



# *the Alembic*



## Chair's Corner



Dear Colleagues:

What a month! September 11, 2001, has certainly given our lives a new perspective. Like most of you, I imagine, I have re-evaluated my priorities in a way I have not done since the days immediately after my heart surgery. Many of the things which seemed so critical and essential one short month ago are now not so critical, and not so essential.

My own experience of September 11 was different from most of you, since I was in England when the attacks came. I can tell you that the sense of outrage was as high in Britain as it was here in the U.S., and that when Tony Blair pledged the full support of the U.K., he had the complete backing of his nation. It was also quite a sight to see the Stars and Stripes flying alongside the Union Jack at all sorts of places -- gas stations, churches, private homes, etc., in the north of England. In my almost 50 years, I have never heard of the changing of the guard being accompanied by any other than the British national anthem, and yet the Queen herself requested that they play the U.S. anthem on September 12. The memorial service at St. Paul's at noon the next day was beautiful (although it did feel strange to hear

"The Star Spangled Banner" sung with an English accent). In Whitby, in the northeast of England, the whole town came to a halt at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 13, in honor of those who were killed in the attacks -- the cannon went off and people just stopped where they were; drivers pulled over to the side of the road.

So we now begin a future that cannot help but be marked by the events of September 11. Never again can we here in this lucky country assume that we are immune to acts of extremism. We have had to come to grips with the fact that there are evil fanatics who kill in the name of God, and that we are one of their prime targets. What is more, some of them may, in fact, get through. But we need to learn from the past, not dwell in it. My relatives, with whom I stayed while stranded, asked me on the night of the 11th if we should cancel our plans to go out for dinner that night. My response (with expletives deleted) was, "No - if we do that, they win!" We went out.

Continued on page 3



### ACS - CWS Mini-Directory

#### Chair

Dave Lewis  
UW-Eau Claire Chemistry  
Eau Claire, WI 54702  
Phone: 715-836-4744  
email: lewisd@uwec.edu

#### Chair-Elect

Vacant

#### Secretary - Treasurer

Vacant

#### Councilor

C. Marvin Lang

#### Alternate Councilor

Don Showalter

#### 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



## Boron: It's Not Just for Rocket Fuels Anymore

by

Dr. Thomas A. Holme

University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

7:30 PM Phillips Hall 007

UW - Eau Claire

5:30 - 6:00 Cash Bar, 6:00 - 7:00 Dinner, Sweetwaters Restaurant

### Abstract:

As an element involved in important compounds, boron has a rich history. The rocket fuels programs in the 1950s were followed by its use as hydroboration agents continuing to today. Increasingly, compounds that contain boron have been found to have surprising physiological activities. First proposed for usage in boron neutron capture therapy (BNCT), a variety of boron containing compounds have been synthesized and screened for biological behavior. This talk will focus on those compounds that contain boron-nitrogen dative (or adduct) bonds. The history of this synthetic effort with its origins in BNCT will be noted as well as some of the more intriguing biological behaviors such as lowering of cholesterol levels and anti-inflammatory actions. The possible role of Lewis acid-base chemistry and the use of computer modeling to investigate that role will be discussed.

### The Speaker:

Prof. Holme is an Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. His research group works in computational chemistry of main group elements, such as silicon and boron. His work in understanding silicosis and the surface chemical events that are important in its onset are carried out in collaboration with the Health Effects Laboratory Division of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health in Morgantown, WV.

\*\*\*\*\*

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 **Dave Lewis** at 715-836-4744 or email [lewisd@uwec.edu](mailto:lewisd@uwec.edu) **before 5 PM on Tuesday, October 16.**

## ACS - Central Wisconsin Section 2001-2002 Meeting Schedule

DATE	LOCATION	SPEAKER	TOPIC	HOST
September 19	Stevens Point	Ronald DeLorenzo	Mysteries in Science	Marv Lang
October 17	Eau Claire	Thomas Holme	Boron	Dave Lewis
December	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	Iona Lin
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.

### 2001 Chemistry Olympiad

by Laura Cole

Ten schools and 150 students participated in the 2001 ACS-CWS Local Chemistry Olympiad. The top 8 students qualified to participate in the National Chemistry Olympiad Examination on April 21 at UWSP. The top 8 student qualifiers were: Andy Natzke and Yassin Labyed, Athens High School; Margaret Seelen and Matt Schmitt, Marshfield Columbus High School; Derek Procknow, D.C. Everest High School; Jack Gibbons, Hurley K-12 School; and Yi Wei Zhang and Caitlin Sullivan, Marshfield High School. Congratulations are also extended to the other schools that participated in the local exam: Bruce High School, Lake Holcombe High School, Necedah High School, Pacelli High School, and Thorp High School.

### Chair's Corner (continued)

So now we move forward, and we need to get back to some of the mundane things that keep our lives and our nation (yes, despite being an Australian, this is also my nation -- it has given me a wife, two children, and a home which I love, and it has been my home for half my lifetime) going. Again, one of those mundane things is to keep our local section of the ACS moving forward.

At the October meeting, we will be presenting a slate of candidates for the vacant offices. If we haven't managed to find candidates for every office, please, please consider volunteering as a candidate.

I have just one or two more of these columns to write, and then it will, be someone else's turn. So, from the banks of the beautiful Chippewa River, where the trees are presenting a magnificent palette of green, gold, orange and crimson, I send you greetings.

*Dave*



### Gearing Up for National Chemistry Week November 4-10, 2001

Thousands of chemists, teachers, students, and other volunteers will join forces to celebrate National Chemistry Week-2001. Participants are gearing up and planning events to carry out the theme--Celebrating Chemistry and Art. Events will include chemical demonstrations and hands-on activities; lectures and public displays; contests and

games. In recognition of the 125th Anniversary of the American Chemical Society, local sections through the nation will conduct the unifying event, "Celebrating Chemistry--Then and Now", a poster contest for K-12th grade students. The contest challenges students to draw a poster illustrating how chemists and/or chemistry have contributed to positive changes in the quality of our lives in the past 125 years. Also during NCW-2001, the American Chemical Society will sponsor a T-shirt design contest for Student Affiliate Chapters, "Chemistry: The Winning Formula." The contest provides students an opportunity to share their unique talents by creating illustrations that can be used to promote chemistry and its positive contributions to everyday life. Your support can play an important role in helping the public better understand what chemistry is and how it relates to everything that is around us. For NCW products and more information, visit the NCW website and ACS Online Store at [www.chemistry.org/ncw](http://www.chemistry.org/ncw); write Office of Community Activities, American Chemical Society, 1155 Sixteenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036 or telephone 1-800-227-5558, ext. 6097. Plan to participate, celebrate, and educate!

---

### Workplace Issues in the New Millennium

Curious about the challenges and opportunities facing chemists and employers in the new

millennium? Find out what six ACS experts have to say during a Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs symposium entitled, Workplace Issues in the New Millennium. The speakers discussed the latest results of ChemCensus 2000, an ACS census of working members taken every five years and offered their assessments on job opportunities and challenges facing the chemical profession. A special report on last April's symposium and a copy of the ChemCensus 2000 summary are available at the Department of Career Services' website at <http://chemistry.org>.



"Okay—who put my lunch through the Mass Spectrometer..!"

---

### Science Spotlight Web Service Connects Scientists to High Interest Research

A new web service from Chemical Abstracts Service reveals the most highly cited and requested chemistry-related research publications as reflected by the citations included in the CAS databases and the full-text documents requested by scientists through the ChemPort Connection. CAS Science Spotlight will provide not only lists of highly cited and

requested documents but also the bibliographic and abstract information along with the full text, where available, all free of charge. CAS Science Spotlight lists the documents most cited, for the last two publication years, in the patents, conference proceedings, Web preprints or one of the 8000 journals covered by CAS, producer of the world's largest collection of scientific information. Also identified are the scientific papers and chemistry-related patents for which researchers have most frequently requested the full text via the CAS ChemPort Connection, available through STN, SciFinder, and SciFinder Scholar. In its initial release Spotlight lists the "Most Requested" documents for a five-week period during the most recent quarter. Future updates will be offered quarterly. The following publishers, authors and distributors have provided free full-text documents in Science Spotlight: ACS Publications; Academic Press/IDEAL; American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS); American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB); MicroPatent; National Research Council of Canada; Oxford University Press; The National Academy of Sciences of the U. S.; Dr. Fredrick Sanger, Cambridge, England; and Dr. Harry Towbin, Basel, Switzerland. CAS Science Spotlight can be found on the web at <http://www.cas.org/spotlight/> or through a link from the CAS home page.