

THE Central Arkansas CHEMIST



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

September 2005

Meeting

Monday, September 19, 2005

Location: UALR
Fribourgh Hall, Room 102
Little Rock, AR

5:30 pm Dinner - Senor Tequila's
2000 S. University
(501-660-4413).

7:30 pm Program
Dr. L. H. Sperling
"Why does a Rubberband Snap Back"

*To obtain driving directions, visit
membership.acs.org/c/centralarkansas*

ages" type of presentation, involving demonstrations and basic theory. The basic ideas involve the entropy of deforming long polymer chains. Demonstrations include swelling of polymers and glass temperature illustrations, as well as other experiments.

The presentation should interest chemistry and related professionals, it will also interest chemistry majors and high school students studying chemistry.

From The Chair:



Greetings! My name is Steve Zimmer and I am currently serving as the Chair of the Central Arkansas local section of the American Chemical Society. I am employed at Arkansas Tech University as the Director of the Math & Science Institute. The MSI conducts professional development activities for K-12 mathematics and science teachers throughout the state. I formerly spent twenty years teaching chemistry at the high school level followed by eight years in the Chemistry Division as the Chemistry Laboratory Supervisor at Arkansas Tech University prior to moving into my current position.

About the Speaker:

Dr. L.H. Sperling is Professor Emeritus in the Departments of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science and Engineering at Lehigh University and was elected Fellow of the Polymer Materials Science and Engineering Division of the American Chemical Society, 2002

The study of rubber elasticity involves both experiments and thermodynamics. This is an "all

I have always been a strong proponent of improving the teaching of science in general and chemical education in particular. I have taken part in the Institute for Chemical Education (ICE) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and have attended past ACS conventions looking for new ideas in chemical education. One of the best things I became aware of through my ACS affiliation is the Journal of Chemical Education. There are also many other areas of support for chemical educators within the opportunities available to the membership of ACS.

I have tried to develop programs for the section meetings this year that would be of greater interest to chemical educators from all levels, particularly the grade 10-14 level instructors. From my experiences I have noted that if students become truly interested in chemistry in these years, then they are more likely to continue in a chemistry related field throughout their lifetime. It is to that end I am attempting to inspire more interest in chemistry. I request that the professional chemistry members of this ACS section working in the private, industrial and academic settings support my efforts to inspire students to pursue careers in chemistry by encouraging chemistry educators at the secondary level. If we can increase the attendance at meetings by the professional chemists within our section, there will be additional opportunities for interaction between the professional chemists and those teaching chemistry at the secondary level and perhaps their students (which are also invited to attend the meetings). Our section has been actively involved in supporting chemical education in many other venues for several years and I strongly support the efforts to continue these programs.

I encourage section members to consider attending the combined Southeast/Southwest Regional ACS Conference in Memphis during the first week of November this year. This should be an exciting conference and there should be time to relax and enjoy the atmosphere of Beal Street as well. I hope to see you there!

Best wishes to all members for a successful year.

Steve Zimmer

Looking Ahead: October 19, Dr. Hazari, "Periodic Fun", ASMS, Hot Springs

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.

Local Section News

National Chemistry Week:

National Chemistry Week is just around the corner. All individuals dedicated to enhancing the public's awareness of the contributions of chemistry are invited to support National Chemistry Week (NCW), October 16-22. The 2005 theme is "The Joy of Toys" The annual NCW celebration unites ACS local sections, industries, schools, and individuals in communicating the importance of chemistry to the quality of life. The Local ACS and the Museum of Discovery have teamed up for National Chemistry week events at the Museum of Discovery (October 18th – October 21st; Tuesday – Friday). Several college groups are going to participate in demonstrations at the museum during the week. If you have ideas or would like to help contact our section's NCW coordinator, Howard Hendrickson. hendricksonhowardp@uams.edu.

Local ACS Treasurer Receives Service Award

Dr. Marian Douglas received an award for Outstanding Service to Local Section at the ACS Central Arkansas Section Awards and Recognition Banquet at UALR, April 26, 2005. Dr. Douglas has served the section as treasurer for several years and has handled the Chemistry Olympiad as well. Photo on next page.



Dr. Marian Douglas receiving Outstanding Service to Local Section Dr. Steve Zimmer

ACS Sponsored High School Chemistry Clubs

This fall, the [ACS Education Division](#) will initiate a pilot program for affiliated high school chemistry clubs across the U.S. Plans for contacting interested teachers, producing a handbook, identifying interesting and appropriate club activities, and establishing contacts with membership programs are underway. Staff also plans to set up a Web page for posting resources and encouraging communication among clubs. As funds permit, logo-bearing banners and pins will add to the starter package.

Supporting and establishing ACS high school chemistry clubs is an attractive idea that has been under discussion for several

years. A survey sent out to high school teacher members—several of whom already sponsor clubs—confirmed support for such a program. A self-selected group of these teachers is already on board for the 2005-06 pilot program and will receive assistance from the Office of High School Education in launching their chemistry clubs. Additionally, these teachers will be encouraged to contact their local ACS sections and nearby ACS Student Affiliate Chapters to initiate joint activities and acquire member support.

This program is designed as a member benefit for high school teacher members. In order to be an ACS high school chemistry club advisor, the teacher must be a member of the Society, and/or a national, divisional, or local section affiliate.

Local ACS sections are encouraged to be pro-active in this pilot phase of the project. Any section wishing to initiate a partnership with an area high school to establish an affiliated club is welcome to move forward with the plan. Education Division staff will include the school in the pilot plan, supplying available resources and support. Please email staff at education@acs.org with questions, plans and/or suggestions.

Initial support for the clubs may include the following:

- A tabbed binder and CD with detailed start-up materials for establishing a club
- A sample constitution and bylaws
- A charter application
- A collection of safety-reviewed activities (Some of these will support various established ACS programs like National Chemistry Week, Chemagination, Kids & Chemistry, U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad, Chemists Celebrate Earth Day, and Green Chemistry.)
- Career information
- Information on ACS Accredited Colleges and Universities
- A Website
- Logo imprinted items (pins, banners, perhaps t-shirts and other items)
- Contact information for Local Sections and Student Affiliate groups
- Community Service Project ideas

If you have an article or job posting that you would like to have considered for publication in our newsletter, send it to odonej@hsu.edu for review.

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, odonej@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>
