

# THE Central Arkansas



## CHEMIST

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

February 2006

### Meeting

**Wednesday, February 8, 2006**

Location: Laney Hall 102  
UCA  
Conway, AR

6:00 pm Dinner - Mike's Place, 808  
Front Street, Conway  
<http://www.mikesplaceconway.com/>

7:30 pm Program  
**Dr. Sara J. Risch**  
*"Flavor Chemistry"*

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



assisting on the international launch of the products. She is also working with the Institute of Food Technologists to field technical inquiries. Sara has been active in the development of a number of microwavable products, understanding the important of product formulation, process development and packaging. Another area of active research is the interaction between foods and packaging materials, specifically, the influence of packaging materials on the flavor of foods. Dr. Risch is the author of numerous technical papers and has edited six books; two on encapsulation of flavors, two on flavor package interactions, one on

### About the Speaker:

Sara Risch is the principal in the consulting firm of Science By Design, which she founded in 1993. She works with food and packaging companies as well as those in related industries, to develop new products, improve existing products, and determine new areas for growth. Among her current clients is a manufacturer of microwave popcorn where she is

spices and the most recent one new development in flavor chemistry. She is active in the Institute of Food Technologists, where she is a member of the executive committee of the Food Chemistry division and in the Agriculture and Food Chemistry Division of the American Chemical Society, currently serving as a councilor and is active on national committees. Prior to starting her consulting firm, Dr. Risch was Director of Research and Development for Golden Valley Microwave Foods. Dr. Risch received both her B.S. and Ph.D. in food science from the University of Minnesota and her M.S. in food science from the University of Georgia.

### **Flavor Chemistry**

We eat food for basic nourishment but also for the enjoyment that it gives us. One big part of that enjoyment is the flavor of the food. Many people will try a product once, but if it doesn't taste good, they will not try it again. Flavor chemistry is a fascinating area of research covering the analysis of what contributes to the flavor of the products that we eat to development of flavors that will work in a wide variety of products to the quest for new and unique flavors. As an example of what contributes to the flavor of a product, analytical chemists have identified over 800 volatile compounds in roasted coffee. The question is which of these are most important to creating a good coffee flavor. In terms of development, consumers want convenience and quality. Flavors tend to be unstable so there is a constant challenge to find ways to protect flavors as they go through heating, cooling, packaging and storage. Finally, there is always the search for that new or unique flavor that will be the next big blockbuster flavor--the next blue raspberry. An overview of flavor chemistry and current areas of research will be presented.

### **Local Section held first election to include Electronic Balloting**

The Central Arkansas section conducted its first election via the internet. 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 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 past 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 program was developed to 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.

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**Looking Ahead:** On March 6<sup>th</sup>, we will meet at Harding University. The program speaker will be Dr. Heindel who will discuss Alzheimers.

**Put this date on your calendar:** Central Arkansas ACS Awards Banquet – April 25<sup>th</sup> -- UALR

**Regional Meeting:** Don't forget the SWRM will be hosted by the Central Arkansas Section of the ACS in October, 2008. We're looking for members to volunteer for all aspects of organizing the regional meeting. The organizing committee will be meeting on Saturday, February 18 from 10 am – 3 pm at UALR to continue planning. Please make sure your institution/employer is represented. To volunteer, contact Marty Perry, [perrym@obu.edu](mailto:perrym@obu.edu) or 870-245-5217.

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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

### Executive Committee Meeting:

The Executive Committee met on January 17<sup>th</sup> to approve the 2005 Annual Report, discuss the 2006 Budget, finalize the speaker schedule for 2006, and to discuss preliminary plans for the Southwest Regional Meeting in 2008. Executive members present at the meeting were: Marty Perry, Marian Douglas, Steve Zimmer, Ed Wilson, Cheryl Lichti, Howard Hendrickson, Robin Lasey, and Janice O'Donnell

### National Chemistry Week:

The **Central Arkansas Section** of the American Chemical Society and the **Arkansas Museum of**

**Discovery** observed National Chemistry Week (NCW), October 19 – 21, 2005.

The activities held at the museum included 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 participated. This activity was well attended and well received by many primary schools in the central Arkansas area.

Howard Hendrickson was instrumental in assuring the success of the venture and we hope it is the beginning of many more collaborations.

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

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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](mailto:odonej@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, Marty Perry, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, AR 71998, 870-245-5217 Address all correspondence to the Section Secretary, Janice O'Donnell, Henderson State University, 870-230-5118, [odonej@hsu.edu](mailto: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>

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