



American Chemical Society Wichita Section

April 2009 Newsletter
Stephen Donnelly, Editor

April Section Meeting
Tuesday, 21 April, 7:30 PM
Dugan Student Center
Newman University
Wichita, Kansas

Meal (optional): 6:30 p.m.

The meal will be served in the conference room in the Dugan Student Center located on the Newman University campus. The entrée will be chicken cordon bleu. The cost is \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for students. Cash or checks made out to the ACS Wichita Section will be collected before the meal. RSVP to Robin Jackson by 13 April – her contact information is listed below.

Meeting: 7:30 p.m.,

The meeting will include recognition of the outstanding students graduating with chemistry degrees from schools located within the section. Dr. Gerald DeMenna will give a presentation of the chemistry of Texas barbeque.

Directions:

Newman University, 3100 McCormick, Wichita
From I-135 take the Kellogg Street exit west.
From I-235 take the Kellogg Street exit east.
Take the Meridian/Edwards exit. Turn South on Edwards/Southwest Blvd. Go west on McCormick and Newman will be on your left.

See also: www.newmanu.edu/AboutNU/ContactUs/tabid/73/Default.aspx

Speaker: Dr. Gerald DeMenna, .

Title: Regional Culinary Chemistry - The Chemistry of Texas BBQ!

Barbeque is a specific method for the GRILLING of Meats with various Flavoring and Seasoning agents. The Texans claim to have the key to definitive Dry Rub & Smoked Barbeque for the classic Beef Brisket... the folks from Tennessee also lay claim to the ideal Dry Rub BBQ seasonings for Beef and Pork & while the Carolinians (mostly North) continue to ply their infamous "pulled Pork" BBQ piled high on Buns with Cole Slaw. What's the difference? A LOT!! Chemically, the Protein composition of Beef, Chicken and Pork vary significantly, and the Fat content show wide variations in Saturated, Unsaturated and Cholesterol concentrations. Physically, there are gross differences in the hydration and permeability of the muscle "fibers", and this in turn will affect the modes of "exchange" between the various hydrophilic and hydrophobic

components of the BBQ Sauce or Rub with the Meat matrix. We will examine the Chemical and Physical nature of BBQing; or to use the proper IUPAC nomenclature; "Protein Pyrolysis and Synthetic Peptide Hydrolysis with Cellulosic Esterification, Acid Carboxylate Neutralization, Ion Transport & Moist Membrane Osmotic Phase Extraction". Come and enjoy, you'll learn a little and learn to cook a little better, too!

Speaker's Biographical Sketch

Born Gerald John DeMenna on a Friday the 13th in the mid-50s, in a half-Italian, half-Jewish community in New Jersey; "Jerry" showed his affinity for the Sciences at age 5 when he and his Dad grew "Rock Candy" crystals for a science fair, then at age 9 he burned his hands with a home-made Thermite experiment - quite a transition! His culinary skills started with his paternal Grandmother, at age 8; when she shared the secret of Neapolitan Italian "Gravy" ('sauce' to the average American). His multi-ethnic friendships gave him a worldly insight of other cuisine and cooking methods. Jerry enjoys his duties as a universal Scientist today; working as a Freelance Scientist and Gypsy Professor at various Schools around the Country. He studied Pharmacy & Chemistry at Rutgers University in the '70s and took a job in a County Mental Hospital for the Criminally Insane (as an Employee - not a patient), spent weekends as a junior chef in NYC to pay for school, worked on a Masters in the '80s, and his Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry '90s. He is currently on his 4th Passport which sums up "Doctor DeMento's" high-tech academic and professional travelogue. He currently operates his private Analytical Research & Food Development Laboratory; Chem-Chek in the Bronx, NY.

Chair's Message

Greetings!

April 21, Tuesday evening, is a great opportunity for members of this local section to come together and celebrate accomplishments by outstanding students, a great gourmet dinner, and a fabulous talk about culinary chemistry! This evening will be a great outing for professors and students, as well as our industrial colleagues. Hope to see you all!

There are some wonderful benefits to being a member of American Chemical Society and an active member of the Wichita local section. Included among these are the following:

1. An opportunity to network with like-minded individuals
2. Events that speak to the technical side as well as the practical application of chemistry
3. A chance for professional development
4. The opportunity, from the academic side, to acquaint students with topics in chemistry from the "real" world presented by professionally experienced chemists
5. Being a member of the largest and oldest professional society

Dr. DeMenna will be travelling to the Mid-west to present a series of talks that are both entertaining and enlightening dealing with food chemistry. As a professor, I normally do not like to think about F's! But this coming meeting is all about F's! Please join us for a great evening of Fun learning, Food, and Fellowship! You will not be sorry, and you will have an A+ experience. See you in Wichita!

Robin Jackson
Chair, Wichita Section, ACS

Future Meetings:

20 May, 2009 McPherson
 "Edible Coatings on Food"

16 September, 2009 Salina
 "From Garbage to Stuff"

22 October, 2009 McPherson
 "Drug Screening"

18 November, 2009 Wichita
 "Military Explosives"

Editor's Note:

As many of you know we began distributing the section newsletter via e-mail last year. We continue snail mail distribution as well. Of our 196 local section members 13 have chosen e-mail distribution only.

I glean e-mail addresses from a roster produced by the Office of Local Section's and made available to local section officers. A number of members do not receive the e-mail version due to missing or broken e-mail addresses in this roster. If you wish to receive the newsletter via e-mail please update your personal information (including e-mail address) with ACS national at www.acs.org.

Paul Rillema attended the spring National ACS meeting representing the Wichita Section as Councilor and has submitted his report. Due to its length the report is included as an attachment to the newsletter.

Also, at the February, 2009 Wichita Section Executive Committee meeting it was agreed that the section should establish an endowment to fund a \$1,000 scholarship for a student attending high school within the confines of the Wichita Section to attend a university (also within the section and to include any 2 or 4 year college or university) with the intent to major in chemistry. The Executive Committee also agreed to use \$5,000 in section funds to seed the endowment, but of course we will need additional funds to build a self-sustaining endowment. We are asking for donations from individual members, corporations, or other organizations to help build this endowment.

We hope to award the first scholarship in the fall of 2010; however, that may be an ambitious schedule as we have yet to work out the details such as selection criteria and fund distribution mechanics. We welcome comments and/or advice from all our section members. Please forward your comments to Robin Jackson.

I guess I will help kick-start the process by pledging \$50 to the cause. Please consider donating in lieu of local section dues.

Sincerely,
Stephen Donnelly

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