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# THE Central Arkansas



# CHEMIST

The Newsletter of the Central Arkansas Local Section of the American Chemical Society

October 2005

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## Meeting

**Thursday, October 20, 2005**

Location: ASMS (Arkansas School for  
Math and Sciences)  
Hot Springs, AR

5:30 pm Dinner - Brau Haus  
801 Central Avenue

7:30 pm Program  
**Dr. Al Hazari**  
*"Periodic Fun"*

*To obtain driving directions, visit  
[membership.acs.org/c/centralarkansas](http://membership.acs.org/c/centralarkansas)*

to 1971, Al taught middle and high school science, math, and chemistry here and overseas. He was a chemistry instructor and lab coordinator at Tougaloo College in Jackson, Mississippi, from 1973-76. This was followed by a 15-year stint as instructor in chemistry and director of labs at the University of Mississippi in Oxford. In 1991, he joined the University of Tennessee, Knoxville Chemistry Department as director of the undergraduate chemistry labs. In addition to his current appointment, Al is also an adjunct assistant professor of science education and regularly teaches science methods courses in the College of Education. Al has always been very excited about sharing his scientific and chemical knowledge with K-16 students and teachers. He has received many grants from government agencies, industry, and various organizations to improve undergraduate chemistry lab instruction and also to support precollege hands-on science and chemistry school visits and teacher workshops. Al is a very active member of the East Tennessee Section of the American Chemical Society. He is an affiliate of the Institute for Chemical Education and a member of the National and the Tennessee Science Teachers Associations. He has made several presentations and given talks to local, regional, and national chemical and science education conferences.

This presentation should be of interest and enjoyment to everyone who has taken a chemistry course. It would be very valuable to those teaching chemistry at any level.

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## About the Speaker:

A 2000 recipient of the ACS Helen M. Free Award for Public Outreach and the 2002 Science Educator of the Year awardee from the Tennessee Science Teachers Association, Al Hazari, a native of Lebanon, attended the American University in Cairo and received a B.S. degree in chemistry in 1968. He also holds an M.S. degree in chemistry (1972) from Youngstown State University (Ohio) and a doctorate in science education (1997) from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. From 1968

## From The Chair:

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### Local Section is Progressing to Electronic Balloting

The Central Arkansas section has been exploring the feasibility of conducting future elections via the internet for some time now. Discussions over the past two years have examined the requirements of conducting an election according to the Constitution of the ACS and in accordance to the By-Laws of the Central Arkansas Local Section. The two major issues that proved to be the most difficult to overcome in developing the software program were (1) the issue of notification of the section members of an election and the procedure of how to take part in the system, and (2) voter confidentiality. The ACS requires that all elections must be by secret ballot without any means of tracing an individual ballot back to a particular voter. An attempt was made last year to establish an online voting system, but all attempts to meet the second requirement mentioned above failed and the election was conducted in the same manner as in previous year by paper ballot.

This year a graduate student in Computer Science was enlisted to develop an electronic balloting program that meets all requirements of the ACS as part of his master's program requirements. The student worked under the supervision of the Head of the Department of Computer Sciences at Arkansas Tech University. The student began working on the project in the spring of 2005. Through many months of meetings, programming, and debugging a finished product was submitted for approval. The program as developed will ensure complete voter anonymity through the random generation of login names and passwords that will be sent out to all eligible members of the local section. Elections would be established to run for a given period of

time (two or three weeks) during which time voters would be able to go online and submit their ballot. Once a ballot has been successfully submitted, the user login name and password is erased from the program preventing multiple votes by a single user and also eliminating the tracking of who submitted the ballot. Other safe guards have also been established in the program. A complete set of voter instructions will be sent out to all eligible voters prior to an election so time is available for questions to be submitted if necessary. Papers ballots will still be available to any member that prefers to cast their vote by that method.

Final testing of the program is underway at this time. I do not expect to see the system used until next year because the section must receive approval of the ACS National Committee on Nominations and Elections first then the section must amend its By-Laws to allow electronic balloting.

Please note that the ACS is now using an online service to conduct online balloting for the National Presidential race this year. Our system will be similar to that system without the expense of paying another agency to conduct the election. If you have not voted in this election and still have your ballot, information is contained within the mailing on how to submit your vote online. I strongly encourage you to cast your vote for our next ACS President.

Steve Zimmer

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**Looking Ahead:** On November 7<sup>th</sup>, we will be taking a tour of Arkansas Eastman at Batesville.

**Regional Meeting:** Don't forget the SWRM meeting in Memphis, TN. The meeting runs from November 1 through 4<sup>th</sup>.

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Ever at a loss as to what's going on in the section? Simply visit the section's website:

<http://membership.acs.org/c/centralarkansas>

You'll find the section's meeting schedule, announcements, and information about services provided by the section, along with other useful links.

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## Local Section News

### National Chemistry Week:

The **Central Arkansas Section** of the American Chemical Society and the **Arkansas Museum of Discovery** will observe National Chemistry Week (NCW), October 19 – 21st, Wed – Thursday. The 2005 theme for NCW is “The Joy of Toys” This annual celebration is an opportunity for children of all ages to have fun learning about the chemistry of keeping well.

Activities will include several hands on activities and chemical demonstrations. Faculty and students from Henderson State University, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, the University of Central Arkansas, the University of Arkansas for Medical

Sciences, and Harding University will participate. Financial support has been provided by The Museum and the Central Arkansas Section.

National Chemistry Week is an outreach program of the American Chemical Society developed to enhance the public’s awareness of the contributions of chemistry to our everyday lives and the nation’s economy. ACS members, industry, educators, and chemistry enthusiasts celebrate it nationwide.

Howard Hendrickson  
[hendricksonhowardp@uams.edu](mailto:hendricksonhowardp@uams.edu)

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**ACS Sponsored High School Chemistry Clubs**

If you have an article or job posting that you would like to have considered for publication in our newsletter, send it to [odonnej@hsu.edu](mailto:odonnej@hsu.edu) for review.

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The *Central Arkansas Chemist* is published as needed by the Central Arkansas Local Section of the American Chemical Society. Section Chair, Steve Zimmer Arkansas Tech University Russellville, AR 72801-2222, 479-964-0825 Address all correspondence to the Section Secretary, Janice O’Donnell, Henderson State University, 870-230-5118, [odonnej@hsu.edu](mailto:odonnej@hsu.edu). Newsletter contributions should be sent directly to the Section Secretary in electronic form. The Central Arkansas Local Section Web site is <http://membership.acs.org/c/centralarkansas>

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