

Jacobs: It’s very hard to say. I don’t have concrete data on that. I do know that the proportion of women has grown. There’s a lot of competition in other fields. Perhaps people find medicine or law or business more appealing. I think one of our challenges is attracting the best and brightest into chemistry and into science in general, whether they are white males or black males for that matter. I think we have a big problem because, look around at the rest of the world, they are producing in China and India chemists by the thousands and thousands. India alone has an enormous middle class, larger than the population of our country. The output of China in Ph.D.’s in what they call the natural sciences has grown 1400 percent in the last ten years. Now that comes from a small base, but, if you keep having that kind of growth, you can see where this is going. Chinese scientists, many of whom were educated in the United States, have gone back to China. The Chinese government is pouring billions of dollars into the university laboratories there. Chemists who have recently returned from tours of universities in Beijing, organic chemists, have just been astonished at what is going on there. Pretty soon those graduate students won’t come to the U.S., especially with our visa policy the way it is. There’s a lot of competition out there. If the U.S. wants to remain competitive, it has to do something about both funding science and technology and about this abysmal visa situation. That is something that the ACS needs to play a role in, and we have. We are part of an alliance of scientific societies that has been talking to Congress as well as the State Department, and we see some small signs of success. Our members may not be aware that we are working very closely with the State Department on training materials for state department people in the consulates in various countries so that they can interview scientists a little more efficiently.

ETS: Visas for graduate students or for whom?

Jacobs: Graduate students and visiting scientists. Not for people with jobs. I am not going to get into whether we should bring foreign scientists into this country to work permanently. I’m concerned about
the visiting scientist who can’t come to scientific meetings or can’t come for a two or three month fellowship and about graduate students, who come from other countries bringing a great amount of talent and diversity. A lot of them have stayed in this country and brought a wonderful talent. A lot of the strength of our economy has come from these people who have come and stayed. The United States has always been a country of immigrants. Yes, some of them have gone back, but those who do have been ambassadors for the U.S. way of life. In the world we’re living in now, it’s ridiculous to cut off that flow of talent.

I heard a story from the President of the German Chemical Society in May. He got his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin many years ago. He still has a social security card because he lived in the U.S. for ten years. When he wanted to come to a scientific meeting in the United States, he had to show the U.S. consulate in Berlin six months of bank records to show that he wasn’t putting money into terrorist organizations. This is the President of the German Chemical Society! You can imagine if you’re not the President of the German Chemical Society what you’re going through to get a visa. This has got to change; this is very, very bad for the U.S.

ETS: In view of the increase of Ph.D.’s in India and China, it occurs to me that this might cause outsourcing to flow there because the low pay scales would give a favorable economic position. Do you have any comments on that?

Jacobs: I just read an interesting article in today’s New York Times about the myths of outsourcing. Yes, some jobs have gone overseas, but there was a very interesting Op-Ed piece. This historian at one of the Midwestern universities says it just isn’t true when you look at the overall loss of jobs in the U.S. Let me just say a couple of things about outsourcing. Some U.S. companies are building R&D facilities, not just manufacturing plants, in places like Bangalore and Singapore. This is inevitable in the sense that these companies are global companies, but it isn’t clear that this will mean a major loss of jobs in the U.S. Some U.S. people may go to work in those countries. There may be job losses or there may not be, but it is inevitable that companies in this global economy will go where the markets are and where talent pools exist, not necessarily because it’s cheaper but because there is more to choose from. I don’t think we can fight that. What we have to do is have good relationships with the industries and governments of China, India, and South Korea, not just with Eastern and Western Europe. I think the ACS has a role to play in that. People have asked me, “What are you going to do about protecting U.S. R&D jobs in chemistry?” I think there are several areas. I was asked this at a member forum in Philadelphia. I said, “That’s a good question. I have to think about it.” I have been thinking about it. Certainly, there is advocacy on
Capital Hill about policies that will encourage U.S. industries to do research in the United State. These are basically tax policies. I think the ACS can advocate that—I’m not using the word “lobby” but “advocate” and educate congressman and their staff about why we should be doing that. I think that we can continue to give our members the continuing education and life-long learning skills to enable them to have overseas assignments. I think our career services do help people through transitions, but we have to look at that to see if they are the right services in a global economy. Then we can give our members more tools in their tool kit to adjust. If they do lose their jobs, then we have to have the right kind of services to help them retool and get other jobs. So, there are things ACS can do. We may not be able to stem the loss of jobs, but we certainly can help influence the policies. We also have to have closer relationships with scientists in other countries, and we are in the process of doing this with India and China.

ETS: Is there anything that you wished I had asked, but I hadn’t?

Jacobs: Yes, I am here at a regional meeting, and one of the strengths of ACS is its individual members. I encourage people to send me their ideas, especially on how we can meet this big challenge on what is the value of ACS membership. Send me your ideas. My e-mail address is m_jacobs@acs.org. I read all my e-mail. I think that our members have the best ideas. I am very much a believer in the bottom-up theory of management. I very much admire the new CEO of American Airlines, who turned massive losses into profits. He did it by asking the people in the trenches, “How do we do this better?” I know that I don’t have all the good ideas. One of the gifts I have is listening to people. Even at C&EN when I did my editorials, they were always a synthesis of ideas that I had heard and read and then brought my own personal perspective to. Sometimes the individual member has a great idea, so I encourage our members to send me their ideas about how we can attract more chemists working at the interface and how we can retain the members we have.

I want to thank members who volunteer on behalf of the Society. The ACS is a strong, enviable organization because of the power of the people who volunteer on its behalf. We are the envy of every scientific society, because we have a very dedicated membership. I am very grateful, and I want to find out how we can serve our members better. When I came into this organization, it was not broken. However, we do have these challenges I described earlier. We have a good organization now, but I know it can be even better.

I also want to assure our members that, whatever they may have read or heard about financial stewardship, we are very cost conscious at ACS. I undertook a series of
strategic reviews at the beginning of the year to be sure that we were spending money wisely. We have trimmed administrative expenses by nearly $750,000 this year. The money that we save can be redirected to help members, and that’s what we’re trying to do.

ETS: What is the nature of your interaction with the Board of Directors?

Jacobs: I am a member of the Board of Directors, although I am not a voting member. I am the implementer of their policies and vision. Overall policy is set by the Board of Directors, but they hired me because they want me to bring to them ideas of what the Society should be doing. They have been wonderful about supporting me. For example, I mentioned the fund raising office. Another example, early in my tenure we did an analysis of the Belmond Conference Center. Some members may not even know that we ran a conference center, but we did for 20 years; and it lost money, a lot! It was a beautiful place, but we are selling it. That money will go into the reserves. It was a distraction to management, and it was not core to our mission. At the time we went into it, we thought it would be used more for scientific meetings, but it never really worked out that way. It’s very critical to look at everything. I want to assure members who might be concerned about things they’ve read that the Board takes very seriously its fiduciary responsibility. The Board just received in Philadelphia the fifth report on executive salaries, where all the concern seems to be. It’s the fifth study in ten years. Salaries are benchmarked every ten years. We’ve had four different companies, top companies, do this benchmarking. This latest one was done by Aon Consulting, one of the largest executive consulting firms. They delivered their report to the Board, and the Compensation Committee of the Board made a number of recommendations. What Aon found is that our executive salaries, that is, our very top salaries, are appropriate for the complexity and scope of our organization. I am not defensive because the criticism was not aimed at me. It was aimed at people before me. So, I’m not being defensive about these executive salaries, but I
want to assure the members that their executives, and in fact their whole staff, 1900 people with about 300 working specifically on behalf of the membership with Society programs, are incredibly talented people. I have never worked with such talented, dedicated, hard working people. I want to assure members of that, because I think they hear a lot of stories to the contrary; and it’s not true. I have had a 35 year career in different organizations, and I have never seen a group of people that took their work more seriously than the people I work with every day. I have now met almost all 1900 employees. I made it a point to go out to Columbus, Ohio every two months. At the beginning of the year I visited Columbus and talked to groups of 300 and met in a reception just about all 1500 around Columbus. Just this summer I had a series of continental breakfasts in my office and met all 300 people working in Washington. When I tell you these are hard working and dedicated people, I am not just saying that. I know what these people do, and I know how dedicated they are to ACS.

ETS: Bill Carroll was appalled at the turnout for the last ACS presidential election. He said that he and Mike Strem had worked to turn out the voters, but the percentage participation was very poor. On the local level our section has a membership of 1200, but a turnout for a local section meeting of 40 would be considered very good. However, let’s focus on the turnout in the ACS presidential election, which was really pitiful.

Jacobs: I used to write editorials telling members to vote, but I don’t think it helped. I don’t know why people don’t turn out in higher numbers. Look at what’s happened in the U.S. presidential elections. We get a very poor voter turnout. Look at what’s happened in other societies. They get very poor membership turnout for elections. What is it? I’m asking the question because I really don’t know the answer. Do people feel that their vote doesn’t count? I think people get disaffected. They believe it really doesn’t matter who’s in charge. I don’t believe that with ACS. I believe it’s very important who’s on the Board of Directors. These are the people who are basically holding in trust everything this Society stands for. It does matter
who is the president, who is the district director, who is the director at large. It matters very much. I don’t know the reason, but I would urge people to vote. I think we have very good candidates. Their candidates’ statements are clear. These are people who are very devoted to the Society. I think people should read the candidates’ statements and vote.

Regarding local sections, I make it a point to visit local sections. It does depend on where the local section is physically. Some do very well in getting a good turnout. I have a theory on local sections. Local sections tend to be based on universities. There is so much going on at universities that it’s very hard for a local section to come up with something unique that would be a draw. I do think they have a powerful challenge there. Local sections that are based where there is a more diverse membership, people from both industry and academia, have better opportunities for programming. People can do more networking that is valued. I have always been impressed with the Cincinnati local section, and the turnout that they get. They do have a more diverse membership than the heavily academic sections. Also, regarding local sections, it is hard to get young people involved if they feel there is no opportunity to get involved in leadership positions. To attract young people to local sections, you have to have leadership opportunities. Too often people in council positions stay there up to 30 years so nobody else is able to come in. Look at the kind of impact on younger people. I think our councilors are wonderful, and I treasure their experience; but, when one person stays in a council position for 25 or 30 years, younger people feel shut out. However, I don’t want any of these remarks to be construed as in any way detracting from my high regard that I have for our very devoted council members. We could not do it without their volunteering.

ETS: I see that our time is up. Thank you for your very thorough and open answers to my questions.
In view of all the news items for this month, we’ll defer our continued teachers’ comments on the proposed four year science requirement for a later time. We wish to thank Dale Moore, Seguin High School, Arlington, ACT2 President-Elect, and Diana Mason, UNT, for this month’s items.

**ACT2 and Flinn at UNT.** UNT will host two conferences for high school chemistry teachers during the summer. Dr. Diana Mason will host Larry Flinn’s Summer Workshop June 20-24, four packed days of demonstrations and pedagogical methods for about 40 teachers. Don’t delay registering for this workshop, as it always fills quickly.

The ACT2 Biennial Conference is July 5-9. The plenary sessions will feature John Gelder, Andy Cherkas, Pat Funk, and Bette Bridges. Andy, Pat, and Bette are experienced ChemEd presenters. Dr. John Gelder of OSU, Chief Reader for the College Board, will present simulations and guided inquiry that he and another educator have developed for classes at OSU, but will graciously allow access to his website. Dr. Larry Peck will present his “burning book” workshop, a coveted session for conference attendees. Another workshop to consider will be Pat Funk’s tie-dye lab coats, which he guarantees will have the brightest colors ever.

ChemEd at SWRM. Over 100 chemistry teachers joined ACS at SWRM for ChemEd Days. The schedule was packed with fun and wonderful examples of the “best practices” found in the world of chemical education today. We thank our invited guests, Dr. William Deese from Louisiana Tech, Dr. James Marshall from UNT, ACS President Dr. William Carroll, and Mr. Lee Marek from the University of Illinois, Chicago. All of these gentlemen were phenomenal. They enlighten us on the many ways that our students will benefit from learning to visualize and employ chemistry.

On Friday, chemical education researchers presented over 20 papers in three different symposia. The symposia covered important topics in lecture and the laboratory, stressing new and innovative ideas in molecular modeling and the importance of bringing new researchers into the field of chemistry. On Saturday, over 30 presentations by teachers were shared including a special symposium on ChemEd Tech Links chaired by Kirk Hunter stressing the importance of chemical technicians in the workforce, and a very interesting presentation by
Dr. Nancy Allen on science learning in the Native American culture.

Another meeting highlight was the presentation of the SW Regional Award for High School Chemistry Teaching, a plaque and a $1500 honorarium, to Dwan Garrison. Dwan, her husband, and her daughter with the assistance of three hotel staff and some conference attendees constructed from dowel rods and PVC pipe a giant, head high Buckyball. [See p. 13] ChemEd at SWRM was a conference to remember.

International ChemEd Conference Coming to UNT. ACT2 and UNT have joined together to host the 19th ChemEd Conference July 29 – Aug. 2, 2007. Among the largest conferences ever held in Texas, ChemEd will attract around 1400 teachers and their families from over 50 countries. The conference hotel will be the Radisson on I-35E, and there will be a big hoedown at the Circle R. Planned activities include field trips to Glen Rose, a watermelon bash, Texas Shootup (a fireworks show at the Circle R by Kathleen Holley and Trey Sistrunk), and a hoped for visit by Oliver Sacks.

ChemEd began in 1973 in Canada as a conference for high school chemistry teachers to provide opportunities for veteran teachers to share classroom and laboratory ideas with teachers from elementary to collegiate levels. Chem Ed remained in the northern U.S. or Canada until 1995, when it was hosted by Norfolk, VA. It was held in Auburn, AL in 2003. The 2005 conference will be in Vancouver, Canada. Each conference attracts chemistry teachers from the U.S., Canada, and about fifty other countries. Over 14,000 teachers have attended ChemEd since 1973.

The UNT chemis-try building has a periodic table placed on the sidewalk in front of the building for all to enjoy. Elements may be purchased by private sponsors to honor a chemist for distinguished work. ACT2 educators decided at their November convention in Corpus Christi to purchase an element to honor the ChemEd conference in 2007 at UNT.

More than 100 volunteers will be needed to staff this conference. Many will come from the University, but additional people will definitely be needed. To volunteer contact Dale
Moore (dmoore@aisd.net) or Diana Mason (dmason@unt.edu).

Chem Gems and Joules column editor Robyn Shipley-Gerko of Plano High School welcomes future material for this column that would be of interest to chemical educators. Send your material by e-mail to Robyn at Rshipley@pisd.edu.

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**SW Regional ACS Student Affiliate Chapters Honored**

The Nov. 15 issue of *C&EN* listed two student affiliate chapters from the area served by *The Southwest Retort* designated as outstanding chapters. However, the magazine did not publish the list of commendable and honorable mention chapters that were also from *The Retort’s* area. From the 950 student affiliate chapters nationwide, only 27 were deemed outstanding, 47 commendable, and 91 as honorable mention. These awards will be presented on Mar. 13, 2005 at the ACS National Meeting in San Diego. Here we give a complete listing of the outstanding, commendable, and honorable mention schools in our area. The chapter presidents and faculty advisors are listed with the schools in that order.

**Outstanding.** Tarleton State University, Regina Oliver; Arthur Low and Howard Nance; Texarkana College, Mechelle Kvarda; Mike Buttram and Patti Harmon.

**Commendable.** Midwestern State University, Todd Topley; Candice Fulton; Northeast Texas Community College, Sara Vissering; James K. Archer; Texas Wesleyan University, Ashley Milligan; Ricardo Rodriguez.

**Honorable Mention.** Austin College, Ashley Fiamengo; Andrew Carr and Jane Johnson-Carr; Southern Methodist University, Huong Truong; Patty Wisian-Neilson; University of Dallas, Don Vince West; William Hendrickson and Scott Boegerman; University of Mary-Hardin Baylor, Chrystal Jones, Darrell Watson; University of Texas at Tyler, Sean Butler; Brian Taylor and Neil Gray.
AROUND THE AREA

East Texas Section

At the November meeting of the Section, the following officers were elected for 2005: Chair-Elect, Larry Brough, Northeast Texas Community College; Treasurer, Patti Harman, Texarkana College; Secretary, Mike Sheets, Texarkana College; Counselor, Colleen Pasley, Red River Army Depot; Alternate Councilor, Mike Sheets, Texarkana College. The Chair for 2005 will be Roy White of Ana-Lab. Reports of current research projects were given by four students from UT-Tyler. These were “Macromolecular Sensors and Sequestering Agents for Hazardous Species at Surface,” Scott Brown; “Development of Sensor Coatings for the Detection, Sequestration, and Removal of Lead Contaminants from Surfaces,” Dustin Porter; “Rotational Energy Transfer in Helium Metal Hydride Collisions: Modeling Reactions Occurring in the Interstellar Medium,” Danijela Kebir; “Novel Coordination Chemistry of f-, d-, and p-Block Coordination Compounds,” John Brannon Gary. Two faculty members from Stephen F. Austin also reported on projects: “The Stability and Preparation of Sodium Ferrate in Aqueous 10 M Sodium hydroxide Solution,” Wayne Boring; “Healthy Chemical Research,” Michele Harris.

UT-Tyler. Two new faculty joined the UT-Tyler Chemistry Department in August 2004. Dr. Tanya Shtoyko joined the faculty as Assistant Professor of chemistry after completing a one-year appointment at Rhodes College, Memphis, TN. An analytical chemist, she received her Ph.D. at University of Cincinnati. Dr. Herbert Jarrell joined the Department as a Visiting Professor. He received his Ph.D. in clinical chemistry from Cleveland State University. Previously, Dr. Jarrell served as Associate Professor in the School of Allied Health Sciences at The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, as Technical Director of Proficiency Testing Service of American Association of Bioanalysts in Brownsville, and Adjunct Professor of Chemistry at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches.

Dr. David O’Keeffe, Professor of Chemistry, returned to full-time teaching this fall after serving two years as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and one year as Special Assistant to the President at UT-Tyler. Dr. O’Keeffe received his Ph.D. in biochemistry from Arizona State University, Tempe. Prior to coming to UT-Tyler, Dr. O’Keeffe served as Dean of the School of Science and Technology at Cameron University in Lawton, OK, and as Chair of the Chemistry Department at University of Michigan-Flint.
Mrs. Cindy Rutledge and Mr. Jason DiStefano joined the staff of the Chemistry Department as Senior Secretary and Laboratory/Technical Services Supervisor, respectively. Cindy was previously employed by the Texas Department of Human Services in Athens, TX. Jason received his B.S. degree in chemistry from UT-Tyler in May 2004.

University of Arkansas

Distinguished Professor Charles Wilkins received an Alumni Achievement Award in Pure Science Nov. 12 from the Chemistry Department at the University of Oregon. Wilkins earned his Ph.D. there in 1966, working on organic reaction mechanisms with Lloyd Dolby. Wilkins is being recognized for his pioneering discoveries in analytical spectroscopy and his contributions in the area of computer-assisted chemical analysis. He and his students were among the first to demonstrate the feasibility of a gas chromatography-infrared-mass spectrometry combination.

At the Oct. 28th ABI Fall Research Symposium in Little Rock, Wes Stites presented a talk on “Is Thrombomodulin Oxidation the Cause of Premature Death in Smokers?” and David Vicic spoke on “Catalytic Cross-Coupling of C(sp³) Centers with Paramagnetic Nickel Complexes.” Papers were presented at the 13th Conference on Current Trends in Computational Chemistry Nov. 12-13 in Jackson, MS by Alan Ford, Jon Baker, Anthony Chuma, and Peter Pulay. Pulay gave a distinguished lecture at the Conference.

German journal Nachrichten aus der Chemie published the article “RICH: A Case Study” by undergraduate student Drew Cogbill. He wrote about his experiences in a chemistry laboratory in Regensburg, Germany over the summer. He was in Germany as part of the RICH, or Research in Chemistry program. This is a new opportunity offered by the German Academic Exchange Service that allows undergraduate chemistry students to conduct research in doctoral labs in Germany.

For the first time the department is sponsoring an international exchange program in chemistry with Moscow State University and the Academy of Fine Chemical Technology. The Moscow program allows selected U.S. students to spend six weeks in Moscow while selected Russian students will participate in the University of Arkansas Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program.

South Plains Section

Texas Tech, Dr. Guigen Li gave a special lecture in October to the Tokai Branch of the Society of Synthetic Organic Chemistry in Japan. He also gave an invited talk at the First International Forum on Homogeneous Catalysis at Hang-
zhous, China. Welch Professor William Hase participated in a November meeting of the Dean’s Council for Excellence in the Sciences at New Mexico State University.

Horn Professor Pernendu K. (Sandy) Dasgupta has been selected by the Lubbock Chapter of Achievement Rewards for College Scientists (ARCS) to receive the ARCS Scientist of the Year award for 2004-2005. In his 23+ years as a faculty member, he has published 280 articles in primary journals, two book chapters, two significant encyclopedia sections, 19 chapters in a standard methods compendium, five major reports sponsored by federal agencies and private foundations, and 117 abstracts, discussions, and editorials. His research at Texas Tech has attracted more than 15 million dollars in support. Recently he accepted an appointment as a North American member of the Advisory Board for the journal Analytical Sciences, published by the Japan Society of Analytical Chemistry. He also organized a symposium on “The Composition of Atmospheric Particular Matter” at SWRM 2004.

Heart o’ Texas

Dr. R. Paul Philip from the Department of Geology and Geophysics at the University of Oklahoma spoke at the local section meeting held Nov. 17 at Baylor.

Baylor University. Dr. Alton Hassell gave a seminar on “Beta Radiography of Watermarks in Antique Laid Paper” at Texas A&M-Commerce on Nov. 4. Dr. Charles Garner gave a seminar Nov. 18th at TCU on “C6F5+ as a Good Leaving Group.” The Department expresses sympathy to the Alton Hassell family on the Nov. 26th death of his mother.

Colloquium speakers were: Nov. 5, William L. Hase, Texas Tech; Nov. 12, Gouri Jas, Kansas; Nov. 19, Steven Strauss, Colorado State; Dec. 3, Patrick Cassidy, Texas State.

Dallas-Fort Worth Section

New 2005 Section Officers. The following individuals were elected to section offices: Chair-Elect, Ed Biehl, SMU; Treasurer, Aubrie Starks, University of Dallas; Councilor, Urszula Wettermark, Lockheed-Martin; Alternate Councilor, Denise Merkle, SciConsult; Alternate Councilor, Jeff Kelber, UNT. The Chair for 2005 is John St.John of Access Pharmaceuticals.

Texas A&M University-Commerce. The following papers were presented by students under the direction of Dr. Ben Jang, Dr. William Whaley, and Dr. Anil Banerjee at the 2nd Annual TAMU System Pathways to the Doctorate symposium held at TAMU-Corpus Christi Oct. 15-16, 2004: “Characterization of Supported Palladium Catalyst Modified by RF Plasmas for Selective Hydrogenation of Acetylene,” Monyka Macias, “Design and Installation of Gas-Solid Catalytic Re-

Texas Christian University. Dr. Tracy Hanna gave a seminar on "Metal Aryloxides: from Metallocalixarenes to Catalyst Models" at Oklahoma State University Dec. 9th.

University of North Texas. Dr. Michael Richmond visited the University of Mississippi, Oct. 20-23, where he delivered a seminar on "Ligand Substitution in Mixed Metal Clusters." Dr. Trent Selby attended the Exotic Materials Conference in Salt Lake City, Oct. 15-17, and presented the paper "Flat Dendrimers."

UNT will host the March 2005 Ft. Worth Regional Science Fair. Dr. Diana Mason is a member of the Board of Directors and Vice-Chairman of the Operating Committee. UNT will also host the Summer 2007 International ChemEd Symposium.

JANUARY METROPLEX SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Spring seminar schedules are just now being developed. Here are the seminars of which we are aware.

UT-Arlington. Jan. 21, Charles Garner, Baylor, TBA. Jan. 28, Weston Borden, UNT, TBA. Seminars are normally at 2:30 p.m. in Room 114, Chemistry Research Building.


[Place American Polymer Ad]
DFW ACS Meeting in conjunction with the American Institute of Chemists

University of Dallas
Thursday, January 20, 2005
[NOTE CHANGE IN DATE FROM NOVEMBER RETORT]

“I NEED HELP WITH MY JOB!”
Warren V. Bush, Ph.D.

Warren’s talk will focus on career assessment needs that chemists and chemical engineers must put into place in the changing employment market. A veteran chemist and chemical engineer in industry and academia, Dr. Bush has advised chemists on career maintenance for 15 years.

Dr. Bush is a 51-year member of both the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the American Chemical Society. He has held various leadership positions within the Society including service on the Employment and Professional Affairs Committee, as an ACS Volunteer Career Consultant, and as a Presenter for the Department of Career Services. He is a former Director of the Texas Academy of Science and a member of Sigma Xi and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Time:  6 – 7 pm Social Hour  (Bring your business cards.)
       7 – 8 pm Dinner
       8 – 9 pm Talk

Dinner: $15 per person. Reservations required. Contact John St. John by January 14th at jvs@accesspharma.com or 214-905-5100 to reserve your spot. Participants are responsible for reservations made and not cancelled by January 14th.

Locations: University of Dallas, upstairs in Haggar University Center

Directions: for directions or more information contact John St. John at jvs@accesspharma.com