WPTAG Receives National Award

The Western Pennsylvania Technician Affiliate Group (WPTAG) of the American Chemical Society took great pride in offering a full schedule of programs, events and community-based activities in 2006 in honor of our tenth anniversary. Although our anniversary has passed, we have yet another reason to celebrate!

WPTAG recently received national recognition as the “Best Overall Technician Affiliate Group” for 2006. This award was sponsored by the Division of Chemical Technicians of the American Chemical Society (ACS) and was presented to WPTAG on August 22, 2007 at the 234th ACS National Meeting and Exposition in Boston. Criteria used to judge the “Best Overall” award was based on all aspects of Technician Affiliate Group programming throughout the year.

Highlights of our 2006 WPTAG programming include:

• First Night (New Year’s Eve) - Science Demonstration in the Pittsburgh Cultural District
• 10th Anniversary Celebration - Featured Three ACS Keynote Speakers
• International Children’s Festival - Science Demonstration in West Park
• Hosted Lab Tour for ACS Student Affiliate Chapter of Waynesburg College
• Summer Picnic Lunch at Settler’s Cabin Park
• Family and Friends Baseball Night with the Washington Wild Things
• ACS Speakers Presentation “Using Toys Creatively in Chemistry”
• National Chemistry Week Event Science Demonstration at Carnegie Science Center
• Business Communications Seminar - Duquesne University, Corporate Education Center
• Sponsored “Technician of the Year” Award and two “Outstanding Student” Awards
• December Holiday Luncheon

Dr. Karl Haider (right), Manager of University Relations, Bayer MaterialScience LLC accepts “Best Overall” Award on behalf of WPTAG from Dr. Kirk Hunter (left), 2007 Chair, ACS Division of Chemical Technicians.

Continued on Page 5
JOB SEARCHING FOR CHEMICAL PROFESSIONALS

Presented by
The Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh
The American Institute of Chemical Engineers, Pittsburgh Section
The American Chemical Society, Pittsburgh Section
The Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh

Saturday, February 2, 2008

ASHE AUDITORIUM UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
219 Parkman Ave. (off Bigelow Blvd.)

Fee: $10.00 (Lunch and Parking at Soldiers and Sailors Parking Garage Included)
(Parking Garage opens at 8:00 A.M.)

PROGRAM

8:30 A.M. Registration
9:00 A.M. Welcome and Introduction
9:30 A.M. MANAGING AN EFFECTIVE JOB SEARCH
Daniel J. Eustace, Ph.D., Career Consultant, American Chemical Society
12:10 P.M. Overview of the Local Job Market - Joseph D. Jolson, Ph. D.
12:30 P.M. Networking Lunch
1:00 P.M. Resume Review, Personal Consultation, and Local Job Opportunities
4:00 P.M. Close

Bring your parking ticket for validation and your resume to participate in the afternoon program
For additional information, contact Tiffany Ragan at 412-321-1143 or tiffany.ragan@onassignment.com

Registration Form
2008 Job Searching for Chemical Professionals
Please make $10.00 check for workshop fee payable to ACS Pittsburgh Section
Send completed registration form by January 15, 2008 to:
Susan K. Zawacky, Ph. D., 124 Old English Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Name _______________________________________ RESUME REVIEW? YES OR NO
Address __________________________________________________________________________________
City __________________ State ______ Zip ______ Phone __________________
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December 2007 / The Crucible
January Meeting  
Wednesday, January 16, 2008  
Duquesne University, Mellon Hall of Science  
(Laura Falk Hall)  
6:00 PM - Social Hour, 6:30 PM - Dinner  
(City View Cafe - 6th Floor)  
8:15 PM - Technical Presentation  

“Combat Boots and Lab Coats: My Journey as a Soldier-Scientist”  
Augustus (Way) Fountain III, Ph.D.  
Chief Scientist  
Chemical Biological Detection

Dinner Reservations: Please email Carolyn Benga at crbssp@yahoo.com or call (412) 487-0915 to make dinner reservations NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, January 11, 2008. Dinner will cost $8 and checks can be made out to the SSP. If you have dietary restrictions, please let Carolyn know when you RSVP.

Parking Instructions: The Duquesne University Parking Garage is located on Forbes Avenue. Upon entering the garage, receive parking ticket and drive to upper floors. Pick up a parking chit at the dinner or meeting. If any difficulties arise, contact Dr. Mitch Johnson at Duquesne University.

ACS Pittsburgh Section  
Energy Technology Group  
The ACS Energy Technology Group will have a holiday luncheon on Thursday December 6 at 11:30 am at More Restaurant, North Craig St, Oakland. All are welcome, including members and friends. This will be an opportunity to catch up with what has been going on in our professional lives and make plans for programs to be held in 2008. For reservations, call Christina Carpenter (Tom Sarkus’ secretary) at 412-386-4484. Any questions -- call Al Mann at 412-661-5947. Hope to see you there.

Wednesday, January 16, 2008  
“Serious Games: Past, Present, and Future. How CMU’s Entertainment Technology Center Assists Global Business Toward Profitability”  
Jesse Schell  
Carnegie Mellon University

ACS Pittsburgh Chemists Club  
Pittsburgh Section, American Chemical Society  
The ACS Pittsburgh Chemists Club will not meet in December. Look for details regarding our January meeting in the next issue of The Crucible.
**Static Power**

Kids, can you imagine being able to bend water with static electricity? When two objects are rubbed against each other, some of the electrons from one object can jump to the other. The object that gains electrons becomes more negatively charged; the one that loses electrons becomes more positively charged. The opposite charges attract each other in a way that you can actually see.

One way to collect charge is to comb your hair with a nylon comb or rub it with a balloon. The comb or balloon will become attracted to your hair, while the strands of your hair (all the same charge) repel each other. The comb or balloon will also attract a stream of water, believe it or not, because the water stream carries an electrical charge.

Here is what to do:

1. Comb dry hair with a nylon comb or rub it with an inflated latex balloon.
2. Turn on the tap so that a narrow stream of water is flowing (1-2 mm across, flowing smoothly).
3. Move the balloon or side of the comb close to the water (not in it). As you approach the water, the stream will begin to slightly bend.

Experiments: It is fun to test these questions and try these variations. Does the amount of ‘bend’ depend on how close the comb is to the water? If you adjust the flow, does it affect how much the stream bends? Do combs made from other materials work equally well? How does a comb compare with a balloon? Do you get the same effect from everyone’s hair or does some hair release more charge than others? Can you get your hair close enough to the water to repel it without getting it wet?

Tip: This activity works better when the humidity is low. When humidity is high, water vapor catches some of the electrons that would jump between objects. For the same reason, your hair needs to be completely dry when you comb it.

Reference:
Anne Marie Helmenstine.

Reprinted with permission from Dr. Kathleen A. Carrado, Chicago Local Section. An archive of all previously published ChemShorts is available online.
WPTAG provides an environment in which members can increase their technical knowledge, enhance their professional development, expand their networking opportunities and promote science in the community. We are very proud of our accomplishments and have received the following awards from the Division of Chemical Technicians of the American Chemical Society:

• Most Innovative Technician Affiliate Group (1997)
• Best Overall Technician Affiliate Group (1998)
• Best Interaction with Local Section (1999)
• Most Innovative Technician Affiliate Group (2002)
• Most Innovative Technician Affiliate Group (2003)
• Salutes to Excellence Award (2003)
• Best Overall Technician Affiliate Group (2006)

WPTAG has continued to thrive through the years and to have a positive impact on the careers of many technicians. As you can see, we have much to offer our members, to the employers we represent and to the community.

WPTAG would like to express our sincere appreciation to all those who have shown support for our organization. Such support has helped us, and will continue to help us, achieve our goals.

Submitted by: Bernice Karp
2007 WPTAG Immediate Past Chair

ACS Cut and Paste November/December 2007

Registration is now open for the Woodbridge, NJ ACS Short Course Circuit
Early Registration Discount Available

Registration has opened for the ACS Short Course Circuit to be held in Woodbridge, NJ, February 11-15, 2008. Register before January 14 to receive a $100 discount on your registration fee.

The following courses are being offered at the circuit:

- Statistical Analysis of Laboratory Data
  February 11-13
- Experimental Design for Productivity and Quality in R&D
  February 11-13
- Chemical Engineering for Chemists
  February 12-13
- Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics: Principles and Applications in Non-Clinical Drug Development
  February 12-13
- Drug-Like Properties in Drug Discovery
  February 12-13
- Essentials of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacology
  February 12-13
- Process Research in the Pharmaceutical Industry: The Design and Development of Practical Syntheses
  February 14-15
- Effective Supervision of Scientists and the Technical Staff
  February 14-15
- Recent Developments in Organic Synthesis
  February 14-15
- Analysis and Interpretation of Mass Spectral Data
  February 14-15
- Methods Development, Validation Procedures, and Conformity Assessment in the Analytical Laboratory
  February 14-15

Multi-registration and academic member discounts are available. For more information, please visit us at acs.org/shortcourses or call 202-872-4508.

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  february 11-13
- experimental design for productivity and quality in r&d
  february 11-13
- chemical engineering for chemists
  february 12-13
- pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics: principles and applications in non-clinical drug development
  february 12-13
- drug-like properties in drug discovery
  february 12-13
- essentials of medicinal chemistry and pharmacology
  february 12-13
- process research in the pharmaceutical industry: the design and development of practical syntheses
  february 14-15
- effective supervision of scientists and the technical staff
  february 14-15
- recent developments in organic synthesis
  february 14-15
- analysis and interpretation of mass spectral data
  february 14-15
- methods development, validation procedures, and conformity assessment in the analytical laboratory
  february 14-15

multi-registration and academic member discounts are available. for more information, please visit us at acs.org/shortcourses or call 202-872-4508.
Pittsburgh Section Election Results

Pittsburgh Section Election Results will be published in the January issue of The Crucible

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The Crucible

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Editor
Traci Johnsen
124 Moffett Run Rd.
Aliquippa, PA 15001
Phone: 724-378-9334
Fax: 724-378-9334
tracijohnsen@comcast.net

Advertising Editor
Vince Gale
MBO Services
P.O. Box 1150
Marshfield, MA 02050
Phone: 781-837-0424
Fax: 781-837-1453
cust-svc@mboservices.net

Chair:
Christina Mastromatteo
PPG Industries
4325 Rosanna Dr.
Allison Park, PA 15147
412-492-5292
mastromatteo@pittcon.org

Chair-Elect
Linda Peteanu
Carnegie Mellon University
4400 Fifth Ave. #139
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-2617
412-683-8373
peteanu@andrew.cmu.edu

Secretary
Mary Anne Alvin
U.S. DOE/NETL
Mail Stop 58-202A, P.O. Box 10940
Pittsburgh, PA 15236-0940
412-386-5498
maryanne.alvin@netl.doe.gov

Treasurer
Emanuel Schreiber
University of Pittsburgh
BST-Room 9035, 3501, Fifth Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
412-624-6862

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

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“Nanotechnology in Everyday Life”  
Alan G. Bown, Ph.D., MBA, Executive Director, Pennsylvania NanoMaterials Commercialization Center |

## January

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Augustus (Way) Fountain III, Ph.D., Chief Scientist, Chemical Biological Detection |