



# *the Alembic*



## Chair's Corner



Dear Fellow Chemists,  
 Good news! Our section has been nominated for the Speaker Service Hospitality Award for outstanding performance while hosting an ACS Tour Speaker in 2001. The award will be presented on April 9 at the Local Section Officer's and Tour Speaker's reception at the ACS National Meeting in Orlando. Both Marv Lang and Dave Lewis are planning to be at the National Meeting and one of them will receive the award for us if we are selected. We haven't determined yet which one of last year's tour speakers nominated us, so we don't know who hosted our nominator. But some one or more of you must have done an excellent job of hosting. Thanks!!

Our Meeting-in-Miniature in January was well attended and very well done. Special thanks to Carmen Wiley, Gene Johnson, and Jerry Gargulak for their excellent oral presentations – and to Marv Lang, Steve Leiterman, and Kevin

Czerwinski for their excellent computer and poster presentations.

The February meeting was well attended, too. Dr. Alton Hassell showed seventeen of us how he interleaves sheets of carbon-14 doped paper and sensitive film into antique books in order to obtain images of the watermarks in the handmade paper that the books are printed on. No damage is done to the book. The images of the watermarks are quite distinct and they can be laid on top of each other for comparisons.

Our March meeting will be in Eau Claire and will feature Dave Lewis with an interesting title for his presentation, "Dave and the Dead Russians". Dave tells me it's really not about him. It's about important contributions to chemistry made by Russian chemists. Please check out the meeting announcement for more details. I hope to see you there.

*Dave*

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#### ACS-CWS Web Page

<http://www.uwsp.edu/chemistry/acscws/>  
 or you can link there from the American Chemical Society home page - Local Sections. Contains the most up-to-date information about section activities.

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ACS - Central Wisconsin Section 2002 Meeting Schedule				
DATE	LOCATION	SPEAKER	TOPIC	HOST
January 23	Marshfield		"Meeting in Miniature"	Tom Marty
Feb. 13	Wausau	C. Alton Hassell	Nuclear Chemistry	John Hollis
March 20	Eau Claire	David Lewis	"Dave and the Dead Russians"	Jack Pladziewicz
April 16	Stevens Point	Joe E. Vinson	Analysis of Cannabinoids	Kevin Czerwinski
May 3	Eau Claire		Awards and Spouses Night	Dave Lewis
Sep. 11	Stevens Point	Stanley Manahan	Environmental Science	Tom Zamis
Oct. 7	Eau Claire	J. Ernest Simpson	"Chemistry of Wine"	Dave Lewis



American Chemical Society

Central Wisconsin Section



## "Dave and the Dead Russians"

by Dr. David E. Lewis

University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire

Wednesday, March 20, 2002  
7:30 PM Phillips Hall, Room 413  
UW – Eau Claire

### Abstract:

Most organic chemists are aware of the contributions of German chemists to the development of the science, but relatively few are aware that many of the reactions first learned during the first course in organic chemistry are the work of Russian organic chemists. This view has been exacerbated by the fact that many of these Russian chemists published their work in the German journals (*Ann. Chem. Pharm.*, *J. prakt. Chem.*, or *Ber. Deut. chem. Ges.*), with the result that their names were transliterated from the cyrillic by Germans, not Englishmen. As a result, many of these names are unrecognizable in terms of their national origin (e.g. Saytzeff, Markownikoff). In this talk, the legacy of these Russian organic chemists will be explored.

### The Speaker:

David E. Lewis was born and educated in Australia, taking his Ph.D. in natural products chemistry at the University of Adelaide under R.A. Massy-Westropp. In 1980, following post-doctoral work at the University of Arkansas and temporary faculty positions at Arkansas and Illinois, he took a position as Assistant Professor at Baylor University, where he earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. In 1989 he moved to South Dakota State University as Associate Professor, becoming Professor in 1993. In 1997, he moved to UW-Eau Claire, where he is currently Professor of Chemistry. Lewis' interests are in synthetic organic chemistry, the applications of organic chemistry in medicine and engineering, and in the history of organic chemistry. He is currently Chair-Elect of the ACS Division of the History of Chemistry.

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The social mixer at 5:30 and dinner at 6:00pm will be at Sweetwaters Restaurant, 1104 W. Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire (near the intersection of Clairemont (US 12) and State Highway 37). Dinner reservations should be made by contacting **Jack Pladziewicz** at 715-836-4855 or email [pladzjr@uwec.edu](mailto:pladzjr@uwec.edu) **before 5 P.M. on Tuesday, March 19.**