



ACS Newsletter

The Newsletter of the Southern Arizona Section of
the American Chemical Society

Spring 2009



2009 Section Officers and Committee Chairpersons

Chair:

Silvia Kolchens

Chair Elect:

Terry Matsunaga

Immediate Past Chair:

Anne Padias

Secretary:

Brenda Jackson

Treasurer:

Derek Redmore

Councilor:

Patricia Schumann

Alternate Councilor:

Steve Brown

Awards Committee Chair:

Anne Padias

Membership Committee Chair:

Steve Brown

Education Committee Chair:

Steve Brown



Letter from the Chair

Silvia Kolchens

Dear ACS Members,

As incoming Chair of the Southern Arizona Section of the ACS it is my pleasure to welcome you back for the New Year 2009. First, I would like to introduce myself: I am instructional faculty for chemistry and department chair at Pima Community College, West Campus, for more than ten years. In that capacity I enjoy teaching students from a wide variety of backgrounds and making chemistry relevant to them through project based, student centered, and hands-on learning activities exploring topics of related disciplines such as chemistry and art, environmental chemistry, astrochemistry, as well as locally relevant chemistry topics. By reaching out to our community through science fairs, science olympiads, annual career days, and web-based learning, I like to take chemistry out of the classroom and into our community.

Emphasizing the interdisciplinary nature of chemistry is also the focus for our upcoming dinner meetings for 2009. The first meeting in February relates chemistry and art in a talk titled "Irreversible Changes to Paintings Due to Time", by Prof. Alexander Shedrinsky, Long Island University. In April, Prof. Jeff Seeman, Saddle Point Frontiers, will shed some light on the faces behind chemistry in his talk "A Human Side of Chemistry: A Portrait of Contemporary Heroes". The fall dinner meetings include a presentation scheduled for September concerning gasoline alternatives "Food or Fuel? The Case for or Against Ethanol" by Prof. Victoria Finkenstadt, National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research, and in October Prof. Richard Greenberg, Lunar and Planetary Laboratory, University of Arizona, will take us beyond Earth in his talk about Jupiter's moon Europa. I hope we provide you with well-rounded chemistry topics that are of interest to a wide range of audience including our students.

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End of the Year from the Past Chair

Anne Padias

At the end of my year in office as the Chair of the Southern Arizona Local Section of the ACS, I would like to thank you for the honor of serving you and the ACS. It has been an eventful year, on more than one level. But let's stick to ACS-related events.

Dr. Bernard "Bronco" Gordon of Polymer Chemistry Innovations was the speaker at our last dinner meeting of the year; a nice crowd met at the Parador Restaurant on Thursday October 23, 2008, to listen to Bronco entertain us with his talk on "Hurricanes, Alligators and Investigators: What do these have to do with running your own chemical company?". Diverse topics were woven together in this very entertaining talk: how to move a chemical company from Pennsylvania to Tucson, how to deal with local authorities, what to do about alligators on your property, etc.

On November 23, we had our social get-together. Derek and Caroline Redmore were gracious enough to open up their beautiful house to the section, and we are very grateful. There was a lot of good food, some drinks and a lot of very stimulating and entertaining conversation. A good time was had by all.

One of my goals at the beginning of the year was to place greater emphasis on local chemists in the dinner talks. Prof. Bonner Denton and Dr. Bronco Gordon were on the program, along with two speakers from the ACS tour. As it turned out, one of the speakers could not make it to Tucson in time, and Dr. Wayne Wesolowski was gracious enough to fill in at the absolute last minute and gave a great talk about "Polyurethanes and the Lincoln Funeral Train"; it was a very enlightening talk which taught us all a lot of history along with some polyurethane chemistry.

Among the accomplishments of the year, we definitely have to count the approval of the new bylaws. The bylaws had not been revised since the 1970's, and Roger Caldwell spearheaded the effort to bring this essential part of a non-profit organization into the 21st century. The bylaws were approved by the local members and also by ACS national. A great big thank you goes to Roger Caldwell for all his hard work; he took care of the bulk of the rewriting and all those pesky little details.

Anne Padias

Immediate Past Chair

Congratulations to the University of Arizona Student Affiliates

The University of Arizona Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society are pleased to announce our selection by the American Chemical Society to receive the Outstanding Chapter Award for the year 2007-08, as well as the coveted Green Chemistry Award. We will be traveling to the 2009 National ACS Conference in Salt Lake City to receive these awards as a club, as well as network, interface, and present a poster with other our peers from other universities.

This is the third year running we have received the Outstanding Chapter Award, and the second year we have received the Green Chemistry Award. Few SAACS chapters have the prestige of receiving both of these awards; we owe our continuing excellence to our highly motivated members and the spirited leadership of past presidents Danielle Correia and Nikolai Dahl.

Letter from the Chair (cont'd)

Other things that are happening in our Local Section are our membership revision, and in particular I would like to welcome our new student members both from SAACS and the biochemistry club, and our Women's Chemists group, which has become very active and innovative with their community based projects. The new bylaws of the local section have been approved at our elections in November.

And lastly, I would like to invite you, the members, to become an active part of our local section. There is much to do and we would really welcome your participation, suggestions and ideas. In particular we would like to get help strengthening our community outreach efforts, K-12, Community College and University interactions, through classroom visits, science fairs, career days etc. I know that everyone of you has something unique to offer that would be of great value to our local section. I look forward to meeting and working with you this upcoming year. Please contact me, I welcome your suggestions.

Sincerely,

Silvia Kolchens
skolchens@pima.edu

Upcoming Events for 2009

Mark your calendards for the following upcoming events sponsored by the Southern Arizona local section:

February 26, 2009

Dinner meeting
Alexander Shedrinski
Pima Community College
West Campus Center for the Arts

April 2, 2009

Awards Dinner meeting
Location to be announced

April 23, 2009

Dinner meeting
Jeff Seeman
Location to be announced

September 17, 2009

Dinner meeting
Victoria Finkenstadt
Location to be announced

October 2009

Dinner meeting
Richard Greenberg
Location to be announced

Topics, times, and locations for these events will be mailed under separate cover.

Southern Arizona Section, American Chemical Society 2009 Election Results

Five offices were up for election. The results are as follows:

Chair (1 year term): Silvia Kolchens – Silvia Kolchens is currently Chair of the Chemistry Department at Pima Community College, West Campus, where she has been employed as instructional faculty since 1995. She received her Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Cologne, Germany, and came to Tucson in 1989 to join the UA Chemistry Department as a post doc. She has been a member of the ACS for more than 15 years.

Chair Elect (1 year term): Terry Matsunaga – Terry Matsunaga is currently a Research Professor in Radiology Research in the Dept. of Radiology at the University of Arizona. Terry received his Pharm.D. in clinical pharmacy and Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Chemistry from the University of California. Prior to the University appointment, Terry had a 16 year career in the local Tucson private sector where he was Vice President for Research at ImaRx Therapeutics, Inc. He has been a member of the ACS for 22 years.

Alternate Counselor (final 2 years of a 3 year term): Steven Brown – Steve Brown, M.S. U of A (1981), has been managing the general chemistry lab program at the U of A for the past 30 years. He has been an active member of the local section since 1990 having previously served as section chair and education committee chair. He is currently the membership committee chair and active member of the executive committee.

Secretary (1 year term): Brenda Jackson – Brenda Jackson graduated from the University of Arizona with a B.S in Chemistry in December 1994 and took an M.A. in Bio-Organic Chemistry in December 1998. She is currently employed as a Sr. Multi-Disciplined Engineer at Raytheon Missile Systems. Brenda has been a member of the ACS since 1994 and served SAZACS as Secretary last year.

Treasurer (1 year term): Derek Redmore – Derek Redmore has a B.Sc. and Ph.D. (organic chemistry) from the University of Nottingham, UK. He was employed in Research & Development in Specialty chemicals as researcher and manager and as Patent Liaison in a startup battery company. He has served the ACS at the local section level as Awards chair (St. Louis), Chair (Southern Arizona) and Treasurer (Southern Arizona, 2004-2008).

This election cycle we were also asked to vote on revisions to the local section bylaws. Roger Caldwell worked very hard on this revision, and did a great job. The proposed revisions to our local section bylaws passed and can be found electronically at our web site <http://sazacs.org>.

Celebrate Earth Day – April 22, 2009

Air - The Sky's the Limit

Join in the celebration on April 22nd, or any time that week! Conduct an environmental awareness event at your school, or participate in an ACS Local Section-sponsored event. If you are interested in participating in or hosting an Earth Day event, please contact your local section by visiting our website at <http://www.sazacs.org/>.



News from the University of Arizona

The newspapers have been reporting on the transformations going on at the University of Arizona. The major aim of the restructuring is to make the University a more competitive Research university in this new century. The hope is that by combining different units into larger, more relevant entities, the University of Arizona will be better able to serve the State of Arizona, and hopefully some cost savings on the side. In these difficult economic times, the latter sometimes seems to be driving this effort, but that was not the intent.

The Chemistry Department and the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics are at the forefront of the restructuring; these two departments have decided to merge in order to become more competitive. Implementation Planning Committees composed of faculty and staff of both departments have discussed such issues as the effect on education, both graduate and undergraduate, staffing, faculty workloads, faculty hiring, etc. The faculty of both departments voted on the merger proposal during the week of December 8, 2008, and overwhelmingly approved the proposal. The name of the new department is Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and this name will be effective starting January 1, 2009. During the transition period, between January 1 and July 1, 2009, the functions of both departments will be gradually merged.

Mini-Grants Available for Collaborative Activities

Proposals are being sought for **Equipping the 2015 Chemical Technology Workforce** mini-grants. Up to \$500 will be awarded to collaborative activities that support technician education and career development.

Equipping the 2015 Chemical Technology Workforce has three goals:

Raise awareness of the changing needs of chemical technicians, operators, analysts, and other applied chemical professionals.

Highlight opportunities for industry, academia, professional societies, and the community to collaborate on meeting those needs

Increase involvement of applied chemical professionals in the American Chemical Society

To qualify for a mini-grant, one or more sectors of the chemical enterprise (industry, academia, professional organizations, etc.) must collaborate on the activity. Activities must also support one or more of the goals of **Equipping the 2015 Chemical Technology Workforce** and take place in the 2009 calendar year.

The deadline for proposals is 20 February 2009.

To learn more about **Equipping the 2015 Chemical Technology Workforce** and the mini-grants, to get ideas for activities, or to gather information about the chemical technology profession in today's marketplace, please visit the Equipping the 2015 Chemical Technology Workforce website (go to www.acs.org and follow the path, Funding & Awards > Grants > Chemical Technology Partnership).

**ACS 237th National Meeting
Salt Lake City, Utah**

On January 12, 2009, registration opened for all attendees to register for the ACS 237th National Meeting to be held in Salt Lake City, UT, March 22-26, 2009. Early registration fees started on January 12, 2009, and will last through February 23, 2009.

Short Courses at the ACS National Meetings

Short Courses are held at each National Meeting and offers the opportunity to take advantage of a wide range of course offerings before and during the meeting.

March 21 – 26, 2009 | Salt Lake City, UT

ACS Spring National Meeting

Courses in Organic Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Management, Cheminformatics, Spectroscopy, Polymer Chemistry, Intellectual Property, and Toxicology

Visit us on the web at
<http://www.sazacs.org/>



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