



**Illinois Heartland American Chemical Society**

## **2006 Distinguished Scientist**

**Dr. Joseph Nagyvary**

**Texas A&M University**

**8:00 p.m.**

**May 11, 2006**

**Hotel Pere Marquette**

**with a special appearance by**

**Marcia Henry Liebenow**

**Concertmaster, Peoria Symphony Orchestra**



A lifetime of work studying how Stradivarius made his perfect violins recently earned a biochemist Joseph Nagyvary the Illinois Heartland American Chemical Society 2006 Distinguished Scientist Award. Nagyvary concluded decades ago that the chemicals used to treat a Stradivarius violin – not necessarily the way it was constructed – were the keys to its unique sound. Varnish, glues, wood preservatives and fillers used on the violin led to its pristine tone – and today’s high price tag. Antonio Stradivari made about 1,200 violins in his lifetime (1644 to 1737), but only about 600 remain today. They range in price from \$2 million to \$10 million each. Nagyvary’s research led him to try to and duplicate the sound of a Stradivarius, and the violins he has produced – called a ‘Nagyvarius’ – have been praised by many of the world’s top violinists. Nagyvary, who retired in 2003, is still conducting research on Stradivarius violins and expects to have a major paper dealing with the first chemical analysis of Stradivarius wood published in one of the world’s leading journals in the next few months. He has also ventured into the business of violin production with his company, Nagyvary Violins. Following the presentation, Nagyvary’s violin will be demonstrated by Marcia Henry Liebenow, the Peoria Symphony’s concertmaster.

“Einstein played the violin every day.” The Illinois Heartland ACS Distinguished Scientist Award is presented annually to scientists who personify the creative processes that allow Artists and Scientists to express their passions in their work. Creativity, dedication, and good methodology are integral parts of the search for and expression of new knowledge.

**The presentation is free and open to the public at 8 p.m.**

The Illinois Heartland ACS **Awards & Recognition Banquet** will be held from 6:00-7:45 p.m. Tickets are \$20/adult and \$10/student at the door. A cash bar will be available. Please RSVP indicating your choice of beef, chicken, or vegetarian (portabella) meal to Dr. Stephen Hughes (309-681-6176, [hughessr@ncaur.usda.gov](mailto:hughessr@ncaur.usda.gov)) by noon on May 9, 2006.

***<http://membership.acs.org/p/peoria>***