ACS Presidential Events
Chicago, ILL

Catherine T. (“Katie”) Hunt, ACS President 2007, will be cosponsoring a full week of exciting presidential events and sessions in Chicago. In her desire to address substantive societal issues, she has selected Sustainability of Energy, Food and Water as the presidential theme for the Chicago meeting in March and Material Innovations: From Nanotech to Biotech and Beyond as the presidential theme for the Boston meeting in August. Her goal is to successfully execute meaningful thematic programming at national meetings that will not only nucleate ideas, foster community, and accelerate innovation, but will be essential to effectively communicate chemistry to a broader audience. Openly discussing these topics as a scientific community will better enable us to speak with one voice to our membership, the media and the general public.

Sustainability Of Energy, Food And Water. Three presidential sessions will be featured, including Sustainability: A World View on Sunday, March 25, Technology Challenges and Opportunities for a Sustainable Future on Monday, March 26, and Educating for Sustainability on Monday, March 26. These themes are well-aligned with the ACS strategic plan and the new thematic programming initiative of ACS divisions and secretariats for national meetings. For full descriptions of these sessions, refer the Sustainability (SUST) listing in the technical program or on-line at chemistry.org/meetings/chicago2007.

Sustainability: A World View, Sunday, March 25, 1 to 4 PM, McCormick Place.

Presidential Reception, Sunday, March 25, 4:30 to 6 PM, McCormick Place.

Pressing Challenges and Technology Opportunities for a Sustainable Future, Monday, March 26, 8 to 11:30 AM, McCormick Place.

Sustainability Luncheon, Monday, March 26, 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM, McCormick Place. (See Ticketed Events for ticket information.)

Educating for Sustainability, Monday, March 26, 1:30 to 4:30 PM, McCormick Place.

Chemistry In Action: It's Easy Being Green Community Outreach Project For Upper Elementary And Middle School Students [cosponsored by Committee on Community Activities]. Saturday, March 24, 11 AM to 1 PM, The Notebaert Nature Museum at 2430 N. Cannon Dr.

It’s A Girl!

Isabella Anna Constance was born on January 8, 2007 to Pittsburgh Chair, Christina Mastromatteo. She weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz. and was 20 inches long. Congratulations to Christina, her husband Sam and big brother Dominic.

Contents . . .

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACS Presidential Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technician of the Year Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007 Tripartite Symposium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society for Analytical Chemists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of Pittsburgh April Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call for Nominations - Helen M. Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Outreach Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Employment Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will You Be Starting a Faculty Job Search?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSP Technology Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This Month in Chemical History Part I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This Month in Chemical History Part II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertiser’s Index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calendar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ACS Cut and Paste January/February 2007
The Eastern Analytical Symposium and Exposition is the second largest conference and exposition for laboratory science in the U.S. dedicated to the needs of analytical chemists and those in the allied sciences. We offer high quality cutting-edge technical sessions and state-of-the-art short courses, workshops and seminars. We invite you to be a part of the program by contributing a paper for oral or poster consideration. Please note that all abstracts must be submitted electronically via the EAS web site at www.eas.org. The abstract submission deadline is April 15.

To submit a contributed paper for the 2007 EAS Technical Program, please submit abstracts through our web site at www.eas.org, between March 1 and April 15, and follow the instructions for abstract submission. *Invited speakers must not submit abstracts to EAS until requested.*

Please carefully review the following information:

- All contributed abstracts must be submitted through our web site at www.eas.org between March 1 and April 15, 2007. No faxed, e-mailed, or mailed abstracts will be accepted.
- Please note that no one author may submit and present more than two posters.
- All abstracts will be acknowledged via e-mail.
- The title of the presentation and the list of authors that you submit are final, and may not be changed.
- The abstract that you submit will be considered to be your final abstract that will be printed in the abstract book for the 2007 Eastern Analytical Symposium.
- Presenting authors of contributed submissions will be notified in June 2007 of the status of the abstract and its session assignment.

If you have questions concerning the submission of abstracts, please contact us at:

**EAS Hotline** 301-682-3701  
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**EAS E-mail** askEAS@aol.com

Eastern Analytical Symposium & Exposition, Inc.  
P.O. Box 370, Walkersville, MD 21793

**WWW.EAS.ORG**
REALITIES and CHALLENGES of GLOBAL WARMING/GLOBAL DIMMING

April 23, 2007 - Eddy Theatre, Chatham College, Pittsburgh, PA
Free Valet Parking, Eddy Theatre Lot, off of Murray Hill Avenue

Sponsored by
Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh (www.sacp.org)
Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh (www.ssp-pgh.org)
American Chemical Society - Pgh Section (http://membership.acs.org/P/Pitt/)

11:30 AM - 1:50 PM   REGISTRATION {Lobby of Eddy Theatre}
12:00 PM - 1:35 PM   Movie An Inconvenient Truth (The movie is being shown in order to foster questions and discussion. The Tripartite does not advocate a particular position or political opinion.)
(Refreshments will be served during registration and movie, must be consumed in lobby)

1:35      BREAK
1:50      Introduction
2:00      Dr. M. Granger Morgan-Carnegie Mellon Univ, Why Climate is Changing and What We Can Do About It?
2:50      Dr. Beate Liepert - Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, The Dilemma of Anthropogenic Impact on Climate: Global Dimming and Global Warming
3:40      BREAK
4:00      Dr. Roger A. Pielke Sr.-Univ. of Colorado, The Human Impact on the Weather and Climate
4:50      Mr. John Quigley-PA DCNR, Director of Legislation and Strategic Initiatives, Pennsylvania Perspectives, Federal Uncertainty
5:45      Q&A FORUM
6:30      DINNER (Included)

For More Info. Contact Manny Miller millerm@pittcon.org or Kurt Rothenberger rothenberger@pittcon.org

PLEASE REGISTER BY APRIL 16, 2007
COST: $15 ($5 for full time student) SEND a check payable to “SACP”, 300 Penn Center Blvd, Suite 332, Pittsburgh, PA 15235, ATTN: Tripartite Symposium
For Directions & Map Go To:  http://www.chatham.edu/parents/directions.cfm

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We are using single molecule spectroscopic methods to probe polarity, acidity, matrix interactions and diffusion within silica thin films prepared by the sol-gel process. In these studies, appropriate fluorescent dye molecules are doped into the silica materials at nanomolar concentrations during or after preparation. These dye molecules serve as probes of their local, nanometer-scale environments. The well-separated dye molecules dispersed throughout the films are then located by detecting their fluorescence emission using a sample-scanning confocal microscope. Fluorescence images of the samples and the spectrally- and temporally-resolved emission characteristics of the single molecules are then probed and used as a means to assess sample properties. “Pure” silica (nominally SiO2) films are studied, as are organically-modified (ORMOSIL) silica films, and surfactant-templated mesoporous films. Representative examples of the experiments performed and results obtained will be described. These will include investigations of the static and dynamic polarity properties of organically modified silicate films. The results of these studies point to nonrandom variations in the film properties, providing strong evidence for the formation of phase-separated organic- and inorganic-rich domains. Studies of single-molecule diffusion through these same films yield important evidence for the formation of liquidlike silicate oligomers that facilitate probe molecule diffusion. Finally, single-molecule studies of local molecule-matrix interactions in surfactant-templated and calcined mesoporous silica materials will be described. These studies highlight the value of single molecule methods in detecting single molecule adsorption/desorption events and distinguishing such behavior from hindered diffusive motion.

Bio
Dan Higgins received a B.A. in Chemistry from St. Olaf College in 1988 and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 1993. His graduate research was performed under the direction of Robert M. Corn. He performed postdoctoral research under the direction of Paul F. Barbara at the University of Minnesota, where he held an NSF Postdoctoral Fellowship. Dr. Higgins has served on the chemistry faculty at Kansas State University since 1996, where he currently holds the rank of professor. His group conducts research involving the implementation of novel optical microscopic techniques for characterization of mesostructured thin film materials. Techniques such as near-field scanning optical microscopy (NSOM), single molecule spectroscopy (SMS), and multiphoton-excited fluorescence microscopy are used to study small-molecule organic semiconductor films, polymer/liquid crystal composites, polymer/surfactant complexes, and sol-gel derived silicate glass films. Dr. Higgins is an NSF CAREER Award recipient, and has received a 3M Company Untenured Faculty Research Award.
Abstract:
Biological agents pose one of the most serious challenges to modern society. The transmission efficiency of many bio-agents, combined with the ability to disseminate these materials via modern transportation systems, presents an enormous challenge. The first line of defense against such agents is detection. A variety of detection technologies are already in place but newer technologies will offer more rapid and comprehensive detection capabilities. This talk will describe the nature of the threat, discuss present and future detection capabilities, and will describe how such detectors can be integrated into systems for more holistic solutions to the threat.

Bio:
David R. Walt is Robinson Professor of Chemistry at Tufts University and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor. He received a B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. in Chemical Biology from SUNY at Stony Brook. After postdoctoral studies at MIT, he joined the chemistry faculty at Tufts. Professor Walt served as Chemistry Department Chairman from 1989 to 1996. Dr. Walt serves on many government advisory panels and boards and serves on the editorial advisory board for numerous journals. From 1996-2003 he was Executive Editor of Applied Biochemistry and Biotechnology. Dr. Walt is the Scientific Founder and a Director of Illumina, Inc a publicly traded Life Sciences company with over 800 employees. He has received numerous national and international awards and honors and is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Walt has published over 175 papers, holds over forty patents, and has given hundreds of invited scientific presentations.
Call for Nominations
Helen M. Free Public Outreach Award

Have YOU made a difference in the public’s awareness of Chemistry?

Or do you know a friend, colleague, or mentor that has made a difference by spreading the word about chemistry’s many contributions to the quality of daily life?

The time has arrived to submit nominations for the 2007 Helen M. Free Award for Public Outreach. The award is open to any ACS member whose efforts have increased the public’s awareness and understanding of the importance of chemistry or chemical engineering.

Qualifying activities include lectures, presentations, demonstrations, seminars, symposia, and exhibits; newspaper or magazine articles and interviews; radio and television appearances; and hands-on science activities with children and/or adults.

The Helen M. Free Award was established in 1995 to recognize outstanding achievements in public outreach. A former president of the ACS, Dr. Free initiated many programs and activities designed to improve the public’s awareness of chemistry’s contributions to the quality of daily life.

Go to the Awards section of the Committee of Public Relations and Communications web page for all of the details: www.chemistry.org/committees/cprc.html

Nominations are due May 1, 2007, and should be mailed to:
Office of Communications/CPRC Liaison
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
1155 Sixteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: (800) 227-5558 ext. 4400
Fax: (202) 872-4370

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call or email Victor Cornejo at 800.227.5558 ext. 4580 or v_cornejo@acs.org.
Call for ACS Scholars Program Applications

The ACS Scholars Program, now in its twelfth year, is accepting applications for the 2007-2008 academic year. For the first time, students can apply on-line at http://chemistry.org/scholars. Applicants must be majoring in or planning to major in a chemical science and intending to pursue a career in that science. The scholarship is renewable and valued at up to $5000 per academic year. For further information or to receive an application package by regular mail or e-mail, call 1-800-227-5558, ext. 6250, or send an e-mail message to scholars@acs.org, or write to us at American Chemical Society Scholars Program, 1155 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036.

Academic Employment Initiative
Will You Be Starting a Faculty Job Search?

If you are interested in an academic job, plan to present an ACS Academic Employment Initiative (AEI) poster at Sci-Mix on Monday evening, 8-10 pm, August 20, at the ACS National Meeting in Boston. Faculty recruiters from a variety of colleges and universities will be there to meet poster presenters. If you are a faculty member, please urge graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who are interested in academic careers to take advantage of this opportunity. Also, if you are in a department that will be hiring new faculty next year, please take advantage of this means of meeting several candidates in a relatively relaxed and informal setting. The deadline for submitting the AEI Abstracts is April 9. For more information visit the AEI website or write to GradEd@acs.org.

Stay up-to-date on all the happenings of the Pittsburgh Section ACS by visiting the section’s website.

http://membership.acs.org/P/Pitt
To increase my supply of background material for these columns, I bought a useful book: “The Illustrated Almanac of Science, Technology, and Invention” by Raymond L. Francis (Plenum Press, 1997). I plan to dip into its pages for the first column of the new year, since this book is arranged day by day throughout the year. The connections with chemical history will vary from close to tenuous, depending on my whim!

On January 1, 1801 the Italian astronomer Giuseppe Piazzi discovered the first and the largest of the asteroids, and called it Ceres after a Roman deity. In 1803 William Hyde Wollaston, an English chemist, while working on the purification of platinum isolated a new metal from platinum ores. Following an old tradition of associating metals with planets, that dates back to alchemical days, Wollaston at first thought of calling his new metal ceresium after the recently discovered asteroid. Apparently ceresium just didn’t sound right to him, and luckily another new asteroid had just been discovered and named Pallas. Deciding that in this case second thoughts were best Wollaston in his initial announcement of the new metal (in an anonymous handbill offering samples for sale, but that’s another story) called it palladium, a name it has retained.

On January 2, 1902, one of the greatest of popular science writers, Isaac Asimov, was born in Russia. When he was three his family emigrated to the United States. Asimov earned his Ph. D. in chemistry from Columbia University in New York, then taught biochemistry at Boston University, but soon found that writing was his preferred way of teaching. He published some 500 books in virtually every genre imaginable. Perhaps he is best known for his science fiction, but he wrote a vast amount of non-fiction including a lively (and occasionally misleading) short history of chemistry and a very valuable biographical dictionary of scientists that I have frequently made use of in writing these columns. Carl Sagan called him “…one of the master explainers of the age…”

On January 3, 1888, one of the all-time great inventions received its first U.S. Patent – the artificial drinking straw. Marvin D. Stone, concerned about the use of potentially unsanitary natural rye straws in the imbibing of liquids, devised a process for coating manila paper with paraffin wax, a product of the young petroleum industry, and hand rolling them into straws. The first machine-rolled straws came off the production line some seventeen years later.

On January 4, 1896, Wilhelm Roentgen reported his discovery of a remarkable new radiation, which had the power to penetrate matter, to the Berlin Physical Society. He had been studying the tubes that generated cathode rays (electrons) and discovered that if the cathode rays struck metal targets the new penetrating radiation was emitted. It had the power to penetrate glass, paper, cardboard, and thin sheets of aluminum, but was stopped by lead. The new rays made a screen coated with barium hexacyanoplutinate fluoresce, and also affected photographic plates. With commendable modesty, since he was uncertain of the nature of the new radiations, Roentgen called them X-rays, where X is an unknown as in algebra. His colleagues tended to call them Roentgen rays.

On January 9, 1868, the Danish biological chemist Soren Sorensen was born in Havrebjerg. In 1886 he enrolled at the University of Copenhagen where he studied chemistry and medicine. After completing his Master’s degree he taught at a Technical High School and became a consulting chemist to the Danish navy. Returning to University he completed work for his Ph. D. in inorganic chemistry and was then appointed Director of the Carlsberg Laboratory, succeeding Kjeldahl. There Sorensen began his life’s work on amino acids, enzymes, and other proteins. He devised a method for titrating amino acids by blocking the amino group with formaldehyde. This method became a standard technique for many years; I recall doing Sorensen titrations during my undergraduate laboratory classes, but perhaps that just shows how out-of-date my university was at the time. Sorensen is best known today for his devising of the pH scale. The level of hydrogen ion concentration is critical to the rate of enzyme reactions, and Sorensen devised methods for controlling acidity. To express the actual values of hydrogen ion concentration, which can vary over many powers of ten, he decided to use a negative of the logarithm of the hydrogen ion concentration. He was also one of the first chemists to work on electro-metric methods of measuring pH.

I’ll save other January stories for another time. But I will close with best wishes for a good 2007 to you all.
In this second column of the new year I’d like to draw your attention to events that made an impact on chemistry and that have anniversaries in 2007. Access to a publication like “The Timetables of Science”, by Hellemans and Bunch (Simon and Schuster, 1988) makes this an easy task. I suppose we could start, somewhat fancifully, with the publication in 1397 of a world map by Paolo Toscanelli that showed Asia only some 3000 miles west of Europe. It was this incorrect map that allegedly influenced Columbus to attempt his immortal voyage nearly a century later, and the rest, as they say, was (chemical?) history.

But let’s turn to events more clearly chemical. In 1597 Andreas Libavius of Halle in Saxony published “Alchemia” which, despite its name, is a textbook of chemistry only moderately influenced by alchemical doctrines. I’ve only seen facsimiles of parts of this rare and costly book, which contains some fine plates showing, among other things, designs for a chemist’s house and a laboratory. The experimental part of this text sets it apart from works on alchemy; the descriptions of preparations of hydrochloric acid and ammonium sulfate, for instance, are clear and easily followed. This work was truly an early and influential textbook of chemistry.

The year 1647 brings two events connected with pressure reduction and vacuum. In that year Evangelista Torricelli died in Florence. He had been, in his youth, Galileo’s secretary. It was Torricelli who devised the mercury barometer, being the first to demonstrate in 1643 that if you took a straight glass tube sealed at one end, filled it with mercury, put your thumb over the open end, and then inverted the tube into a bowl of mercury, the mercury level in the tube would only fall so far, and would then stay put (more or less). He argued that the atmosphere must be exerting a pressure to balance that of the mercury column, and that the space above the mercury in the tube must be a vacuum. Also in 1647 Blaise Pascal, the French philosopher and scientist, published his “New Experiments on Vacuum” in which he describes barometers containing water and, of course, red wine. The mythology about Pascal is that he did most of his work, and all of his best thinking, in bed -- a place from which he seldom stirred-- and so his experiments were usually thought out by Pascal and performed by others. One of the best known of these was carried out in the following year, 1648. Pascal reasoned that if the atmosphere were exerting pressure in the way Torricelli proposed, then that pressure should decrease as you climbed higher. He had his brother-in-law load a mule with the materials for a mercury barometer and ascend the mountain Le Puy de Dome. At the mountain top the mercury column in the barometer was noticeably shorter than it was down below, and Torricelli’s view of the atmosphere as a sea of air was confirmed.

A very important theory for the history of chemistry was first proposed by Georg Ernst Stahl, physician and chemist, in 1697. Building on some obscure and quasi-alchemical writings of his compatriot Becher, and elaborating an idea that certainly goes back as far as Aristotle and beyond, Stahl invoked the idea that everything combustible contained phlogiston, the principle of flammability. Stahl’s phlogiston was quite different from the vague principles of earlier writers, for he conceived of it as material and devised ingenious and elegant experiments to demonstrate the transfer of phlogiston from one combustible body to another. The theory was, in my judgment, a scientific approach to a central problem in chemistry, and it held the field without serious challenge for the best part of a century.
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Micron inc. 11
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Schwarzkopf Microanalytical 10
Society for Analytical Chemists of
Pittsburgh 10

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Career Opportunities
March

Mon.  21  Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh Technology Forum  
Duquesne University, Mellon Science Hall  
“Green Chemistry”  
Dr. Jeffrey Salek, Sunoco Chemicals

Mon.  21  Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh  
Duquesne University, Maurice Falk Hall  
“Lighting Up Sol-Gel-Derived Silicate Thin Films, One Molecule at a Time”  
Dr. Daniel A. Higgins, Kansas State University, Department of Chemistry

April

Mon.  9  Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh (SACP)  
Duquesne University, Maurice Falk Hall  
“New Bioterrorism: The Threat and Methods for Prevention”  
David R. Walt, Ph.D., Robinson Professor of Chemistry at Tufts University & Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor

Mon.  23  Job Searching for Chemical Professionals  
Eddy Theatre, Chatham College, Pittsburgh, PA  
“Realities and Challenges of Global Warming/Global Dimming”