

THE Central Arkansas



CHEMIST

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

February 2004

General Meeting

Thursday, February 19

Location: Hendrix College
Room 119, Axiom Hall
Conway, AR

6:00 pm Refreshments & Tour
(Hendrix College's Science Building)

6:30 p.m. Program
Mike Brannon, Ph.D.
"Process Hazard Analysis: The Use of
Laboratory Simulations to Determine Safe
Operating Conditions for Batch Processes"

Dinner will follow the program at Market Place
Grill in Conway.

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

For our February meeting, we welcome Dr. Michael Brannon from Eastman Chemical Company.

"Process Hazard Analysis: The Use of Laboratory Simulations to Determine Safe Operating Conditions for Batch Processes"

Some of the hazards associated with large scale batch chemical production processes will be addressed. A history of some major incidents at chemical plants will be given, and causes and

preventive measures will be discussed. The speaker will present the current laboratory equipment and techniques used to evaluate the hazards associated with a particular chemical process and how these hazards can be addressed.

Speaker's Biographical Sketch

Dr. Michael Brannon received a BS in Biology and BA in Chemistry from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in 1979. In 1985 he received his Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Arkansas. He has been employed by Eastman Chemical Company, Batesville, AR, since 1987.

Looking Ahead

Thursday, March 18, 2004 7:30 p.m., Dr. Joe Vinson, "Chemistry and Biochemistry of Chocolate: A Guilt-Free Food?" Lyon College, Batesville, AR

Tuesday, April 20, 2004, 6:30 p.m., Central Arkansas Local Section Annual Awards Banquet, UALR, Donaghey Student Center (rooms A&B)

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

Attention Student Affiliate Chapter and Chemistry Club Advisors: Call for Nominations for 2nd Annual Professor of the Year Award

For the second consecutive year, the Central AR Section will honor a college or university chemistry professor. We are inviting each Student Affiliate chapter or chemistry club in the Central Arkansas Section to nominate a faculty member from their college or university for this award. As a chapter, you can decide whom to nominate and assemble supporting material for your nomination. The supporting material should include a cover letter explaining why you are nominating your chosen faculty member and supporting letters of recommendation (three to five) from current and former students. In addition, you can include one or more letters of support from other faculty members. The cover letter should highlight the faculty member's accomplishments at your academic institution – for example, you can discuss items such as teaching awards, participation in research with undergraduates, and involvement with your ACS Student Affiliates chapter.

Please submit three copies of your completed nomination to Dr. Cheryl Lichti, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, 4301 W. Markham Street # 516, Little Rock, AR 72205 by Friday, April 9, 2003. The local section officers will judge the nominations (unless there is a conflict of interest), and the winner of the award will be announced at the Awards Banquet. You may contact Dr. Lichti at (501) 526-6924 or lichticheryl@uams.edu if you have any questions.

Last year's recipient, Dr. Don England of Harding University, did not know that he had received the award until he arrived at the ceremony. In fact, he was not even aware that he had been nominated! Those persons who were present at the awards ceremony will agree that the presentation of the award by the president of the Harding University Chemistry Club was truly touching. If those of you

who are submitting nominations for this year would also like your nominee to be kept in the dark, we are more than willing to assist you in this endeavor.

Attention Chemistry Professors!

As is our tradition, we will honor outstanding chemistry majors from each of our section's colleges and universities at our upcoming awards banquet. Please contact Dr. Cheryl Lichti (501-526-6924 or lichticheryl@uams.edu) with the names of those students that your school wishes to honor. Please send the names in by Monday, **April 5**, so that we will have time to print certificates.

Local Section Highlights

Team of Researchers Receives NASA Award

Dr. Edmond Wilson, Professor of Chemistry at Harding University in Searcy, AR will lead an interdisciplinary team of scientists in an effort to build and test a diode laser spectrometer that could be used in solar system exploration to measure biogenic gases in the atmospheres of Solar System Bodies. Senior collaborators with Professor Wilson are Dr. Gary Anderson (University of Arkansas – Little Rock), Dr. Edward Tunstel (Jet Propulsion Laboratory), and Dr. James Mackey (Harding University).

The work will be conducted by undergraduate and graduate students from their respective departments and universities over three years.

Professor Wilson says, "We have a good chance to make a case for being part of the 2009 Mars Lander Mission. The mobile robotic vehicle, now planned, for that mission will be the size of a Volkswagen and, if it has a nuclear power plant, will have a 500-day mission. Our spectrometer will be capable of measuring H₂S, O₂, CO, CO₂, and NH₃ gases in the atmosphere.

Attention Educators

Interested in working with students? Hoping to involve more teachers in section activities? We are seeking people with connections to high school chemistry teachers and/or an interest in motivating high school students in the field of chemistry to be part of a Chemagination committee and to run a contest in the area.



Chemagination is a chemistry essay and poster contest for students in grades 9-12. Students look 25 years into the future and write an article that they believe could appear in "ChemMatters" magazine about an innovation or breakthrough in the field of chemistry that they think will be important in the lives of teenagers at that time. Student articles focus in one of four categories: Biotechnology, Medicine/Healthcare, New Materials or Transportation/Environment.

For information about the contest, visit www.chemagination.com. To help coordinate a contest in this area, contact Cheryl Lichti at lichticheryl@uams.edu.

National News

2004 Regional Meetings

MEETING	DATE	LOCATION
36 th Central	June 2-5	Indianapolis, IN
59 th Northwest	June 6-9	Logan, UT
60 th Southwest	Sept. 29 - Oct. 2	Fort Worth, TX
36 th Great Lakes	Oct. 17-20	Peoria, IL
39 th Midwest	Oct. 19 - 22	Manhattan, KS
40 th Western	Oct. 27-30	Sacramento, CA
33 rd Northeast	Oct. 31- Nov. 3	Rochester, NY
56 th Southeast	Nov. 10-13	Raleigh, NC

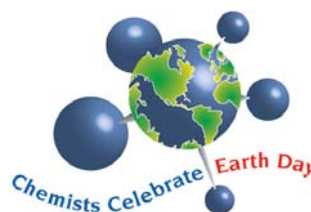
Visit the ACS Office of Regional Meetings website to link with the individual meetings for more details at www.chemistry.org/meetings/regional/.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS: APPLY NOW FOR 2004!

Two Younger Chemists Committee (YCC) Leadership Development Workshops will be held at ACS regional meetings in 2004: the Southwestern Regional Meeting in Fort Worth, Texas (September 29 to October 2) and the Northeastern Regional Meeting in Rochester, NY (October 31 to November 3).

ACS members who would like to apply for a YCC Leadership Development Award in order to attend one of these workshops, should submit their applications to the Younger Chemists Committee, c/o Stephanie Allen, American Chemical Society, 1155 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036 by April 1, 2004. Applications in both electronic and printable formats, are available online at chemistry.org/ycc.

Since participation is limited, YCC will be extending invitations for each workshop only to 15 interested ACS members who have external support. ACS members who would like to attend one of the workshops with the support of their employers or ACS local sections, divisions or committees, should contact Stephanie Allen at s.allen@acs.org.



“What do you know about H₂O?”

April 22, 2004

Members of the American Chemical Society's Committee on Community Activities invite you to participate in Chemists Celebrate Earth Day on

April 22, 2004. The program is a joint effort between the ACS Committee on Community Activities, the Committee on Environmental Improvement, and the Green Chemistry Institute. Chemists Celebrate Earth Day provides volunteers with an opportunity to showcase chemistry's contributions to sustaining a healthy planet and environment as part of the annual Earth Day celebration.

The 2004 theme for Chemists Celebrate Earth Day is "What do you know about H₂O?" As part of the celebration, the American Chemical Society is sponsoring a music video competition for students in grades K-12. The contest encourages students to produce a music video best illustrating the theme "What Do You Know About H₂O?" As the unifying event, local sections are asked to participate in "Testing Rain Water" an activity designed to measure the acidity of rainwater in area communities and to compare results online to national findings. The web activity is made available through ACS collaboration with members of the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) and the ACS East Central Illinois Section. Hands-on activities, as well as a sample press release and templates, are available at <http://chemistry.org/earthday>. For additional information, contact the ACS Office of Community Activities at 1-800-227-5558, ext. 6078.

Thoughts to Ponder.....

One cannot lead without putting others first.

Take your work seriously, but never yourself.
--Margot Fonteyn, Dancer

Character consists of what you do on the third and fourth tries.
--James A. Michener

If enough people think of a thing and work hard enough at it, I guess it's pretty nearly bound to happen, wind and weather permitting.
--Laura Ingalls Wilder, writer

Life is change. Growth is optional. Choose wisely.
--Karen Kaiser Clark

The speed of the leader determines the rate of the pack.
--Wayne Lukas

When you blame others, you give up your power to change.
--Robert Anthony

Everybody is ignorant, only on different subjects.
--Will Rogers

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

The *Central Arkansas Chemist* is published as needed by the Central Arkansas Local Section of the American Chemical Society. Section Chair, Cheryl Lichti, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, 501-526-6924, lichticheryl@uams.edu. Chair-Elect, Steve Zimmer, Arkansas Tech University Russellville, AR 72801-2222, 479-964-0825. Address all correspondence to the Section Secretary, Howard Hendrickson, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences #611, 501-603-1547, hendricksonhowardp@uams.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>.
