

the Alembic



Chair's Corner



Dear Fellow Chemists:

This will, in all likelihood, be my last column as Chair of the Central Wisconsin Section of the ACS. If nothing else, I have proved that it is possible to serve out a complete term as Chair of this section. So now I am ready to pass on the baton to Dave Thiel, who will, I am certain, be an excellent Chair of the section.

At this time it is customary to allow the outgoing Chair some latitude in what he/she writes, and I am going to take advantage of that custom. First, I want to convey my gratitude to the members of the Executive Committee, without whose support this job would have been much rougher. They are a quality group of professionals who really do have the best interests of this section at heart. Among those individuals, I wish to single out three individuals in particular. First among these is Ilona Lin, who has done yeoman service as the Section's Secretary-Treasurer, and to whom we presented a plaque (in absentia) at the last meeting. She is moving, and the section will miss her and her enthusiasm. My thanks also go to Marv Lang, our Councillor, whose support has been of particular help to me during what have, on occasion, been difficult times personally, and Tom Zamis, who has kept me on the

straight and narrow to make sure that this column is written in a timely fashion so that we all get the Alembic in time to plan for the meetings.

I must also thank those members of our section who took the time to attend our local section meetings. I know that you are all busy, with many demands on your time, and I am grateful to you for giving the Central Wisconsin Section some of that time. Without you, we have no Central Wisconsin Section.

To assess this year honestly -- actually, the last year and a half, since I took over from Jim Waelchli in June 2000 -- we have been in a holding pattern for most of that time. The eighteen months has been marked by events that range from the comical to the infamous (to borrow a word from FDR). At the end of last year, we lost three meetings -- two to the ever-present and unpredictable Wisconsin weather and one to a strange muddling of communication that had us failing to replace a cancelled local speaker when we had been scheduled for a tour speaker. My own life has been complicated by personal events that have cast something of a pall over this time period, and nobody is going to forget where they were when the World Trade Center was attacked. That day will

live in people's memories much like the day Pearl Harbor was attacked, the day that John Kennedy was shot, and the day that Neil Armstrong stepped onto the moon.

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ACS - CWS Mini-Directory

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Secretary - Treasurer

Nominated

Councillor

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American Chemical Society

Central Wisconsin Section



From Loch Ness Monster to the Killer Lake of Cameroon: Mysteries in Science

by

Prof. Ronald DeLorenzo

Middle Georgia College

RESCHEDULED WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2001

7:30 PM Science Building A121

UW – Stevens Point

5:30 - 7:00 Dinner, Holiday Inn

Abstract:

Enjoy applying scientific principles to obtain new and unusual insights like deducing the temperature of hell and determining the proper way to open a beer can. Hundreds of Dr. DeLorenzo's answers have appeared in such as the Atlanta Constitution, professional journals, and several textbooks. Answered questions include the following: How can you burn thousands of calories by drinking water? Why do women get drunk faster than men? How can water cure any medical problem? Why do teeth, underwear, and ice cream explode? Why do fingerprints of attacked children disappear? Why do humans kiss? Why does smoke go to the ground if rain is due? Why do extramarital affairs rarely last more than a year? Why is electricity free in the winter? How can sand restore eyesight and hearing? Why are commercial thirst quenchers ineffective? Why won't faded red underwear un-fade in the dark? How are AIDS and unwanted pregnancies affected by hand creams? Why aren't sex and breathing fatal activities? What's the real reason why hot water pipes freeze first? How can a gasoline fire cool a can of beer? What's the real reason water is not applied to oil fires? How is it possible to boil water incorrectly? Why do humans have underarm hair? Why does oatmeal stick to your ribs? How did Coke beat in the cola space war? Why do fizz keepers appear to work when they really don't? Can real gold jewelry turn green? Why do intelligent people join cults?

The Speaker:

Education: Post Doctorate, Duke University (1971) Ph.D., University of Massachusetts Lowell (1970) M.S., University of Massachusetts Lowell (1967) B.S., St. John's University, New York City (1963). Selected professional activities: American Chemical Society National Touring Speaker; author and contributing author for nine college chemistry textbook titles published by D. C. Heath (Massachusetts), Wm. C. Brown (Iowa), West (California), Prentice Hall (New Jersey), and Saunders (Philadelphia); feature editor, Journal of Chemical Education, Applications and Analogies column, published by the Division of Chemical Education of the American Chemical Society; American Chemical Society National Meeting Symposia Organizer and Presider; Video, taped by Atlanta TV station WPBA (Public Broadcasting, Atlanta) with sale proceeds to support Georgia Education; consultant to federal, state, and local Governments. Selected honors: Visiting Scientist Award, American Chemical Society Western Connecticut Section, given to outstanding chemical educators at the university level (1997); Catalyst Award, one of a total of six given for excellence in college chemistry teaching in the U.S. and Canada by the Chemical Manufacturers Association, Washington, DC (1991).

The social mixer and dinner at 5:30pm will be at the Holiday Inn. Dinner reservations should be made by contacting **Marv Lang** at 715-346-3609 or email cmlang@uwsp.edu, or chemistry program assistant Debbie Somers 715-346-2888, **before noon on Wednesday, November 28.**



American Chemical Society

Central Wisconsin Section



TOUR OF ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL / MARSHFIELD CLINIC JOINT VENTURE LABORATORY

hosted by

Ron Haas and Carmen Wiley

Wednesday, December 12, 2001, 7:15 pm
Joint Venture Laboratory Conference Room

The Tour:

Marshfield Laboratories consists of several inter-related facilities. These include the Joint Venture Laboratory which is located in St. Joseph's Hospital and the site of this tour. Other offsite Clinic facilities in Marshfield include a toxicology lab and a veterinary laboratory. Two additional vet labs are located in Waukesha and Cleveland, Ohio. A Food Safety Laboratory is also housed in Marshfield.

The Joint Venture Lab provides services to St. Joseph's Hospital and physicians of the Marshfield Clinic as well as esoteric testing services to some 31 Clinic Regional Centers, Ministry Corporation sites (of which St. Joseph's Hospital is a member), and other independent healthcare facilities in central and northern Wisconsin. Because of security / time restraints, the toxicology lab will not be toured but is home to automated equipment for urine drug screening by immunoassay and four GC-MS systems used for confirmation. The Marshfield campus labs have some 300+ staff including 19 pathologists (10 anatomical, 5 clinical, 4 vet), 5 PhD scientists (in chemistry, toxicology, microbiology, and food safety) and 11 B.S. level programmers.

The Hosts:

Ron Haas is an undergraduate of UW-Milwaukee and received a PhD in Analytical Chemistry from UW-Madison. After a several year stint at a hospital laboratory in Kenosha, WI, he joined the Marshfield Clinic in 1973.

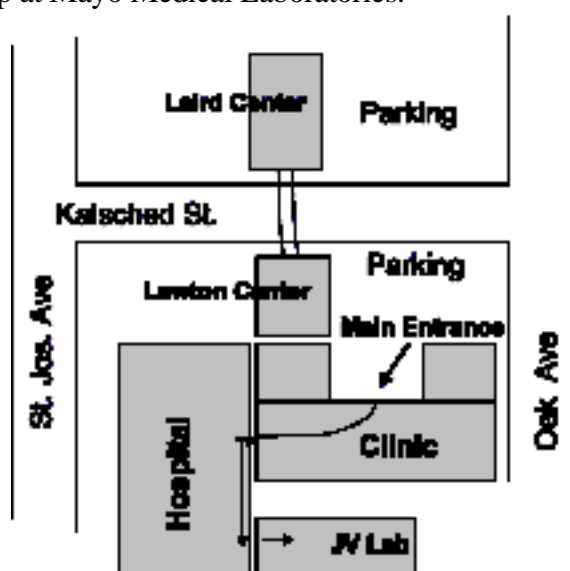
Co-host Carmen Wiley (and spouse-chemist Jack Wiley) are recent additions to central Wisconsin (and the CWS-ACS), with Carmen joining the Clinic staff as a clinical chemist this year. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota, completed her PhD at the University of Washington in organic chemistry and recently finished a two-year clinical fellowship at Mayo Medical Laboratories.

Dinner:

Prior to the meeting, a 6 pm dinner will be held at the China Chef, 233 S. Central Avenue, in downtown Marshfield (located on east side of Central between 2nd and 3rd St.; parking in rear). Please make a reservation by leaving a message with **Ron Haas** at 715-387-7207 or (haasr@mfldclin.edu) by **noon December 12.**

The Location:

To reach the meeting site, enter at the Main Entrance of the Marshfield Clinic (see map). A security attendant located at the rear of the main lobby will provide a map to the Joint Venture Lab Conference Room or follow the posted signs to the right of the main lobby.



ACS - Central Wisconsin Section 2001-2002 Meeting Schedule

DATE	LOCATION	SPEAKER	TOPIC	HOST
November 28	Stevens Point	Ronald DeLorenzo	Mysteries in Science	Marv Lang
December 12	Marshfield		Tour of Marshfield Clinic Labs	Ron Haas
January 23	Marshfield		"Meeting in Miniature"	Tom Marty
Feb. 11-15	Wausau	C. Alton Hassell	Nuclear Chemistry	John Hollis
March 20	Eau Claire	David Lewis	"Dave and the Dead Russians"	Jack Pladziewicz
April 15 - 19	Stevens Point	Joe E. Vinson	Analysis of Cannabinoids	Kevin Czerwinski
May 3	Eau Claire		Awards and Spouses Night	Dave Lewis
Sep. 9 - 13	Stevens Point	Stanley Manahan	Environmental Science	Tom Zamis
Oct. 7 - 11	Eau Claire	J. Ernest Simpson	"Chemistry of Wine"	Dave Lewis

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.

Chair's Corner (continued from 1)

So now, like the nation, the section moves forward. In the next month, we have the unusual situation of having two local section meetings in rapid succession. Our November tour speaker is the embodiment of moving forward. Originally scheduled for September, Dr. Ronald DeLorenzo was forced to cancel his visit; but we have recovered to make the cancellation just a postponement -- he will speak to us... only it will be this month, instead. Then, in early December, we will visit the Marshfield Laboratories, hosted by Ron Haas. This meeting, also, is a rescheduling -- of the December meeting from last year that we lost to snow. Hopefully the snow will cooperate this time and wait until the day after the meeting.

Top continue with the theme of moving forward, we have an excellent slate of candidates for office next year, and I know that I leave the section in good hands.

The incoming group of officers (with the possible exception of Immediate Past Chair) is a group of highly competent professionals who will get the section moving forward again.

As we now enter the holiday season, beginning with that most American of holidays, Thanksgiving (the one holiday that -- thankfully -- nobody has been able to commercialize) allow me to wish you all a very happy Holiday Season and a very happy and prosperous New Year.

All the best,

Dave

National Chemistry Week Central Wisconsin Section

By Robin S. Tanke
NCW Coordinator 2001

A number of different activities took place during National Chemistry Week involving students and ACS members in Central Wisconsin.

We had several people helping students with hands on activities at schools. Alecia Vermeern, Jen Bara, and Sarah Spafford went to a kindergarten class at St. Stanislaus School in Stevens Point. They discussed colors and showed how two colors

could be mixed together to form a new color. They had the students make "Turkey Feathers" from coffee filters using paper chromatography. The students placed the feather on a tag board cutout of a turkey. Jen Bara commented that the students liked putting on goggles. Valerie Hesch discussed the properties of water and prepared marbled paper with a 3rd grade class at Plover-Whiting School. Scott Eastman, Matt Rice, Ben Pawlisch visited Washington Elementary School 6th grade classes and performed demos and had the students study "Chemistry in a Baggie". Scott Eastman reported, "They (the students) were really impressed at how hard the banana got in liquid nitrogen and how the ball shattered when I threw it on the desk.... I think the interactive experiment was the best activity though.... It was really great too (sic) see the amazement on those kid's faces. I was also impressed about how much they actually knew about chemistry. It was an awesome experience and I would do it again if I had the chance."

We also had chemistry demonstrations at a nursing home and schools. Bailey Menzel, Lisa Eastwood, Jennifer Bray, Kirsten Michels went to River Pines Nursing Home. They performed several demonstrations including

clock reactions and acid-base reactions. Kirsten Michels reported, "I'm glad that we decided to go to a nursing home.... They want us to come back and do more experiments for them, and I think they were happy to have young people to interact with." Elise Haupt, Christine Zwicky, and Becky Worbel presented the "Scientific Method with a Puzzle" to three PJ Jacobs science classes.

Becky Worbel reports, "I have to admit that I was really nervous about going to PJ Jacob Junior High. ... It went great, though. It was a wonderful experience, and we were asked back so we couldn't have done too badly." Jon Binsfeld performed chemical demonstrations including "Crush the Can" at Vicote Haen Elementary in Kaukauna.

It was clearly National Chemistry Week at UWEC and UWSP campuses. Both ACS-SA chapters had decorations announcing NCW. At UWEC, the ACS-SA had a sale one day where they sold baked goods and chemistry materials (including nanomoles and T-shirts). As a service project to celebrate "Chemistry in Art," they also restored the visible spectrum to the columns in our office hallway, all of which had been painted white during the building renovation. At Stevens Point, the ACS-SA collected entries for the "Chemistry the Winning Formula" T-shirt contest. Also, Steve Nieland, non-traditional chemistry major and manager of research and process development at Gusmer Enterprises, gave a seminar entitled "The Science Behind the "Art" of Depth Filtration" at UWSP.

The UWEC ACS-SA held a "Chemistry in the Mall" event on Saturday in the Food Court of Oakwood Mall, the largest shopping mall in Eau Claire, and a major regional retail center. Here, students Melissa Field, Phil Cannon, Joe Eaton, and Chris Conklin did a continuing demo show aided by section members Mike Carney and Dave Lewis from



the UWEC faculty, as well as Graeme Lewis from Memorial High School and Veronica Lewis from DeLong Middle School (who was dubbed "slime lady" and was kept busy for three hours making slime for visitors -- several of whom came back for seconds). The group served about 100 people directly at the three demonstration tables, with about the same number watching from the surrounding tables as they ate. Those who came to the demonstration table included one family who came the first time without their father. It appears that they went back and told him about the demonstrations because the father then came back with them to see for himself. Melissa Field reported that the third-grade age group appeared to be most enthralled by what they saw. Marv Lang, Don Showalter, Kathryn Disterhaft, Tamami Manabe, Maria Powell, Tammy Loehrke, Jessica Martin, Russell Wiltse did hands-on chemistry activities and demonstrations at CenterPoint Mall in Stevens Point. Kathryn Disterhaft reported, "Several adults as well as children commented that this (the demos and hand on activities) made chemistry fun rather than the boring book subject that is difficult to understand." Gary Shulfer is acknowledged for helping UWSP students and staff with their programs. Tim Corcoran

and his students from SPASH had several hands on activities at the Children's Museum in Stevens Point.

Finally, copies of *Chem Matters* and *Chemistry and Art* Newsletters were sent to instructors at SPASH, Montessori Educational Center, and Edgar High School for distribution.

Note from our past Secretary/Treasurer:

Dear Friends,

I have accepted a position at AMCOL (American Colloid) in Arlington Heights, IL and I am moving to Illinois shortly. It has been a pleasure serving the Central Wisconsin Section, ACS first as your National Chemistry Week Coordinator and more recently as your Secretary/Treasurer. My current term will be completed at the end of the year after which Tip Randall will assume these elected duties. I hope to keep in contact with many of you in the future. Please drop me a note sometime. I look forward to hearing from you. For your records, my new address is:

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Best Regards,

Ilona