



the Alembic



Chair's Corner



Greetings from New England to my fellow chemists. I am slowly adjusting to life in New England and gradually losing my ties to Central Wisconsin. This past week, we sold our house in Wausau and bought a house in Worcester. My wife and three of my children have joined me in this endeavor and we are learning to negotiate rotaries and drive crowded curvy highways. My workplace in Hopkinton is exactly 20 miles and 30 minutes from our home. The drive to work is on New England backroads and is pretty.

I am pleasantly surprised on the feedback I received from our first ACS meeting. No doubt the topic of career self management is on everyone's mind and helped to increase the attendance. But I also believe the art gallery setting and fine meal accommodations chosen by David Thiel helped to make this an especially enjoyable atmosphere for all to attend. Thank you David for your efforts in making this meeting successful.

As we look ahead, this month's March 23rd meeting is hosted by Tom Zamis and will be held at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. It will be a night of chemical demonstrations and should compliment the fine chemical demonstrations we in Central Wisconsin have been treated to.

Feel free to ask your children's chemistry teachers and any future or current chemist you know to come and enjoy this evening.

Our April 27th meeting will also be our awards night, and will feature Sarah Blendermann and a program around chemistry sites found on the internet. Ilona Lin is hosting this event. As always, I expect awards night will be our local sections highlight event of the year.

Let me give you some of the details of our May 5th night to honor the retirees of our section. First let me give you a little background on the ideas for this meeting. When I was at the ACS leadership training class, the ACS national leaders pointed out that our local section is nearly 20 percent retired members. They suggested I do a program specifically designed for these members (maybe one on financial investments). When I got back to Wausau, I thought and thought about a meeting for retirees. I decided I wanted to salute our retirees for their efforts in starting our nearly 30 year old section, and for their efforts in training and mentoring that you and I have gotten from these great members. I brought

Continued on Page 3

ACS - CWS Mini-Directory

Chair

James Waelchli
Liberty Mutual Group
Hopkinton, MA 01748
phone (508)435-9061 ext 238
email:
james.waelchli@libertymutual.com

Chair-Elect

Dave Lewis
UW-Eau Claire Chemistry
Eau Claire, WI 54702
email: lewisd@uwec.edu

Secretary - Treasurer

Ilona Lin
1816 Daffodil Lane
Wausau, WI 54401
phone: (715)355-3672
email: illi@ltus.com

Councilor

C. Marvin Lang

Alternate Councilor

Don Showalter

Past Chair

Robert St. Louis

Newsletter Editor

Tom Zamis
Dept. of Chemistry, UW-SP,
Stevens Point WI 54481
phone (715) 346-3258(office)
email tzamis@uwsp.edu



American Chemical Society

Central Wisconsin Section



**'Is It Chemistry or Is It Magic?
An Inside Look at a Chemical Demonstration Road Show'**
by

Dr. James Webb & Dr. Otis Rothenberger, Professors of Chemistry
Illinois State University Normal, IL 61790-4160

**Thursday Evening 23 March 2000
UW-Stevens Point Science Building
Room A121 7:30 PM**

When professional firefighters or law enforcement officers visit public school classrooms, they dress and act according to their professional roles. More often than not, the chemist's visit involves funny T-shirts, cute hats, and silly behavior. Thus, many chemical outreach presentations support the very stereotypes that the profession has come to deplore. This presentation illustrates that chemical outreach programs can convey the profession's important messages with drama, humor, and dignity. Further, the presentation illustrates that these messages can be conveyed with very simple and inexpensive materials that can be packed in the trunk of a single car. Drs. Rothenberger and Webb have presented this talk at colleges, high schools, junior high schools, and elementary schools throughout the United States. They are committed to the idea that chemical outreach is the responsibility of every member of the profession. During this special ACS tour presentation, of Drs. Rothenberger and Webb will show prospective presenters how to prepare, transport, set up, and effectively execute an outreach presentation. Since this special presentation is designed to be entertaining and instructive, it should be of interest to anyone concerned about outreach. This includes high school/college chemistry teachers and chemistry clubs, as well as industrial chemists. A demonstration manual including recipes and script notes will be left with the section secretary.

*****About the Speakers*****

The presentation "Is It Chemistry or Magic?" was created by Otis Rothenberger, a professor of chemistry at Illinois State University. Dr. Rothenberger has been involved in the field of chemical education for over 30 years. Although his research interests are in the history of chemistry, his educational specialty is the presentation of chemistry to nonscientific audiences. James Webb is a professor of chemistry at Illinois State University. As a co-presenter, his creative efforts contribute to the continuing evolution of the show. Dr. Webb, who maintains an active research program in the area of analytical chemistry, has worked as an academic and an industrial chemist. At the present time, "Is It Chemistry or Magic?" is a collaborative effort of Otis Rothenberger and James Webb. Since the presentation's unique use of "chemical magic" as a serious teaching tool appeals to a wide range of audiences, Drs. Rothenberger and Webb have served as chemical education consultants to a number of educational organizations, including the Chemical Industries Council of Illinois, the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry, the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory's High School Teachers Workshop, and the American Chemical Society.

Prior to the meeting, a 5:30 PM mixer and a 6 PM dinner will be held at Michele's Restaurant, 513 Division St. (Business 51 North, adjacent to UWSP campus). The all inclusive dinner will include choice of several entrees, side dishes, coffee, milk, tax and tip for \$15. *After dinner, drive three blocks east on Fourth Avenue to reach Parking Lot X on campus. The Science Building is adjacent to the lot and the Trytten Lecture Hall is just inside the main entrance.* **Reservations may be made by leaving a message with Tom Zamis at 715-346-3258 (or email tzamis@uwsp.edu) by 5 PM on Tuesday March 21.**

Year 2000 ACS Schedule

Month	Date	Speaker	Topic	Location	Host
February 2000	Thursday February 24	Dr. Marlowe Embree	Topic to be centered around careers	Wisconsin Rapids	David Thiel
March 2000	Thursday March 23	James Webb Otis Rothenberger	Is it Chemistry or Magic?	Stevens Point	Tom Zamis
April 2000	Thursday April 27	Sarah Blendermann	Boogie-Boarding the Internet- Getting the Most Chemistry from the WWW	Wausau	Iлона Lin
May 2000	May 5	Paul Walter	Salute to Retired Chemists	Stevens Point	Marv Lang
September 2000	Thursday September 14	John Marquart	Caves: Worlds within the World	Eau Claire	Bob St Louis
October 2000	Thursday October 12	Dr Kenneth Abate	Survey of Surfactants	Marshfield	Tom Marty
November 2000	November 2	Tip Randall	Patent Systems Updates	Eau Claire	David Lewis
December 2000	December 7	Ronald Haas	Tour of Marshfield Clinic Laboratories	Marshfield	Ronald Haas

Chair's Corner (from page 1)

this idea to our executive committee, and Dr Lang worked to get a speaker for us. His work paid off big time as Dr Paul Walter, former ACS President is coming on Friday evening, May 5th. I am so excited about this meeting and I hope everyone comes and brings along a former teacher, boss, or mentor. What better way to tell our retired members that we appreciate the investment of their time in our careers and their continued involvement in our local ACS section. In honor of our retirees, the executive committee for this event has approved half price meals for each retiree and their spouse. I hope everyone puts this date on their calendars and more details will come in the next Alembic.

While I thanked members for their support in the previous Alembic, I now encourage other members to become active within our section. We need your help to continue keeping this section as a needed asset in our lives. The question can be asked as to why should we support this section.

And the answer is easy. First of all, our local section can provide valuable programs (such as career self management), which can be tailored around chemists. Second, we can honor local members, companies, or retirees (such as awards night or retiree's night) in a personable and warm way -- among friends. Third, we can meet and know other chemists (monthly meetings) -- friends who share this profession we love. Fourth, we can provide the public with correct information about our profession (National Chemistry Week). Fifth, we have the opportunity to grow and give presentations to our peers (meetings in miniature). Sixth, there is opportunities to grow and gain leadership skills among your peers (executive committee meetings). So tell me, what are you waiting for? This is your opportunity to make a difference in your local section. Your local section has several opportunities for leadership, growth, awards, networking, and promoting. We need your help in several key areas (and I am sure future chair David Lewis will identify more). Consider being on our awards

committee and help honor distinguished members, teachers, companies, and students. Consider helping with or leading National Chemistry Week and help our local section's outreach with the public. Consider being a career coordinator within our section, and help our members with career advice. Consider being a media coordinator within our section, and help to publicize events within our section. Or better yet, consider running for local office, and serving in a leadership position. Your help is needed and the benefits are great. This is your opportunity to make a difference in your careers, to be recognized as a leader among your peers, and to help with programs that will add value for chemists in our area. E-mail any member of the executive committee or myself and let us know where you want to serve. I know we have a place for your talents.

Until next month, I hope all of you (and whomever you bring) enjoy the March meeting.

Jim

ACS-CWS Web Page

<http://chemdept.uwsp.edu/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.



February Meeting

by T. Zamis

22 Central Wisconsin Section members and friends turned out at *Café Mulino* for the February meeting in Wisconsin Rapids. After dining on the tasty Italian fare, the group traveled to the *Alexander House* for the talk by Marlowe Embree. The *Alexander House* had nice displays of pottery work throughout and a fascinating collection of historical items relating to the development of the Rapids/Port Edwards area. It really is a nice location for a meeting. A contingent of students from UWSP joined the faithful for Dr. Embree's talk on career self-management. He provided many useful ideas for self-assessment and planning to use when searching for that perfect job. Thanks to Dave Thiel for hosting this very enjoyable and successful meeting.

April Meeting

Mark your calendars for the April meeting which will be our "Annual Awards Banquet and Spouse's Night". The meeting is set for Thursday night, April 27 and will be held at the Midway Hotel (Best Western) in Wausau. The mixer will begin at 5:30 at Jerico's Bar and then dinner will be in the Aspen Room at 6:30. The dinner selection will be roast beef or fish. ACS Webmaster, Sarah Nash Blenderman, will be speaking on sharpening your WWW surfing skills for jobs, ACS services and ACS databases. Ilona Lin is hosting the meeting, and she will be the contact for dinner reservations. Watch for further details in the next issue of the *A lembic*.

The last words of a chemist...

1. And now the taste test.
2. That may become hot.
3. And now a little bit from this...
4. And now shake it a bit.
5. Why is there no label on this bottle?
6. In which glass was my mineral water?
7. The bunsen burner is out!
8. Why is this stuff burning with a green flame?
9. Uh-oh, now I've spilled something...
10. First the acid, then the water...
11. And now the detonating gas problem.
12. This is a completely safe experimental setup.
13. Oops, wrong beaker...
14. Now you can take the protective shield away...
15. Something is wrong here...
16. Trust me - I know what I am doing.

Call for Nominations 2000 Awards

One of the more significant activities that the Central Wisconsin Section of ACS sponsors each year is the recognition of outstanding performance by chemists in our area. Recipients of these awards are recognized at our annual Awards Banquet and Spouse's Night, this year to be held on April 27, 2000. The time has come for **YOU** to submit your nominations. Criteria for each award are listed on our Web page. Please consider taking a little time and submitting nominations for:

Outstanding Contribution to
Chemistry

Outstanding Company

Outstanding Service

Outstanding College Chemistry
Student

Outstanding H.S. Chemistry
Teacher

Nominations for these awards
should be submitted ASAP to:

Tom Marty

Associate Professor of Chemistry
UWC - Marshfield/Wood County
Marshfield, WI 54449
phone (715) 389-6502
FAX (715) 389-6517
email tmarty@uwc.edu