



Tom and Deanne Malloy at the ACS Award Banquet in January 2007. Tom is this year's Southwest Regional award winner. A full article on Tom appears in the February issue. The editors of the Southwest Retort had wanted to place a photo of him with that article but space considerations prevented it.

## APRIL D-FW ACS MEETING THE 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING-IN-MINIATURE

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SATURDAY, APRIL 28

TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Sid Richardson Science Building  
Fort Worth, TX

Deadline for Abstracts, April 12, 2007

Student Research Presentations, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Reception and Tours of the Monnig Meteorite Museum, 5 to 6 p.m.

Award Presentation in Undergraduate and Graduate Divisions, 6 p.m.

*For Further Information Contact Professor Manfred Reinecke  
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**Link for Information on Meeting-in-Miniature**  
[http://www.chm.tcu.edu/MIM\\_Home.htm](http://www.chm.tcu.edu/MIM_Home.htm)

## AIMEE MODIC – SW REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AWARD WINNER .....p. 5

*Southwest*

**RETORT**

March  
2007

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

50 Years Ago.....	2
Aimee Modic Wins SW HS Award .....	5
Melrose in Memoriam.....	7
TI Cutback Jeopardizes Chemists' Jobs .....	9
Postal Adventures Revisited.....	10
Remember Advertisers/Sponsor Members .....	10
Around-the-Area.....	12
U of Arkansas .....	12
East Texas.....	12
South Plains .....	12
Heart o' Texas .....	13
Wichita Falls-Duncan.....	13
DFW/ Chemistry Olympiad. ....	13
Letter to the Editor.....	14
Metroplex Seminar Schedule .....	15
Tom Malloy and Wife Deanne.....	16
D-FW Section April Meeting/Mtg-in-Min. ....	16

### INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

American Polymer Standards Corp .....	6
ANA-LAB .....	4
Chemir .....	6
Huffman Laboratories .....	3
Kelly Scientific Resources .....	10
Kforce.....	8
<b>Sponsor Members</b> .....	3
Texas A&M University-Commerce .....	10
University of North Texas .....	11

PERIODICAL

# Fifty Years Ago in the Southwest Retort

The ACS tour speaker for March is **Dr. Ralph G. Pearson** of Northwestern University. His topic is "Reaction Mechanisms of Complex Ions."

SMU has received a grant of \$27,600 for a Summer Institute in Science and Mathematics for high school teachers. The Institute will provide one course in the summer of 1957 covering instruction in biology, chemistry, geology, mathematics, and physics. The course is designed for high school science or mathematics teachers, who are required to teach two or more sciences, but who may be deficient in formal training in one of them. The plan for the Summer Institute was developed by Professors **Ogden Baine, Frank McDonald, Arthur Richards, David Starr, and Joe P. Harris**, with the latter serving as Director of the Institute.

At last fall's ACS national meeting in Atlantic City, the ACS Council voted unanimously to grant a petition for a new Division of Inorganic Chemistry. The spring meeting in Miami provides the first opportunity for this probationary division to meet. Two symposia are scheduled: "The Present Status of Inorganic Chemistry in America," chaired by **Dr. Arthur Adamson**; and "Unfamiliar Oxidation States of the Elements," chaired by **Dr. Jacob Kleinberg**. In addition, eighteen general papers will be presented. Officers are **Dr. John C. Bailar, Jr.**, Chair; **Dr. John F. Gall**, Chair-Elect; and **Dr. L. B. Asprey**, Secretary-Treasurer. Negotiations are underway with Pergamon Press for a reduced

subscription rate to the *Journal of Inorganic and Nuclear Chemistry*. If at least 300 members of the Division subscribe, they will receive a rate of half the regular rate.

At the University of Texas (now UT-Austin), **Dr. R. J. Williams** spoke at the University of Delaware on Feb. 14, and **Dr. Norman Hackerman** was in Washington, D.C. Feb. 19-22 to act as an advisor on the NSF Graduate Fellowship Evaluation Panel. Grants totaling \$145,300 have been awarded by the Welch Foundation to support four projects. Grantees and their projects are **L. O. Morgan**, "Application of NMR Techniques to the Study of Ionic Solutions," **H. R. Henze**, "Synthesis and Study of Heterocyclic Nitrogen Compounds," **P. D. Gardner**, "Molecular Complex Formation of Aromatic Hydrocarbons," and **P. S. Bailey**, "Nature of the Initial Attack of Ozone on Unsaturated Systems."

Fourteen chemistry professors visited the American Oil Co. in Southeast Texas at the end of January. They were: **Robert Brown**, Alabama; **Robert G. Mers**, Lamar Tech; **Joe E. Hodgkins**, TCU; **Hans Wynberg**, Tulane; **James Traynham**, LSU; **William Spicer**, Georgia Tech; **P. D. Gardner**, Texas; **E. M. Hodnett**, Oklahoma A&M; **Bernard Heston**, Oklahoma; **Arthur Fry**, Arkansas; **R. C. Goodwin**, Texas Tech; **George Butler**, Florida; **J. L. Carrico**, North Texas State; and **Albert Zlatkis**, University of Houston. At Humble, Professor **W. A. Waters** of Balliol

\*\*\*\*Continued on Page9\*\*\*\*

## APRIL METROPLEX SEMINAR SCHEDULE

*Seminars are occasionally postponed or cancelled. Call the department or check departmental websites before attending.*

**UT-Arlington.** **April 6**, Alex Leontyev, UT-Arlington, "Encapsulation of Gases." **April 13**, Rick Kemp, University of New Mexico/Sandia, "Reactions of Main Group Complexes with Small Molecules." **April 16** (*Note change of day*). Janusz Pawliszyn, University of Waterloo, "New Sampling/Sample Preparation and Separation Technologies for On-Site Investigations." **April 20**, Rich Eisenberg, University of Rochester, "A Molecular Approach to the Reduction Side of Water Splitting: Making Hydrogen with Platinum Complexes." **April 27**, Steve Strauss, Colorado State University, "Fluorine & Fullerenes: A Fellowship Forged in the Furnace and the Finding of Four New Fullerenes." Seminars are normally at 2:30 p.m. in Room 114, Baker Chemical Research Building.

**UT-Dallas.** **April 11**, Onofrio Annunziata, TCU, "Applications of Macromolecular Crowding and Liquid-Liquid Phase Separation to the Preparation of Protein Nanoparticles and Microspheres in Solution." **April 18**, Kevin G. Pinney, Baylor, "The Discover and Development of Vascular Disrupting Agents for Cancer Chemotherapy and the Treatment of Vascular Specific Diseases." Seminars are normally at noon in CN 1.120 in the Conference Center.

### University of North Texas.

**April 12** (*Note Change of Day*), Dean Tantillo, UC-Davis, "Mechanisms of Metal-Promoted Sigmatropic Shifts—Everything Old is New Again." **April 13**, Dean Tantillo, "Carbocation Cascades in the Biosynthesis of Polycyclic Natural Products." **April 27**, Ed Rosenberg, University of Montana, "Experimental and Computational Studies on C-H and N-H Activation in Trimetallic Clusters."

**SMU.** **April 11**, Rick Kemp, University of New Mexico, TBA, 4 p.m., Room 133, Fondren Sci. **April 17**, Chad Booth, Texas State University, "Fixing the Cobra Gunship: Current Advances in Transparent Armor Technology," 3:30 p.m. Room 152, Fondren Sci. **April 20**, Daniel Savin, University of Vermont, "Stimuli-Responsive Vesicles, Micelles, and Rods from Polypeptide-Based Block Polymers," 3 p.m., Room 152, Fondren Sci. **April 27**, Hassan Alt-Haddou, Xyvex Corp., "Polymers and Carbon Nanotubes—Interfacial Engineering of Carbon Nanotubes for Commercial Applications," 3 p.m. Room 152, Fondren Sci.

**TCU.** **April 11**, Cynthia Friend, Harvard, Ruth Evelyn Sanders Lecturer, TBA. **April 12**, Cynthia Friend, TBA. **April 19**, Daniel Savin, University of Vermont, "Stimuli-Responsive Vesicles, Micelles, and Rods from Polypeptide-Based Block Copolymers," 4 p.m., LH 4 (*Note change of time and location*). **April 26**, Edward Rosenberg, University of Montana, TBA. Seminars are normally in Room 139, Tucker Technology Center (Adjacent to Sid Richardson Science Bldg.) at 11 a.m.

\*\*\*\*Continued on Page 14\*\*\*\*

gave seminars at the UNT Health Sciences Center and at Texas Tech. She was an invited speaker at the Sanibel Symposium on Feb. 26. She served as a consultant to the ACS Division of Computers in Chemistry at Herndon, VA Feb. 9-11.

**Dr. Diana Mason** coordinated the Ft. Worth Regional Science Fair at UNT Mar. 4-6. Dr. Mason and the Mean Green Chemistry Demo Team gave a show at the National Convention of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers in Denver Jan. 11-12. She is General Chair for the 19<sup>th</sup> ChemEd International Conference July 29-Aug. 2 at UNT.

**Dr. James Marshall** presented a seminar at LeTourneau University on Feb. 22 and a seminar at Arizona State University on Mar. 21. **Dr. Guido Verbeck** gave a presentation at the Commercialization of Micro and Nano Systems Conference at St. Petersburg. His recent grants include a \$70,000 grant from SpaceHab for "Design and Development of a Miniature Ion Trap Mass Spectrometer for Environmental Analysis in Space Vehicles" and a \$67,000 grant from Zyvex for "Nanomaniipulation-Coupled Mass Spectrometry for Biomaterials and Intra and Extracellular Characterization. Zyvex Corp. has recently donated \$333,911 worth of instrumentation.

**UT-Arlington.** **Dr. E. Thomas Strom** arranged and chaired a six paper symposium on Mar. 26 at the Chicago ACS Meeting on the topic "Landmark Stable Free Radicals of the Twentieth Century." Tom himself presented the paper "C. Frederick University of Delaware, "Strain and Folding in the Design of Synthesis." Seminars are normally at

Koelsch and his Radical: A Case of Premature Discovery?" ✖

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I have read with interest the article by Erwin Klingsberg in the January, 2007 *Retort*. I also was once fired (from Celanese) in spite of an excellent record, and like Dr. Klingsberg I found the ACS to be of little help in relocation; but I didn't use the persecutions of my heritage as an excuse for my difficulties. One should utilize a disappointment as a means for self-evaluation, as a tool for growing personally and professionally. Furthermore, his contentions demean the efforts of many persons who have advanced the social wrongs of the past.

James L. Marshall UNT,  
e-mail (jimm@unt.edu)

\*\*\*\*Continued From Page 15\*\*\*\*

### UT-Southwestern Biochemistry.

**April 5**, Yuh Min Chook, UT-Southwestern, "Rules for NLS Recognition by Karyopherin beta 2/Transportin." **April 12**, Dennis Dougherty, Cal Tech, "Understanding Drug Receptor Interactions at Neuroreceptors and Ion Channels."

**April 19**, Robert O. Poyton, University of Colorado, TBA. **April 26**, Markus Stoffel, Rockefeller Institute, TBA. Seminars are normally at noon in Room L4.176, Biochemistry.

### UT-Southwestern Biological Chemistry.

**April 10**, Joe Fox, 6:30 p.m. in the Biochemistry Library, L4.162. ✖



## Southwest Retort

*Published for the advancement of  
Chemists, Chemical Engineers  
and Chemistry in this area.*

*Published by*

The Dallas-Fort Worth Section, with the cooperation of five other local sections of the American Chemical Society in the Southwest.

Vol. 59 March, 2007 No. 7

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Southwest Retort (USPS 507880) is published monthly, September through May by the Dallas-Ft. Worth Section of the American Chemical Society, Inc., for the ACS Sections of the Southwest Region. Subscription rates are \$3.24 per year. Periodical postage paid at Dallas, Texas. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to American Chemical Society, Southwest Retort, Box 3337, Columbus, Ohio 43210.

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72 Hf 178.49	73 Ta 180.95	74 W 183.84	75 Re 186.21	76 Os 190.23	77 Ir 192.22	78 Pt 195.08	79 Au 196.97	80 Hg 200.59	81 Tl 204.38	82 Pb 207.2	83 Bi 208.98	84 Po (209)	85 At (210)
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Gates-Cambridge scholarship. She is a two-year Goldwater Scholar, as well as the recipient of many TTU science scholarships. This scholarship is used for study at the University of Cambridge (UK) for up to four years. It is valued at approximately \$160,000.

## Heart o' Texas

**Baylor University.** Dr. David Pennington along with Dr. Mark Taylor, James Tandy, MD, and Mrs. Nancy Johnson attended the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Texas Association for the Health Professions Feb. 8-10. Dr. Pennington serves on the Executive Board as Member-at-Large. Dr. Alton Hassell made an ACS speaking tour on the Azalea Circuit, speaking to the Carolina-Piedmont Section, the Northeast Georgia Section, the South Carolina Section, and the Savannah River Section. His topics were "A Chemist Wanders into Archaeology" and "Using Nuclear Chemistry to Study Watermarks in Antique Paper."

Colloquium Speaker, Feb. 23, Dr. Wilson Francisco, Arizona State.

## Wichita Falls-Duncan

The next meeting of the section is Wed., Mar 14 at Halliburton's Technology Center in Duncan. The speaker is 2005 ACS President Bill Carroll speaking on "Where Everything Comes From: Industrial Chemistry 101." Councilor Keith Vitense will be representing the section at the Chicago ACS meeting this month. Alternate Councilor Tom Dealy will meet with the International Affairs Committee on Mar. 24. Tom has been appointed to serve on the National Committee on

Admissions in 2007 by ACS President Catherine Hunt.

## Dallas-Fort Worth

**Chemistry Olympiad.** The new coordinator for the Chemistry Olympiad is Dr. Jon H. Hardesty from the Collin County Community College's Preston Ridge Campus in Frisco. Jon succeeds long-time coordinator Nancy Graff. The D-FW Section is grateful to Nancy for her many years of service.

The local competition will be held on April 14 at the Frisco Campus of the Collin County Community College, 9700 Wade Blvd. As many as eleven students will be invited back on April 28 for the national competition. For further information, call Dr. Hardesty at 972-377-1602 or contact him by e-mail at (JHardesty@CCCCD.EDU)

## University of North Texas.

Dr. Tom Cundari is on the 2007 Editorial Board for the *Journal of Molecular Structure, THEOCHEM*. He has received an NSF grant for 2007-2010 of \$270,000 to study "Structure and Reactivity of Low Coordination Transition Metal Complexes." He has recently given seminars at Tulane, UNT Health Sciences Center, and Steven F. Austin. He is scheduled to give seminars in April at Austin Peay State University and Southeastern Louisiana University. He has a joint \$172,000 grant to run from 2007-2010 with Dr. Angela Wilson for "Research Experiences for Undergraduates in Chemistry at UNT." Dr. Wilson has also received a DOE Grand Challenge Grant. Dr. Wilson gave an invited talk at a January meeting in Maui, Hawaii at a symposium in honor of Professor Mark S. Gordon's 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. She

# Around-the-Area

## University of Arkansas

Two and a half years after renovation began, the department has returned to the Chemistry Building. All staff and most faculty have made the move. The third floor is expected to be completed by March. The Chemistry Library will soon occupy space on the second floor. The building will be officially rededicated during an alumni reunion June 2.

**Ingrid Fritsch** and postdoc **Emily Anderson** attended the Gordon Research Conference on Electrochemistry in Ventura, CA, Jan. 14-19, where Fritsch gave an invited talk. Anderson received a GRC \$500 travel grant to attend. **Roger Koeppe** presented a talk to the European Workshop for Biosensors Based on Membrane Organization meeting in Tübingen, Germany, Feb. 10. **Ryan Tian** gave talks at the Dept. of Chemical Engineering (Jan. 18) and at Bridgestone R & T Center (Jan. 9). **David Vicic** gave an invited talk Feb. 2 at Kansas University and also gave a presentation to Sigma Xi on campus Jan. 26.

This year's Fry Lecture Series presented **Eric Anslyn**, Norman Hackerman Professor of Chemistry from UT-Austin speaking on "Supramolecular Chemistry and Pattern Recognition, A Complementary Match" on Feb. 14. The series honors University Professor Emeritus **Arthur Fry** and was established through a generous donation from UA alums **Ves** and **Holly Childs**.

Postdocs joining the department are **Andrew Zhou** with Ryan Tian,

**Ranjani Viswanatha** with Xiaogang Peng, **Zeeshan Kamal** with both Matt McIntosh and Ziaogang Peng, and **Taher Yousaf** with Bob Gawley. New graduate students are **David Clay** and **Anantha Koteswara**.

## East Texas

The speaker for the Mar. 12 section meeting held at Eastman Chemical Co. was **Dr. Tom Puckette** of Eastman Chemical Co. His topic was "The Use of Halophosphite Ligands for the Rhodium Catalyzed Low Pressure Hydroformylation Reaction." The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 17, at Northeast Texas Community College. The speaker will be **Malcomb Prouty**. His talk will be on "Layer-by-Layer Nanoengineered Magnetic Encapsulation System for Drug Delivery."

## South Plains

Texas Tech University. **Dr. Robert Shaw** has received a \$63,000 grant from Texas Tech's new Commercialization Accelerator Fund, which helps researchers through the final state of work needed to apply for patents. Shaw has developed an inhibitor compound that can be administered in combination with antibiotics to prevent bacterial enzymes from inactivating the antibiotic, allowing the drugs to kill the bacteria. Shaw will use his grant for animal testing that will accelerate the commercialization of the technology.

**Geneva Peterson**, a senior chemistry major, has been awarded a

# Southwest *Retort*

FIFTY-NINTH YEAR

MARCH 2007

## WINNING THE TRIFECTA SW REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL WINNER AIMEE MODIC

by E. Thomas Strom

In para-mutual betting, a trifecta refers to picking the first three finishers in a horse race in the correct order. The term has recently come into common use as referring to a series of three successes. A show business trifecta might entail winning a Grammy, an Emmy, and an Oscar. Well, Aimee Modic of Katy High School has pulled off a science teaching trifecta. In 2004 she won the George Hague Excellence in Chemistry Award of ACT2. In 2005 she won the Thomas Aczel Award for Excellence in Chemical Education given by the Greater Houston Section of the ACS. Finally, in 2006 she has won the ACS Southwest Regional Award for High School Chemistry

Teachers. If that isn't a science teaching trifecta, I don't know what is.

Aimee Modic grew up in Morrisville, NY. She was inspired to become a chemist by her high school chemistry and algebra teachers, respectively, Wanda Dann and Carol Sidoran. She decided she wanted to go away to college, so she chose Michigan Technological University, an 18 hour drive away in Michigan's upper peninsula. After she graduated with a B.S. Chem degree in 1984, she more or less fell into chemistry teaching. Her old high school chemistry teacher decided to move, so Aimee took over her position at Morrisville-Eaton High School.

However, Aimee did not have a teaching certificate. She was allowed to teach one year without one, but then the position had to be advertised. When it was, someone with a teaching certificate applied, so Aimee was out. She was visiting a cousin who worked for TI and decided to apply for positions in Texas. A position in Katy was available, and Amy was hired. She had five years to get credentialed in education, and she did so. She has been teaching in the same room since joining the Katy system.. She currently teaches AP Chemistry, Pre-AP Chemistry, and Gifted and Talented classes.

Despite the demands of teaching many high school chemistry classes, Aimee has been diligent about getting continuing education and sharing her knowledge with her fellow chemistry teachers. She has attended more than 27 workshops and has been a presenter at a number of conferences. Since 2002 she has been the Science Olympiad Coach at Katy High School. In what she laughingly refers to as "her spare time," she participates in ACT2 work. She presently is working on the "Kids Chemistry Camp" to be held in conjunction with this summer's ChemEd 07: Lone Star Solutions to be held July 29- Aug. 2 at the University of North Texas.

As for Aimee's teaching ability, it's best to let one of her students describe it. "She is the teacher who brings a smile to student's faces, the one whose passion for learning gives rise to the one she has for teaching. She is the one who doesn't simply rely on a book, but instead presents material in such a light that any student can have a true opportunity to embrace it. She

makes you think not just about what you know, but how to apply it.---

Aimee Modic is that teacher who dances to a different beat. It is the one that we as students can listen to, appreciate and dance to. This is academics at its finest moment." The student writing these lines told Aimee when she started chemistry that she had no interest in chemistry and no hopes to develop any. Three years and seven months later, this student was a chemistry major at Cornell.


Aimee's big hobby is sailing. She has raced catamarans on and off for the past 21 years. She has found that participating in sailing races is a good way to see Texas. Other hobbies are golfing and gardening.

Aimee Modic received her \$1500 award at last fall's ACS SW Regional Meeting held in Houston. *The Southwest Retort* salutes this gifted teacher and wonders if this particular trifecta will ever be accomplished again.

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week for every year of service. Usually TI employees terminated for poor performance get more severance pay.

There are about 15 internal positions available, and most of those are for electrical engineers. All in all, prospects for internal hires for chemists look dim.

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We want to remind our readers of an important fact. Our advertisers and sponsor members are **vital** to the health of this magazine. Subscriptions from our member sections and payments for meeting notices from the D-FW section pay for about three and one half issues of this magazine. *This means that payments from our advertisers and sponsor members provide the other five and one half issues!* As a reader, you can show your appreciation of this magazine by patronizing our advertisers and sponsor members. Many of them have been associated with this magazine for 20+ years. They provide excellent services at reasonable prices. Please use them and tell them that their advertising in this magazine is worthwhile.

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## Postal Adventures Revisted

Second class mailings should take from two to three days, but it is clear that this doesn't usually seem to be the case with *The Southwest Retort*. Admittedly, to keep our magazine timely and because of the work load of our volunteer staff, we print and mail uncomfortably close to the end of the month. We moved to a mailing service over a year ago in hopes that we would get quicker transmission of our magazine to our readers. Our hopes were in vain. Occasionally the postal service takes the two to three days it ought to, but far more often it is painfully slow. The February issue is a case in point. The magazines were mailed on Feb. 27. Clearly you weren't going to get your magazines in February, but you should have had them by Mar. 2. I know the magazines reached Arlington on Mar. 7. I (ETS), living in Dallas, received my magazine on Mar. 15, sixteen days after the magazines hit the post office. This situation is intolerable, but what can we do about it? Mail the magazines earlier is the obvious answer, but we shouldn't have to guess how rapidly or how slowly the magazine is going to be delivered.

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## In Memorium: James C. Melrose A Tribute

by E. Thomas Strom

On Jan. 10, 2007, the chemical world lost one of its outstanding surface chemists with the death of Dr. James Carse Melrose. Jim Melrose worked for Mobil in Dallas 38 years, rising to the second highest position on the technical ladder. His scientific accomplishments were many, and everyone who knew him found him to be a gentleman in every sense of the word.



Jim Melrose was born in Spokane, WA on Mar. 27, 1922. He chose chemistry as a career because of the inspiration of his high school chemistry teacher, Rudolph Meyer. He attended Harvard, receiving an B.S. degree *cum laude* in just three years. He then worked for Shell for three years in refinery process research. He joined Mobil's Dallas Laboratory in 1947.

At Mobil, Jim was the first person to study drilling fluids as Bingham plastics, employing yield point and plastic viscosity as rheological parameters. He did this using a Couette viscometer, a much more advanced instrument than those in use at the time. With further development, an instrument designed specifically for the drilling industry was offered by Mobil free of royalty. Later Jim won a Mobil Incentive Fellowship. This allowed him to spend three years at full salary at any university of his choice to obtain a Ph.D. He decided to go to Stanford, and he received his Ph.D. under Professor

Eric Hutchinson, studying light scattering by colloidal suspensions of montmorillonite clay. At Stanford Jim was strongly influenced by the thermodynamics lectures of F. O. Koenig, who stressed the work of J. Willard Gibbs. Jim stated that one third of Gibbs book on thermodynamics covered the thermodynamics of surfaces, much of which has never been exploited by present day chemists.

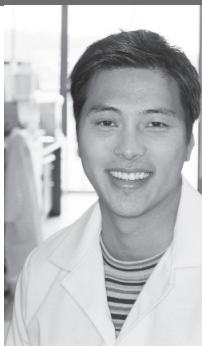
One other important consequence of Jim's stay at Stanford was his marriage. There he met his wife Catherine, a classical archaeologist who was a Fulbright scholar from Greece.

When Jim returned to Mobil in Dallas, he used the Gibbsian formalism in a variety of problem areas relating to the behavior of fluids, fluid-fluid interfaces, and fluid-solid interfaces in petroleum reservoirs. He then recognized that interfacial tension between hydrocarbons and water and the fluid contact angles at surfaces of reservoir rock determined the distribution of fluids in reservoirs and the hydrodynamics of two-phase flow. He organized an experimental program to measure tensions and contact angles simultaneously on the same three-phase system.

One result of this early work was the development of Mobil's tertiary recovery process with petroleum surfactants. A paper published by Jim with Carl F. Brandner in 1974 has since become a classic in the literature of enhanced oil recovery by surfactant flooding and is cited by all subsequent

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investigators. With fellow Mobil scientists Don Woessner, Ray George, and Brinkley Snowden, Jim measured gas diffusion constants for the methane/propane system. This work was published in *Industrial Engineering Chemical Fundamentals* in 1969. This work convinced the Board overseeing Rainbow Lake field in Canada to increase Mobil's allowables. The practical impact was to generate millions of dollars in income for Mobil, an amount sufficient to pay Jim's salary for all the time he worked at Mobil.

His colleague Jim Dixon notes that in the last decade of his career at Mobil, Jim was found in the company of a small group who shared his scientific passions and who were eager to learn from him. The group included a geologist, a reservoir engineer, a core analyst, and a laboratory chemist. Jim retired from Mobil in 1985. For a time he would visit the lab for about one hour each week. Those times were booked solid by researchers who wanted his insights on their data. He continued traveling the world, lecturing, consulting, and attending meetings with his wife by his side. In the early '90's he was a visiting professor at Stanford. His love for travel, history, and archaeology led to a profound passion for reading and to becoming an avid book collector. Jim is survived by his wife, Dr. Catherine Melrose, and their daughter Constance, who is a financial analyst in New York.

I first heard Jim talk about Gibbs when he gave a seminar at SMU. Jim's talk was fascinating, and I think it triggered my realization of how interesting the history of chemistry could be. Jim had contributed articles to *The Southwest Retort* on occasion

including one particularly interesting series on "The Polywater Affair," so when the U.S. Postal Service saw fit to honor Gibbs with a stamp, I asked Jim to write an article on Gibbs. The result was his magisterial series on "The Reception of Gibbsian Thermodynamics in Early Physical Chemistry" published in the October and November, 2005, issues of *The Southwest Retort*. These were probably the last articles Jim ever wrote. His friend Jim Dixon notes that he has a variety of folders of scientific papers on various subjects, but only one folder has just an author's name. That author is Jim Melrose, and Jim Dixon says if his office ever caught fire, that's the only thing he would try to save.

Jim was fortunate to start his career at Mobil when basic research was honored and even appreciated. This basic research resulted in tangible accomplishments which improved Mobil's bottom line. With the present day emphasis on quick, incremental gains, I wonder whether there will be any future Jim Melroses. At least we can be thankful for the one we had. ✖

\*\*\*Continued from Page 2\*\*\*

College in Oxford gave two lectures on "Oxidation of Free Radical Producing Agents."

The ACS Student Affiliate Chapter at Baylor was active during the month. They voted to undertake a project on checking the physical constants of chemical compounds for the *Handbook of Chemistry and Physics*.

At the University of Arkansas, **Dr. Arthur Fry** recently visited the American Oil Co. laboratories in Houston. He also attended the Second Annual Hydrocarbon Symposium. He has submitted a renewal request to

Research Corp., while Drs. **T. C. Hoering** and **P. K. Kuroda** have submitted renewals requests to the AEC. ✖

## Any Local Chemical Companies Out There, "Listen Up!"

Some good chemists are going to be available soon. If you have openings, contact Warren Bush at ([warrenbush@charter.net](mailto:warrenbush@charter.net)) to tell him of your job needs, and perhaps a connection can be made.

## More on TI Layoffs

D-FW Chair and Career Consultant **Warren Bush** met with some 24 TI employees at a local church in February, giving them presentations on job losses and job searches. Later Warren mailed everyone there a CD containing four ACS Career Management publications geared to job searches. At least one employee complained bitterly that Warren had been more help than the entire TI human relations department.

Terminations apparently will start in April and will be staggered throughout the rest of the year, depending on the status of the individual employee's projects. Outplacement aids will be available starting within one month of the employee's termination date. Severance pay seems stingy—one