



# *the Alembic*



## Chair's Corner



*Tempus fugit.* Time flies. Little did I realize when I first heard this in Latin class some years ago, that it not only flies, but accelerates the older one gets. By the time you read this there will only be one more meeting before the summer is upon us. Little did I realize when past chair Bob St. Louis asked if I would be willing to serve just how fast ACS events would come and go. In fact, I have become painfully aware that if it weren't for a small group of dedicated people, many of the events would not take place at all. Why do I mention this? I want to make you aware, if you are not already, of their efforts. In fact, if you are not currently involved in any of the activities of the local section, I would like to encourage you to become so. Not just because it would ease the burden of this hard working group of people, but because of the benefit that you would receive from doing so. We normally look to see if something has enough value to us to invest ourselves. May I suggest that sometimes you have to invest yourself in something before you realize it's value. O.K. Soapbox mode off.

In our April meeting, we honored the award recipients of the Outstanding High School Chemistry Student, the Outstanding High School Chemistry Teacher, and the

Outstanding College Chemistry Student. They were Dustin Nest, Richard Staats, and Bethany Buck respectively. It was good to hear of the work ethic of the students as evidenced by their non-academic activities and comments from the ones who nominated them. And my hat certainly goes off to Richard who has spent decades coaching and teaching young people both in the classroom and out.

The speaker for the evening was Dr. Rudolph Marcus. Through an entertaining retelling of some ancient myths, he reminded us of the unchanging nature of the human race down through the centuries. Technology has advanced yes, but issues such as the potential for both good and bad from new ideas, self sacrifice for the benefit of others, and continuous pursuit of greater value have not really changed. It was a time for reflection of our roles within the practice/teaching of chemistry and the role of chemistry within society.

See elsewhere in this issue the announcement regarding the May meeting. You will have an opportunity to hear an educator who has been recognized at the national level by the ACS. The title of his talk is intriguing to me. Hope to see you there.

*Gary*

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"1 + 1 = 2. Or Does It?"

by

John Ihde

Wausau West High School

Recipient of the ACS James Bryant Conant Award in 1999

Thursday, May 13, 1999, 7:30 PM
Leopold Science Building Room 126
UW - Marshfield/Wood County
Marshfield, WI

Abstract:

I will offer a retrospective on 35 years of teaching high school chemistry, looking at the aspects of chemistry that make it difficult for many first time students to comprehend. A compendium of things that those of us who teach chemistry take for granted. A brief look at how to make it relevant, some thoughts on integration of art and chemistry and finally some ideas with respect to horizontal versus vertical education.

Biographical sketch:

John received a BS in Education from the University of Wisconsin - Madison in 1964. He received an MAT degree from Duke University in 1970. He has taught chemistry in the Wausau School District for 35 years with 29 of those at Wausau West. He instituted the Advanced Placement Chemistry course at West, and with Lee Michlein instituted an integrated Art/Chemistry course called Kaleidoscope. He has received a Tandy Technology Scholar Award in 1991, a Toyota Tapestry Grant in 1994, and a Great Lakes Regional Award in High School Chemistry Teaching in 1995 before winning the James Bryant Conant Award.

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Prior to the meeting, a 6 PM dinner will be held at the China Chef, 233 S. Central Ave. in downtown Marshfield (east side of Central between 2nd and 3rd; parking in the rear.). A buffet is available or off-the-menu ordering. Reservations may be made by leaving a message with Tom Marty at 715-389-6502 (or email tmarty@uwc.edu) by 5:00 Tuesday May 11.

Solution to Cryptogram

(Submitted by Jim Adams)

AS FOR BUTTER VERSUS
MARGARINE, I TRUST COWS MORE
THAN CHEMISTS. (JOAN GUSSOW)

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. Includes maps of all of the usual places where monthly meetings are held.

Chemistry Olympiad

(reported by Laura Jane Cole)

Eight schools with 123 students participated in the local Chemistry Olympiad Exam. The schools which participated were: Bruce, DC Everest, Eau Claire North, Greenwood, Lake Holcombe, Marshfield, Marshfield Columbus, and Necedah. The top eight students were invited to take part in the National Chemistry Olympiad Exam, held April 24, 1999 at UWSP.

The top 8 students who qualified to participate in the National Chemistry Olympiad Exam were: Dustin Nest, Marshfield HS; Elaine Denny, Marshfield HS; James Patek, Columbus HS; Dustin Blanchard, Columbus HS; Greg Artac, Greenwood HS; Joshua Rose, Greenwood HS; Curt Barr, DC Everest HS; and Jeremy King, DC Everest HS.

## Awards! Awards! Awards!

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### Central Wisconsin Section of ACS

Outstanding High School Chemistry Student  
Dustin Nest - Marshfield Senior H.S.

Outstanding High School Chemistry Teacher  
Richard Staats - Nekoosa H.S.

Outstanding College Chemistry Student  
Bethany Buck - UWSP

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### UWSP Professor Honored by Finnish Chemical Society.

The Finnish Chemical Society celebrated the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding with a series of meetings and seminars held in Helsinki on Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. During this "festival meeting," Professor Marvin Lang of the Chemistry Department at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point USA was awarded lifetime "corresponding membership in the Finnish Chemical Society (SKS)." A citation, presented to Lang in Helsinki read in part, given "in recognition of your outstanding contributions to research and international cooperation in the field of chemistry."

SKS infrequently selects individuals to be a corresponding member. Dr. Lang was honored this year along with Professor György Pokol, an analytical chemist and head of the Faculty of Chemical Engineering at the Technical University of Budapest, Hungary. Both men were in attendance at the festival meeting. Dr. Lang becomes one of 22 living individuals who are corresponding member of SKS and he is the eighth American so designated. His name joins those of Henry W. Heikkinen, Greeley, Colorado(1991) and Elias Corey, Cambridge, Mass.(1982) who were elected in the past twenty years.

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### UWSP Chemistry Department 1999 Student Award Winners

#### Merck Index Outstanding Student Award

- "For academic excellence in course work in the department and demonstrated research or experimental ability and potential for contribution to research and development."

*Jennifer Seymour – West Bend, WI*

#### American Institute of Chemists Award -

"To an outstanding graduating senior who, on the basis of a demonstrated record of leadership, ability, character and scholastic achievement has shown the potential for the advancement of the chemical and chemical engineering professions."

*Carla Volkmann- Stevens Point, WI*

**Weaver Award** - "Outstanding performance in Biochemistry by a major."

*Aric Daul - Algoma, WI*

#### Undergraduate Award in Analytical Chemistry -

"To recognize students who will have completed their third undergraduate year and who display interest in the aptitude for a career in analytical chemistry."

*Jennifer Seymour – West Bend, WI*

**Culver-Rogers Award** - "To the second semester junior with the highest grade point average in biology, chemistry or physics."

*Angela Najdowski – Beloit, WI*

*Jonathan Hobson – Plainfield, WI*

**Kallander Award** - "For outstanding performance in junior chemistry courses by a chemistry major."

*Nathaniel Wallock - Amherst, WI*

#### Organic Chemistry Achievement Award -

"Sponsored by POLYED, to recognize the chemistry major with the most outstanding performance in sophomore organic chemistry."

*Jeff McGilvra – Fort Atkinson, WI*

#### Faust Awards for Freshmen and

**Sophomores** - "Outstanding performance in freshman chemistry by a major (one award) and outstanding performance in sophomore chemistry courses by a major (two awards)"

*Angela Burmeister - Brooklyn, WI*

*James Worden – Oshkosh*

*Steven Mennen - Appleton*

#### CRC Freshman Chemistry Achievement

**Award** - "To the freshman with the outstanding academic achievement in chemistry."

*Rachael Hopp - Waupun, WI*

**Trytten Award** - "For outstanding performance in freshman chemistry by a major."

*Jessica Martin - Seymour, WI*

**Trytten Scholarship** - "For excellent high school seniors planning to major in chemistry at UWSP."

*Tara Miller - Menominee, WI*

*Lena Parry - Waupaca, WI*

*Louise Venne - Burlington, WI*

**Councilor's Report  
217<sup>th</sup> National ACS Meeting  
Anaheim, California**

**C. M. Lang  
UW-Stevens Point**

The Anaheim meeting of the ACS was held March 21-25, 1999 in Anaheim, California and I attended the meeting as your Councilor. All told, there were 10,517 advanced registrants and ultimately 13,500 attendees, 458 booths were sold to 254 exhibiting companies. Over 6100 papers presented over the 3-1/2 days of this meeting. The National ClearingHouse (NCH) had over 1500 employment opportunities posted by 127 employers but only 1109 "job seekers" registered. As Councilor from the Central Wisconsin Section, I represented the local membership at the Council meeting on March 24th. Further, I continue to serve on the Council Committee on Constitution & Bylaws, which meets all day Saturday before the meeting and has a session immediately following the close of the Wednesday Council meeting. Finally, at this meeting I had the privilege of presenting a chemical demonstration program as part of an undergraduate symposium. A 90 minute program entitled "*National Chemistry Week: The Elements of Leadership*" was conducted on Tuesday morning of the meeting week.

The actions and decisions of the Anaheim Council meeting have recently been highlighted in *Chemical and Engineering News (C&EN)* April 19, 1999, p.78-79). The meeting began on a somber note. Councilors were asked to "have a moment of silence for our recently departed colleague, Professor Glenn Seaborg." He passed away on Feb. 24, 1999 of a second "stroke." As you may know, Professor Seaborg suffered a stroke while attending the Boston ACS meeting last August. Apparently he never recovered from the first event. A special *Tribute to Glenn* was held on the previous Monday. That special session was impromptu and brought together several attendees who simply remembered the scientific legacy of Glenn T. Seaborg.

Let me take a few moments to share some "random thoughts and miscellaneous items" which I've noted regarding the Council meeting and other sessions which I attended. Hopefully you'll find them of interest.

**President-Elect (Y2K):** Next fall (Sept 1999) the ACS membership will be asked to choose between candidates for the position of President-Elect in the year 2000. Four nominees were brought before the Council and two were selected to be candidates. Attila Pavlath from DOA in Albany, California and Alan Schreisheim, former director of Argonne Nat'l Lab, (along with any petition candidate(s) which surface by Jul 15<sup>th</sup>) will vie for a three year spot on the ACS Board of Directors (as P-Elect in 2000, P in 2001 and Immediate Past P in 2002).

**Dues:** Your membership dues in the ACS will increase by \$3 in Y2K to \$108.

**Abstracts:** For the fall national meeting (New Orleans in August), On-Line Services will give participants and opportunity of submitting the abstracts of their presentations directly to the ACS. It is hoped that the various regional meeting groups will also avail themselves of this procedure. You might note that it is now possible to register for a future ACS meeting via e-mail.

**Nomenclature:** One of the oldest committees of the ACS is the *Council Committee on Nomenclature*. From my perspective, it is a thankless assignment to be a member of this committee. At the Anaheim meeting, its name was changed to the *Council Committee on Nomenclature, Terminology and Symbols* which apparently is more in keeping with its current function.

**Reapportionment:** The realignment of certain local sections with new electoral regions continues to be a hot topic. The Council Committee on Nominations and Elections is charged with keeping the six regions, for purposes of electing regional directors, at the average of all ACS members in the USA divided by six and with a maximum 10% variance. The Central Wisconsin Section is in Region V. Regions I through V have membership counts a bit below the average while the present population of chemical professional in the western region (Region VI) nearly 13% above the average. Clearly something must be done. Twenty one (21) local sections located along the traditional borders have been identified to move from one region to another. I am pleased to report that CWS is not one of them! It appears to be an emotional issue.

Finally, let me once again thank you for choosing me to represent the Central Wisconsin Section as your Councilor. It is a pleasure and challenge I continue to relish and enjoy.