Pittsburgh Section 100 Year Anniversary Celebration

Joseph Priestley is often referred to as “The Father of Modern Chemistry” having discovered oxygen in 1774. One hundred years later, in 1874, many of America’s leading chemists met at the Priestley House in Northumberland, PA to commemorate the centennial of the discovery of oxygen. Ultimately, this meeting led to the founding of the American Chemical Society on April 6, 1876.

The Pittsburgh Section ACS was one of the earliest local sections being chartered in 1903. At the 35th Central Regional Meeting held October 19-22, 2003, the Pittsburgh Section celebrated its 100th Anniversary.

On Tuesday October 21, the Pittsburgh Section recognized the contributions of its past leaders and past and present Pittsburgh Award winners at the 100th Anniversary, Former Chairman’s Night, and Pittsburgh Award Dinner held at the Sheraton Station Square. Attila Pavlath, 2001 National ACS President, presented certificates that referred to local section chairs as the “unsung ACS heroes” and Myron Shaffer, Chairman of the Pittsburgh Section ACS presented certificates and commemorative pens to the following former Chairs of the Pittsburgh Section:


Myron Shaffer presented the 2003 Pittsburgh Award to C. Gordon McCarty. Those speaking on behalf of Dr. McCarty included Yorke Rhodes, ACS Chair of Local Section Activities, Mike Mautino, Councilor for the Pittsburgh Section and former colleague of Dr. McCarty, Heinz Machatzke, Duquesne University and former Bayer colleague, and Denise Creech, ACS Director of Membership. Each spoke of Dr. McCarty’s dedication to his profession and dedication to the American Chemical Society.


Submitted by: Kay Bilal
Message from Out-Going 2003 Chair

The end of the year is a good time to look back and reflect on how the year has gone and thank those who contributed to making the events of the Pittsburgh Section so successful. Therefore, I took the opportunity to reread what I had written as an introduction to my term as Chair for 2003. Fortunately, I had good sense to “recognize the many dedicated members who keep the programs of the ACS running … with a high level of professionalism.” However, after holding this position for this year I realize I can’t overemphasize enough the importance of the many volunteers who keep the section and its activities running. It has been my pleasure this year to have met many of these people and view first hand their dedication to our profession and their willingness to share their passion with their community.

An incomplete list of some the exciting events that took place this year are the ACS/SACP Awards Dinner, recognizing various student achievements, National Chemistry Week, the Pittsburgh Award Dinner, and the Central Regional Meeting. The list of volunteers needed to successfully complete these and other activities number in the hundreds. Each one deserves our sincere thanks, and I would like to extend my thanks and admiration for each of their contributions. This is also true for the technical societies in Pittsburgh, such as the SACP and SSP that work with and support the activities of the ACS.

On this occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Pittsburgh section I would also like to encourage each member to consider in what capacity they might contribute to the beginning of the next 100 years that the Pittsburgh Section looks forward to. We need the contributions of both current and future volunteers to ensure the continued vitality and strength of the Pittsburgh Section. Please join me in wishing our next Chair, Kay Bilal, success and supporting her as we begin the next 100 years.

Myron Shaffer, Pittsburgh Section Chair, 2003

Women Chemists Committee

Non-Traditional Careers and Transition Periods

Panel Session

Jeanine Conklin Ph.D.
Technology Manager, PPG Industries
Barbara E. Johnson
Azita Owlia Ph.D.
VP of Insulation Marketing Unit, Bayer Polymers LLC
David Seybert Ph.D.
Dean of the Bayer School of Science, Duquesne University
Phil Yeske Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer, Fluorous Technology, Inc

Wednesday December 3rd, 2003
Pittsburgh Steak Company
1924 East Carson Street, Pittsburgh, PA
Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Presentation at 7:30 p.m.

ABSTRACT

Chemists often wander onto alternative career paths outside the realm of academia or industrial research. Since an education in the chemical sciences develops both scientific and technical skills, it provides a launching pad for creative growth and development into a wide variety of careers. Proponents of this move say that chemists can improve the understanding of science within their alternative professions and make decisions that aid the cause of scientists.

It is the options we seek in our lifestyle that often influence the choices we make in our career. Your career path should recognize your personal and professional goals. Come and join the panel discussion and explore the options for your career in Chemistry.

For dinner reservations please contact Leoné Hermans-Blackburn, Bayer Polymers LLC. (Tel: 412-777-7509, leone.hermans-blackburn@bayerpolymers.com) by Friday, November 21st, 2003. The cost of dinner is $20.00 per person and a discount rate of $10.00 for students. Please bring cash or a check to the restaurant. The number of sponsored student meals will be limited. All are welcome.
As part of the ACS’s 2003 Chemist Celebrate Earth Day (CCED) program, the Pittsburgh Section sponsored a poetry contest for students in grades K-12. The theme for the 2003 Chemistry Celebrate Earth Day program was ChemisTREE. Students in grades 3-12 were invited to write a poem in haiku format related to the chemistry of trees, while students in grades K-2 were allowed to use any poetic style. Winners were selected from four grade categories and submitted to the national poetry contest sponsored by the ACS’s Office of Community Activities, National Chemistry Week Task Force, Committee on Environmental Improvement, and Green Chemistry Institute. Winners of the national contest were announced at the 226th ACS National Meeting in New York, NY, September 7-11, 2003. The Pittsburgh Section is proud to announce that all four winners of the Pittsburgh competition also won their grade category in the national competition! During a reception held in their honor at the Carnegie Science Center on Saturday October 25, 2003, each winner received a windbreaker jacket embroidered with the CCED logo, a CCED poster, and an award plaque.

The winners of the National ACS CCED poetry contest are:

**K-2nd Grade**
Jessica Mesina
Gastonville Elementary Center (PA)
Teacher Sponsor: Mrs. Stienmeitz

**3rd-5th Grade**
Vinnie Longhi
St. Joseph the Worker Grade School (WV)
Teacher Sponsor: Mrs. Nancy DeCaria

**6th-8th Grade**
Valerie Belz
Ingomar Middle School (PA)
Teacher Sponsor: Mr. John Schaefers

**9th-12th Grade**
James Kelly
Central Catholic High School (PA)
Teacher Sponsor: Bro. James Muffley

Special thanks go to the Chair’s of the Pittsburgh Section’s Chemical Education Group and Technician Affiliate Group, Kay Bilal and Alan Bushmire, for helping in coordinating the 2003 CCED poetry contest.

Congratulations Jessica, Vinnie, Valerie, and James and on winning the National ACS CCED poetry contest!

Submitted by Michael Mautino, 2003 Earth Day Coordinator

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**Denise Creech Promoted to Director of the Membership Division**

Ms. Denise Creech of ACS staff has been promoted to Director of the Membership Division. Denise is well known to many active members of the Pittsburgh Section, the SACP, and the SSP, since she along with Martha Lester was one of the staff members responsible for the International Chemistry Olympics held in Pittsburgh in 1992. Recently, she spoke on behalf of Dr. Gordon McCarty when he received the Pittsburgh Award at the Pittsburgh Section’s 100th anniversary banquet on October 21, 2003. She also spoke to the Pittsburgh Chemists Club in May 2001 on the occasion of presenting awards to 50 year members.

We wish Denise good luck and great accomplishments in her new position.

Submitted by Mordecai Treblow

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**With Sympathy**

We are saddened to note the untimely passing of Dr. Stanley Israel, a Director-at-Large of National ACS. We express our condolences to his wife Sonia and their family.

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**Pittsburgh Section ACS Election Update**

The ballots for the Pittsburgh Section election are currently being counted and validated by the Teller Committee. Results will be published in the January 2004 issue of The Crucible.
RESERVE JANUARY 31, 2004 as a DAY TO BE ENTHRALLED BY 3 EXPERTS IN FORENSIC SCIENCE

THE SOCIETY FOR ANALYTICAL CHEMISTS OF PITTSBURGH (SACP) & THE SPECTROSCOPY SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH (SSP) are SPONSORING a SYMPOSIUM on FORENSIC SCIENCE

TIME:  Saturday, January 31, 2004
8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Registration
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Symposium
12:00 PM - Lunch

PLACE: Duquesne University, Mellon Science Hall Auditorium

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Dr. Fredrick Fochtman - Dr. Fochtman is the Laboratory Director and Chief Toxicologist of the Forensic Science Laboratory of the Allegheny County Corner’s Office. Dr. Fochtman will present information regarding forensic science laboratory techniques, including the newest procedures and state-of-the-art laboratory instrumentation.

Mr. Paul D. Boas, Esq. - Mr. Boas is a notable criminal defense attorney in Pittsburgh, PA. He has been defense counsel in several high-profile criminal cases. He will discuss forensic evidence from the perspective of a defending attorney.

Mr. James Fisher - Mr. Fisher is a former FBI agent, author and Professor of Political Science and Criminal Justice at Edinboro University. His books include The Lindbergh Case and Crimson Stain. Mr. Fisher will discuss various techniques used for solving criminal cases and present some interesting anecdotes from his experiences as a FBI agent and researcher of criminal activity. (Mr. Fisher will be featured on Dateline-NBC in the near future.)

Symposium cost is $10.00 and should be payable by check to “SSP” and sent to SSP, C/O Forensic Symposium, 300 Penn Center Blvd, Suite 332, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

The symposium cost includes materials, refreshments, lunch and parking in 8 floor parking garage on Forbes Avenue in front of Duquesne University. Bring parking ticket to the seminar and you will be given a sticker for free parking. For location information go to the following Internet address: http://www.duq.edu/campusmap/indexf.html

For further information contact Manny Miller at 412-442-4148, millerm@pittcon.org or Shamantana Gunawardena at 412-421-3007, shamang123@hotmail.com

ENSURE A SEAT - REGISTER NOW!

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http://membership.acs.org/P/Pitt
December

Wed.  3  **Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh (SACP) and Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh (SSP) Joint Meeting by Ticket Only**
Carnegie Science Center

Wed.  3  **Women’s Chemist Committee**
**Non-Traditional Careers and Transition Periods**
Pittsburgh Steak Company, 1924 East Carson St., Pittsburgh, PA

January

Sat.  31  **Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh (SACP) and The Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh (SSP)**
**Symposium on Forensic Science**
Duquesne University, Mellon Science Hall Auditorium