

the A lumbic

Letter from the Editor

As we progress from Mole Day through the end of daylight saving time to National Chemistry Week toward the next millenium, I have some random thoughts and information to pass on to the membership.

The October 6 meeting in Marshfield was a pleasant get-together with tour speaker Elmer Gaden and eight of the faithful. One advantage of the small turnout was that we all got a chance to meet and chat with Elmer on an informal basis at the China Chef while enjoying glasses of chemicals and then dining on the excellent chemical buffet. We were treated to several stories of Elmer's travels as a tour speaker, and we talked about university departments and students, people from different regions of the country and baseball. The seminar was held at the marvelous Laird Center at Marshfield Clinic and included a historical look at the development of methods to produce penicillin. I thought it interesting that one of the earliest strains of mold used to produce large amounts of penicillin was presented by a housewife with a "past-expiration-date" cantelope. Who knows what other medical miracles are living on those leftovers on the bottom shelf, way in the back of the refrigerator?

On Mole Day Eve and Mole Day, over 60 members of the University of Wisconsin System Chemistry Faculties met in River Falls for the annual meeting.

Along with the general small group meetings, meal mixers and poster session, Dr. Derek Davenport of Purdue presented the Mole Day Eve Keynote Address entitled, "From Genesis to the Book of Revelations: 300 Years of Chemistry Texts". It was a fascinating historical account of the books that we have all encountered - and loved and hated. It was a timely perspective considering the dawn of the new millenium, the information explosion and the possible decline of non-electronic media. I also enjoyed the discussion led by Dr. Truman Schwartz of Macalester College entitled, "Preparing our Graduates for the 21st Century". He presented several observations and predictions about the "State of Chemistry" that generated some lively discussion among the 30 or so present. For example: Is chemistry, as a discipline on its own, disappearing into the facades of the other subjects of which it forms the foundation? Is the application of chemistry more important than the fundamental principles? Will laboratory work in schools be eliminated or replaced by computer simulations?

Help us plan for a better, more relevant, more responsive local section. Please take a couple minutes to fill out the survey form included in this *A lumbic* and return to Jim Waelchli.

See you at a meeting? *Tom*

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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.

NEXT MEETING

The next monthly meeting will be in early December. Marv Lang will host a program in Stevens Point dealing with "polymers".

HELP!

The Central Wisconsin Section needs your help in finding people willing to carry on the work of the ACS at our local level.

We need nominations/volunteers to run for offices next year.

We need a person to act as Career Counselor for the section.

We need a person to act as Media Relations Coordinator.

We need nominations for section awards for next year.

Please contact Jim Waelchli or any other member of the Executive Committee.

UW - Stevens Point News

by Tom Zamis

Jack Reed, Chair of the Department of Chemistry for 18 years, has stepped down and rejoined the ranks of the underloved and underpaid. Professor Eugene Johnson was elected as the new Chair. Gene is an analytical chemist and has been at UWSP since 1978.



Mike Brown, manager of the UWSP chemistry department stockroom, suffered a stroke in early September and is in recovery at St. Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield.

Roland Trytten, professor of chemistry at UWSP for 38 years (retired in '83) and chair of the department for 25 years passed away this summer. "Trytt" was active until his final days, walking the halls of the Science Building, attending all chemistry department seminars and most local section meetings, and would still be seen at his desk in the Emeritus Faculty Office reading about Biochemistry.

UW - Eau Claire News

by Bob St. Louis



Dave Lewis has agreed to run for Chair-Elect of the Section. He has experience in ACS as Councilor and I certainly think he would be a good choice for us. You will enjoy his gusto and broad Australian accent. He gave a paper at our Meeting-in-Miniature in Marshfield last year, and has a book on Organic Chemistry which he is using in our 323 course. He has been the Department Chair at UWEC for the last couple of years but had to resign that job last summer for health reasons. Jack Pladziewicz has taken over as Chair. Lewis has returned to the Department and his health is improving.

There have been a few personnel additions/subtractions in Chemistry this new school year which I'll briefly relate here. Joe Sabol is gone. Judy Lund retired last spring and had a nice retirement banquet. We hired a new biochemist, Dr. Marcia Miller, from the U. of Minnesota. Also Dr. Laurel McEllistrem (Mark McEllistrem's wife) hired on and is teaching 101 (she has a Ph.D. in Inorganic from Madison.) Judy Ochrymowycz retired as Stockroom Manager at the beginning of this semester, and Leo is still on sick (severe arthritis) leave. Jason Kuehl took over for Judy. Phil Chenier is expecting to retire next June. Dean Nelson (retired) has bought a house at, and lives in, Grand Junction, Colorado. As for me, I'm continuing to do volunteer tutoring since I retired, both at UWEC Chem Dept and at nearby South Middle School.



"What's a Chemist Doing Working for an Insurance Company?"

by

Jim Waelchli

Tuesday, November 2, 1999, 7:00 pm
Garden Room, Westwood Conference Center
1800 W. Bridge St.
Wausau, WI

Abstract

Jim will give a short talk about his soon-to-be-former job and talk about industrial hygiene chemistry in general. After this talk, he and his co-workers will give a short tour of their laboratory. They hope to talk about some success stories, explain sampling for common analytes, examine some asbestos fibers under the scope, and show the instruments.

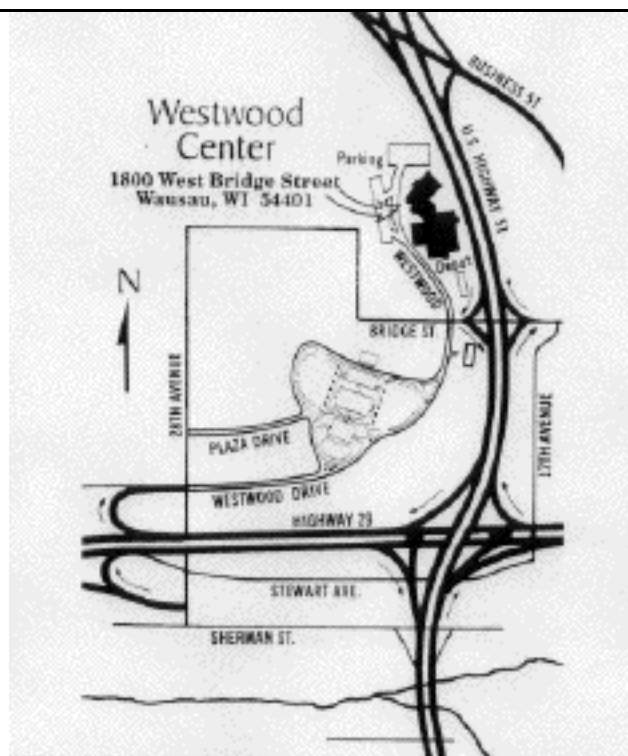
About the Speaker and Lab

Jim Waelchli is the Chair-Elect of the Central Wisconsin Section of the ACS. He and his co-workers have recently been "reduced-in-force" following the takeover of Wausau Insurance by Liberty. The Liberty people will most likely keep the lab equipment in Wausau until the middle to the end of November. Jim Says, "It will be fun for me to show off the lab one last time and hopefully I won't cry too much." I hope you can join us for this farewell.

Westwood Center Location

Prior to the meeting, a 5:30 PM mixer will be held at the Fireside Lounge, and a 6 PM dinner will be held in the Garden Room, both at the Westwood Conference Center, located just northwest of the Bridge St. exit off of I-39 (see map). Everyone should park in the upper parking lot (the first one you come to), and the main entrance is at the center of the Westwood building toward the north end of the lot. The menu selections are either chicken picatta (chicken breast sauteed in lemon and capers) or baked orange roughly and is available for around \$14.00.

Reservations may be made by leaving a message with Jim Waelchli at 715-842-6387 (or email jwaelchl@wausau.com) by noon Monday November 1.



1999 Central Wisconsin ACS Survey

Return this survey by November 15, 1999 to be eligible for a "Prize Drawing" to be held at the December meeting!!

1. On average, how many ACS meetings do you attend per year?

- Do not attend
- One to two
- Three to four
- Five or more

2. My most important reason for attending ACS meetings: (Check as many as are true)

- I like the topics
- I like the speakers
- I like to Network with other chemists
- I attend meetings close to home
- I like the meal

3. My most important reason for not attending ACS meetings: (Check as many as are true)

- I don't like the topics/speakers
- The distance to travel is too great
- The time or day does not fit into my schedule
- Other _____

4. My preferred meeting night is:

- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday

5. Circle four topics that you want featured at future meetings:

| | | | | |
|------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Analytical | Environmental | Biotechnology | Chem. Education | Safety |
| Medicine | History | Computers | Polymers | Inorganic |
| Organic | Geochemistry | Atmospheric | Drug Design | Other: _____ |

6. Would you be interested in a mentoring program for new chemist in the area?

- Yes
- No

7. Do you read the Alembric?

- Yes
- No

8. Do you visit the local sections Web page?

- Yes
- No

When have you last visited our home page _____

9. How can Central Wisconsin's Local ACS section serve you better? _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please return to:
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