

the Alchemic

Chair's Corner

I hope you all had a pleasant summer. Summer's end means the beginning of our Fall program. We are fortunate to begin our meetings with a program by Helen Free on the history of clinical diagnostics. Only a couple of years ago, she gave us a well-received program at Eau Claire on Global Clinical Chemistry. She has quite a track record in diagnostics as well as in ACS activities, and I urge you to attend the meeting in Marshfield, to be hosted by **Ron Haas**.

I'd like to alert you to some changes in our planning group for CWS-ACS. **Al Denio** has moved to Newark, Delaware, and is teaching in the Chemistry Department at the University of Delaware this school year. His position as Publicity Chair/National Chemistry Week Coordinator is open, and if you'd be interested in this type of work for the section, please notify me at once. We all owe a great debt of appreciation to Al for the dedication he has shown to these endeavors. Another change is the loss of **Barbara Bansenauer**, our Secretary/Treasurer. She and her

husband Brian have quit their jobs at UW-EC and moved to Seattle, Washington. Fortunately, **Don Campbell** of the UW-EC Chemistry Department has agreed to take over Barbara's job as Secretary/Treasurer for the remainder of her term. Please contact Don about financial matters.

Speaking of Al Denio reminds me that, largely through his organization efforts, our Section won the Phoenix Award at the recent ACS meeting in Boston, and he picked up the award there. It is now sitting in a display case in the Chemistry Department at UW-Eau Claire, and is quite a handsome affair. Take a look at it the next time you are in the vicinity! Also attending the meeting from CWS-ACS were **David Lewis, Marv Lang, and Jason Halfen**.

Hope to see you at Marshfield on the 17th!

Robert St. Louis

ACS - CWS Mini-Directory

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American Chemical Society

Central Wisconsin Section



"THE HISTORY OF THE DIAGNOSTICS INDUSTRY"

by

Dr. Helen M. Free

Bayer Corporation - Diagnostics Division

Elkhart, IN 46515

Thursday, September 17, 1998, 7:30 pm

Robert F. Froehlke Auditorium

Marshfield Clinic Laird Center (2nd Level)

Marshfield, WI

Abstract

During the 19th Century, scientists made numerous discoveries of the components of the blood, urine, and spinal fluid. They utilized general analytical methods to identify these components and began to create new analytical reagents. However, there were no clinical laboratories as a regular part of a hospital or clinic.

The first clinical laboratory in the USA was established in New York City in 1912 at an institution known as the Postgraduate Hospital. Victor Myers was the director of this laboratory where chemical tests were performed regularly on blood and urine. The importance of this laboratory service gained national recognition and by 1930 larger hospitals had laboratories headed by a clinical chemist or pathologist, adapting general reagents and instruments.

The first successful commercially available ready-to-use reagent was made by Walter Compton, a physician, and Maurice Treneer, a chemist, at Miles. Around 1940, they created a self-heating effervescent copper sulfate tablet to perform the Benedict's test for urine sugar. The advent of this test and the presence of "clinical" laboratories combined to make this the tiny beginning of the diagnostics industry. During the late 1940's and early 1950's, Doctor Leonard Skeggs at the Veterans Hospital in Cleveland devised an instrument to automatically dialyze blood, mix reagents, separate specimens and measure color to determine diffusible analytes. This first "autoanalyzer" led to a proliferation of instruments specifically designed to do all types of measurements on blood, serum, tissue, urine, spinal fluid, etc.

Currently the diagnostics industry is a multi-billion dollar business in all industrialized parts of the world. There are innumerable reagent systems and instruments providing a leading edge in the progress of medical science and treatment of patients.

About the Speaker

Helen M. Free holds a B.S. degree in Chemistry from the College of Wooster, a Master's degree in Management in the Health Care Field from Central Michigan University, and an honorary doctorate of science from the College of Wooster. She joined Miles Inc. in 1944 and her career includes wide experience in laboratory work, management, growth and development, manufacturing and marketing related to her main interests in the field of clinical chemistry and medical devices, and in management in the health care area. She holds several patents and has published over 200 papers. She has also held many elected positions in scientific societies including President of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry in 1990 and President of the American Chemical Society in 1993. She and her husband-chemist Al have been married for 50 years and have 9 children.

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 for \$8.25 or off-the-menu ordering. **Reservations may be made by leaving a message with Ron Haas at 715-387-7207 (or email haasr@mfldclin.edu) by noon Thursday Sept. 17.** See the map in this Alembic for the location of the Laird Center, on the north side of Kalsched St. opposite St. Joseph's Hospital and The Clinic.



Letter from the Editor

Greetings from your Alembic editor. The Annual Awards Banquet and Spouse's Night was held in Eau Claire on May 8. Bob Elliott presented a star-studded seminar on the origin of the elements. Awards were presented in the following categories:

Outstanding High School Chemistry Senior
Geir Helleloid (Eau Claire Memorial)

Outstanding Company Award
School District of Neillsville

Outstanding College Chemistry Student
Kathryn Splan (UWEC)

Outstanding Contribution to Chemistry
John W. Hollis, Jr.

Also, it was reported in the August 24 C&E News that Wausau West chemistry teacher John Ihde was awarded the James Bryant Conant Award for 1999!

Congratulations to the award winners.

Tom

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. Maps of all of the usual places where monthly meetings are held are there.

There is a link on our Web page for the Alembic. It is listed there in pdf (portable document format). These can be opened and read by a utility called Adobe Acrobat Reader that is freeware, and can be installed as a plug-in to your web browser.

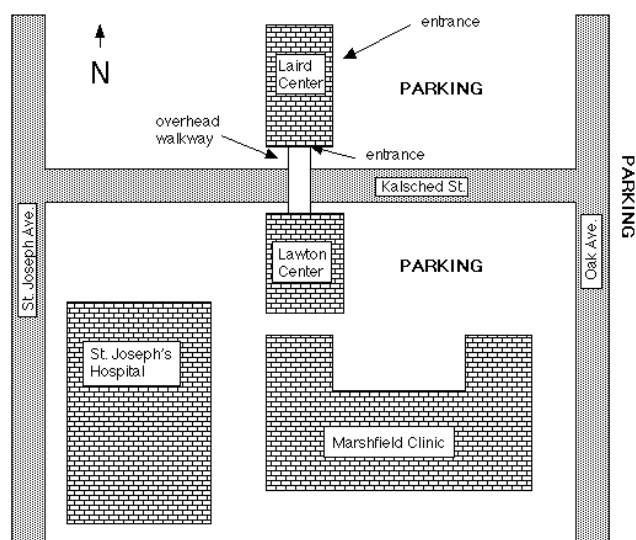
VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Great ACS-CWS Opportunity!

The Central Wisconsin Section needs your help! Al Denio has left the central Wisconsin area and we need someone to take over his Section Responsibilities. Al has been **National Chemistry Week Coordinator**.

This is a great opportunity to get involved in section activities. If you are interested, please contact any of our officers.

Marshfield Clinic Map



Chemistry Trivia

Answer to last issue's trivia question:
Henry Le Chatelier

NEW FACULTY in Town

at UWSP Chemistry:

Robin Tanke, PhD. Yale Univ., Organic

at UWEC Chemistry:

Jim Phillips, Ph.D. U of Minnesota, Physical

Steve Drucker, Ph.D. Harvard U., Physical

Mark McEllistrem, Ph.D. UW-Madison, Analyt.