

Seminars are normally at 12 noon,
Biochemistry Lecture Hall L4.176.
UT-Southwestern Biological
Chemistry. Nov. 13, Glenn

Micalizio, Yale University, TBA.
Seminars are normally at 6 p.m.,
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NOVEMBER D-FW ACS MEETING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2007 TEXAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Jim and Jenny Marshall, University of North Texas

“Ten Years of Rediscovery of the Elements – Now Complete!”

About the Speaker: Jim Marshall is a chemistry professor at UNT, and Jenny Marshall is professionally involved with photography and computer education. For ten years the couple has traveled to Europe and North America, rediscovering sites associated with the discovery of the chemical elements. Now their quest has been completed, so final report can be presented. Ultimately there will be a final DVD product that will allow students, educators, and armchair travelers to visit all of these historic sites.

Meeting Schedule: **6 p.m.** Social Hour and **7 p.m.** Dinner, Baker-Martin Pavilion (Map No. 32), West side of Wesleyan Street between Rosedale and E. Vickory.,
8 p.m. Lecture, McFadden Science Center Lecture Hall, Room 111 (Map No. 14), Center of Campus. Suggested parking for meal---Lots A, K, or M. Suggested parking for lecture---Lots A, B, or D.

Special Notice: *A door prize will be given to the chemistry department with the most students attending this meeting.*

Reservations: Meal will be “Taste of Italy” with Baked Beef Lasagna and/or Fettuccini Alfredo. Also, Caesar salad, sautéed broccoli, buttered corn, Italian bread sticks, garlic bread, chocolate éclairs, and cream puffs. Cost of meal is \$12. Deadline for reservations is 5 p.m., Monday, Nov. 12. Reservations should be sent to Bob Landolt at rlandolt@txwes.edu or phone 817-531-4890. Members are financially responsible for reservations made but not used. It is *not* necessary to make a dinner reservation to attend the lecture.

How To Get There: From either Dallas or Fort Worth, you should travel Highway 287 either north (from Interstate 20) or south (from Interstate 30). Exit at Rosedale and travel east. Within a few blocks the campus will be on your left. Turn north onto Wesleyan Street, and you are on the campus. If you are on Interstate 30 east of downtown, you can take the Beach Street exit, travel south on Beach past Lancaster to Rosedale, turn left onto Rosedale, and three blocks later turn left onto Wesleyan, and you are on campus. The Wesleyan University map is available through <http://www.txwes.edu/aboutus/documents/3DMAP2006.pdf>. Driving directions are available through <http://www.txwes.edu/aboutus/drivingdirections.htm>.

Spectrum of Tar: Random Reminiscence p. 5

Southwest

RETORT

October
2007

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PERIODICAL

Fifty Years Ago in the Southwest Retort

The ACS tour speaker for October will be **Dr. I. A. Pearl** of The Institute of Paper Chemistry in Appleton, Wisconsin. The three talks he has prepared are "The Present Status of the Chemistry of Lignin," "Aromatic Organic Chemicals from Spent Sulfite Liquor Lignin," and "Present Status of Chemical Utilization of Lignin."

The ACS Southwest Regional Meeting will be held Dec. 5-7 in Tulsa. **Dr. Warren C. Johnson**, Chairman of the General Advisory Committee of the Atomic Energy Commission, will speak in Dallas Oct. 24 in Karcher Hall, SMU, on "The Development of Nuclear Power Here and Abroad." At Texas Woman's University, **Dr. Robert W. Higgins** attended a meeting in Wyoming in August of the US Bureau of Mines API Project No. 48 on organic sulfur compounds. **Dr. Helen A. Ludeman** spent three weeks in Germany attending scientific meetings and sightseeing. **Dr. William L. Mecay** visited relatives in Cleveland after the summer session.

Several UT-Austin faculty presented papers abroad. **Dr. Norman Hackerman** gave a paper in September on "Sorption, Oxidation, and Passivity" at the International Symposium on Passivity held in Darmstadt, Germany. **Dr. L. F. Hatch** addressed the Symposium on Solvent Effects and Reaction Mechanism at Queen Mary College in London in July. **Dr.**

F. A. Matsen delivered a paper in September in Paris at the Conference "Calcul des Fonctions D'Onde Moléculaires." Those attending the ACS National Meeting in New York were **Drs. P. S. Bailey, J. E. Boggs, R. C. Anderson, K. Kobe, and H. L. Lochte**. ACS President **Dr. R. J. Williams** gave talks at five different institutions over the summer.

At Baylor **Dr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Franklin** had a baby boy, Thomas Edward, to go with their three girls. Four students graduated in August with M.S.Chem degrees. They were **Neva Jo Ward, Ann Harmon, Fungo Yao, and Jiro Tsuji**.

At the University of Arkansas **Dr. Edward S. Amis** was the first seminar speaker of the year. The faculty presented four papers at the ACS National Meeting held in New York. The speakers were **Dr. Samuel Siegel** (coauthor **J. M. Comaromy**), **Mr. William D. Guthrie** (coauthor **E. S. Amis**), **Dr. P. K. Kuroda** (coauthor **H. R. Heydegger**), and **Dr. Kurt H. Stern** (coauthor **Patrick H. Flaherty**). Ten new graduate students have enrolled in chemistry this semester.

The Analytical Group of the Southeastern Texas ACS Section met Sept. 5 at Rice Institute. The main speaker was **Dr. S. H. Simonsen** of the University of Texas speaking on "Analytical Applications of X-ray Techniques." Three seminars were held ahead of the banquet.

Chemical Analysis." On July 10 he gave a plenary lecture on "New Classes of Chiral Selectors: Mechanisms and Actions" at the 19th International Symposium on Chirality held in San Diego. On Aug. 20 he gave a lecture at Aldrich/Sigma/Fluka/Supelco in Buchs, Switzerland on "Synthesis and Use of Novel Ionic Liquids."

Dr. Subhrangsu Mandal has received a two-year, \$130,000 grant from the American Heart Association to study "Function of Histone Methylation in Human Gene Expression and Cardiovascular Disease." **Prof. Martin Pomerantz** has returned to the UT-Arlington chemistry faculty after serving the last two years as a Program Officer in the Chemistry Division of NSF.

OCTOBER METROPLEX SEMINAR SCHEDULE

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

UT-Arlington. Nov. 2, Nenad M. Costić, Texas A&M-Commerce, *Metal Complexes as Artificial Peptidases: Reaction Mechanism and Applicability in Biotechnology and Proteomics*. **Nov. 9**, Alakanada Basu, UNT Health Science Center, *To Die or Not to Die: Protein Kinase C Takes the Central Stage*. **Nov. 16**, Wei Chen, UT-Arlington, *Nanoparticle Fluorescence-Based Technology for Biomedical Applications*. **Nov. 30**, Jerry R. Faust, Tufts University Medical School, *Isopentenyladenosine*

and Suppression of Stop Codons. **Dec. 7**, Abul Hassam, George Mason University, *Arsenic in Groundwater: Aquatic Chemistry and Mitigation through Filtration Technologies*. Seminars are normally at 2:30 p.m. in Room 114, Baker Chemical Research Building.

UT-Dallas. Nov. 14, Kevin D. Ausman, Oklahoma State University, *Environmental Risks of Nanomaterials*. Seminars are normally at 12:30 p.m. in Room 2.106 Founders North.

University of North Texas. Nov. 2, Russ Schmehl, Tulane University, *Light Induced Electron Transfer Reactions of Pt(II) Terpyridyl Complexes: Assessing the Promise of Multielectron Photoredox Reactivity*. **Nov. 8** (Note change of day.), John Hartwig, University of Illinois, *Organometallic Chemistry of Carbon-Heteroatom Bonds*. **Nov. 16**, Curt Breneman, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, *The Creation and Use of Novel Molecular Descriptors and Data Fusion Methods*. Seminars are normally at 3:30 p.m. in Room 106, Chemistry Bldg.

Texas Christian University. Nov. 8, Frieder Jaekle, Rutgers University, TBA. **Nov. 29**, Matt McIntosh, University of Arkansas, *Novel Rearrangement Chemistry*.

UT-Southwestern Biochemistry. Nov. 1, Zheng Zhou, Baylor College of Medicine, *The Genetics of Hiding the Corpse: Removal of Apoptotic Cells in C. Elegans*. **Nov. 15**, Thomas O'Halloran, Northwestern University, TBA. **Nov. 29**, Christine Jacobs-Wagner, Yale University, TBA. **Dec. 6**, William Kaelin, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. TBA.

company. There followed post-docs with D. J. Proctor at the University of Glasgow and M. G. Organ at York University in Toronto.

Christopher's wife Marie is currently completing her Ph.D. in immunology at the University of Guelph in Canada. Chris enjoys field hockey and is a fitness buff, doing weight training and running. He also enjoys salsa dancing, and salsa dancing is how he met his wife. His research interests are in multiple catalytic processes. He is hoping to apply simultaneously reactions to synthetic chemistry with an eye toward "total control chemistry."

A paper published by **Dr. Rasika Dias** and coworkers was published in *Angew. Chem.* and highlighted as a "hot paper." The paper dealt with the isolation of Gold (I)-ethylene complexes. The paper was later highlighted in *C&EN*.

Dr. Kevin Schug received renewal funding for two years from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for "Total Determination of Toxic Constituents from Golden Algae (*Prymnesium parvum*)."

Kevin attended the UT system NSF LSAMP conference in San Antonio. An undergraduate student from UT-Tyler, **Israel Ortiz**, did research with Kevin over the summer and presented a poster paper on his work titled "MALDI-MS Fingerprinting of Complex Hydrocarbon Mixtures: Application to Crude Oils using Data Mining Techniques." Another co-author was **Dr. Seoung B. Kim** from UTA's Industrial Engineering Dept.

Dr. Krishnan (Raj) Rajeshwar attended the 2nd International Hydro-

gen Energy Congress and Exhibition in Istanbul, Turkey July 13-15. He presented a keynote lecture at the meeting on "Make Hydrogen While the Sun Shines: Generating Renewable Hydrogen from Sunlight and Water." He also presented an invited lecture and chaired a session at the Symposium on "Chemical and Electrochemical Synthesis of Advanced Materials and Nanostructures on Solid Surfaces: Growth Mechanisms, Characterizations and Applications" at the European Materials Research Society meeting in Warsaw, Poland Sept. 17-21.

Dr. Fred MacDonnell gave seminars in June in Italy at the Universities of Messina, Bologna, and Ferrara and presented a paper at the 17th International Symposium on Photochemistry and Photophysics of Coordination Compounds held in Dublin, Ireland June 24-28.

Welch Professor Daniel Armstrong was awarded the 2007 Slovak Medical Society Medal. He gave the keynote lecture on June 14 at the Pfizer Global R & D Analytical Science and Technology Symposium, in Sandwich, England, on "Mechanisms of Enantiomeric Separations." He also gave a keynote lecture at HPLC 2007 on June 19 at Ghent, Belgium, on "Electrokinetic Microbial Analysis." He gave a plenary lecture on June 24 at Chiranal 2007 in Olomouc, Czech Republic, on "High Efficiency Enantiomeric Separations." He gave another plenary lecture at the 13th International Symposium on Separation Science on June 27 at High Tetras, Slovak Republic, on "Ionic Liquids in



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Salinity Changes in Natural Surface Water Systems on Microorganism Diversity and Population.” However, the conflict with the ACS Southwest Regional Meeting may result in rescheduling the meeting date.

South Plains

Texas Tech University. Dr. Jorge A. Morales was a keynote speaker at the symposium “Quantum Molecular Response and Reaction Dynamics, Theory and Computations: A Symposium in Honor of N. Yngve Ohrn” held as part of the International Conference of Computational Methods in Sciences and Engineering, Corfu Island, Greece, Sept. 25-30. **Dr. Louisa Hope-Weeks** in chemistry and **Dr. Brandon Weeks** in chemical engineering are the new parents of **Rhiannon Mary Weeks**, born Sept. 2, with a weight of eight pounds 13 ounces and length 21.5 inches.

Dallas-Fort Worth

Shimadzu Time-of-Flight Mass Spectrometer Demo Nov. 1. Dr. Kevin Schug and co-investigator **Dr. Daniel Armstrong** recently acquired an ion trap-time-of-flight mass spectrometer through the highly competitive Shimadzu Equipment Grants for Research Program. There will be an informal seminar and demo of the equipment at 4 p.m. on Thurs., Nov. 1, in the Chemistry and Physics Building at UT-Arlington. Registration will open at 3:30 p.m. Following the seminar, light hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served. If you are interested in attending, please contact **Dr. Benjamin Figard** at

(bjfigard@shimadzu.com) or by phone at 713-467-1151.

UT-Arlington. Kroll, O'Brien New Faculty Members. Two new assistant professors have joined the UTA faculty. They are **Peter Kroll** in theoretical chemistry and **Christopher O'Brien** in organic chemistry. Peter received his bachelor's degree in physics and mathematics from the University of Heidelberg in 1990. He then received a master's degree in particle physics at Heidelberg in 1993. There followed a Ph.D. in material science from Darmstadt Technical University in 1996. He then did a postdoc from 1997-1999 with Roald Hoffman at Cornell. He completed his Habilitation in inorganic chemistry at the University of Aachen from 1999-2005. He was an independent researcher at Aachen from 2005-2007 and holder of the Heisenberg Fellowship of the German Science Foundation.

Peter is married to Martina, who has an M.D./Ph.D. The couple have three boys, Benedickt, Tobias, and Jonathon. Peter enjoys fine wines. He plays the trombone and particularly likes classical music. He intends his computational chemistry studies to focus on high pressure science, synthesis of new materials, amorphous ceramics, and nano materials.

Christopher was born in Chester, England, and received his bachelor's degree from the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology in 1996. His Ph.D. came from the University of Sheffield working for Veranda Aggarwal. From 2000-2001 he worked for Peak Dale Molecular, a custom synthesis

of Nanomedicine in San Diego, Sept. 6-9. Presentations were made at the Boston ACS Meeting by Tian, and graduate students **Hong Gu, Wei Qi** and **Shuming Zang**. Also attending the Boston meeting were faculty member **Matt McIntosh** and graduate student **Silvana Dormi**.

Roger Koeppe will be on sabbatical leave this fall at UC-San Diego, where he will collaborate with **Dr. Stanley Opella**. Recently faculty members **Jim Hinton** and **Joshua Sakon** were honored for their years of service, 40 years for Hinton and 10 years for Sakon.

New graduate students this semester are **Anupama Aggarwal**, **Sefat Alwarsh**, **Tim Beng**, **Steve Gann**, **Nick Gleason**, **Abby Hubbard**, **Zheng Li**, **Danny Sanders**, **Maha Shrestha**, **Brandon Suttles**, **Samrat Thapa**, and **Jeff Ward**.

Heart o' Texas

Baylor University. Dr. David Pennington attended an Executive Committee Meeting of the Texas Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (TAAHP) at UNT. The purpose of the meeting was for planning of the annual meeting of the TAAHP in Feb., 2008 to be hosted by the UT-Houston School of Medicine and the UT Dental Branch.

Recent graduate **Katherin W. Schnell**, now at the University of Florida Medical School, is the recipient of the Virgil L. Tweedie Scholarship for 2007-2008. This award is given by Alpha Epsilon Delta, the National Premedical Honor Society. The scholarship is named after Baylor chemistry professor Virgil

Tweedie, who died last December. Katherine intends to use some of the funds for a summer medical mission trip to Africa.

Wichita Falls-Duncan

The section held an open meeting Sept. 26 in Walters, OK. The purpose of the meeting was to canvas members for recommendations as to what they would like to see in the way of services from the local section. **Cheryl Brown** from the national ACS office was there to help facilitate the meeting. Local section members present were **Elton Eubanks, P. K. Das, Ted Snider, Keith Vitense, Kathy Quachnock, Chris Hansen, Jianguo Shao, and Tom Dealy**. Many good ideas were presented, and an attempt will be made to incorporate several into this year's agenda.

The next regularly scheduled meeting for the section will be Monday, Oct. 15, at Midwestern State University. ACS tour speaker, **Dr. James N. BeMiller** of Purdue will be the presenter.

East Texas

The October meeting of the section took place on the 17th at Kilgore College. The speaker was **Charles Deak** whose topic was "Forensic Chemistry in the Private Sector." Boxes of the *Celebrating Chemistry* paper were available at the October meeting to distribute to local elementary schools. The November meeting is scheduled for Nov. 7 at Panola College with speaker **Phillip D. Voegel** lecturing on "Role of

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Retort

SIXTYTH YEAR

OCTOBER 2007

THE SPECTRUM OF TAR: ANOTHER RANDOM REMINISCENCE

by Dr. Lyman R. Caswell
e-mail (ruthandlyman@earthlink.net)

I believe that every academic chemist, early in his or her career, should work for a while in a non-academic laboratory. The experience will provide a point of view much different from that encountered in academe, and may even help the professor-to-be to prepare students for some of the surprising things to be found outside of the academic laboratory. I recall one of my professors relating how, on his first day on the job in an industrial laboratory, he was shocked at being required to cut the tips off pipets. Heresy! The goal in that lab was speed, rather than a high degree of accuracy.

My own non-academic laboratory experience began early in 1955, near the completion of my dissertation at Michigan State University. I had completed essentially all of the laboratory work for my dissertation and was struggling to make sense of an accumulation of kinetic data. I was also tired of being an underpaid TA. One of my fellow graduate students, at much the same point, had taken a job at the Michigan State Highway Commission's research and testing laboratory. I made an inquiry and found that the lab was looking for someone with experience in measuring absorption spectra. Well, I had gained that---both UV and IR---

in the course of my dissertation work. I applied for the job, filled out a lot of forms for the State of Michigan Civil Service, and was hired with the title, "Highway Technician I."

The highway lab was in the basement of one of the engineering buildings on the Michigan State University campus, a short walk from the chemistry building. The lab's first function was to test and analyze all of the samples of tar, cement, paint, and other highway supplies that vendors submitted to the state with their bids. The second function was to test and analyze samples of everything the state bought to make sure that it was getting the same things that were submitted with the bids. All procedures had to be carried out by methods approved by the American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM). Both functions had deadlines to be met, and the lab was a busy place when samples came in.

Most of the research done in the lab, when people had time for it, was oriented toward finding faster ways of testing. My assignment was to determine the infrared absorption spectrum of every sample of tar that came through the lab and of each component into which the tar was separated. My immediate supervisor believed that the various tars could be "fingerprinted," so that it could quickly be determined that the material the state bought was identical with the material submitted with the bid, and he had persuaded the director of the lab that the idea was worth investigating.

My past experience in measuring IR spectra had been with neat liquids, using cells of known path length. With practice, I became adept at squeezing samples of tar between a pair of rock salt discs and taking their spectra on an obsolescent single-beam spectrophotometer, which I believe had come on the market around 1946. It bore little resemblance to the double-beam state-of-the-art instrument I had used in my research. It had a strip-chart recorder, and a complete spectrum was several feet long. I also became expert at cleaning and polishing salt plates.

On a good day---that is, on a day when I got a suitable sample between the salt plates every time on the first try, and I didn't have to stop and repolish the plates---I could get the spectra of three samples. My supervisor, however, always reported only two spectra a day. He was protecting the longevity of his project.

The office of the director of the lab was two floors above the lab. At some time during each day, he would come downstairs to inspect the lab. As soon as he was out of his office, his secretary called the lab to warn us that he was coming. He was always pleased to find everyone busy with their assigned projects.

About a month after I started working in the lab, I received a notice from the Michigan State Civil



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school. He had no problems whatsoever understanding the material, and he originally intended to become a high school chemistry teacher. He received a B.S. Chem degree with honors from Lebanese University in Beirut in 1972 followed by an education degree in 1973. He had started work teaching for one month when he received a scholarship for higher education. He obtained an M.S. degree in analytical chemistry from Claude-Bernard University in Lyon, France, in 1976, followed by a Ph.D. from the same school in analytical chemistry in 1978. While in France, he met his wife Guadalupe, a Mexican citizen, holder of a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry and currently working in the University agriculture/food lab. After two years as Visiting Assistant Professor at the Ecole

Centrale de Lyon, he came to Yale as a Research Scientist, working for Csaba Horváth. He spent eight years at Yale, and then in 1988 he came to OSU.

Ziad and Guadalupe have two children, Miriam and Edward. Miriam is the holder of an M.S. degree in architecture from Harvard, while Edward is a chem. major at OSU, intending to go to medical school. Ziad's main hobby is gardening. He enjoys raising both flowers and vegetables. *The Southwest Retort* congratulates Ziad El-Rassi on this prestigious award.

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Around-the-Area

University of Arkansas

Julie Stenken Joins Department. Professor Julie Stenken has joined U of A as holder of the 21st Century Chair in Proteomics. She has a B.S. from the University of Akron and a Ph.D. from the University of Kansas. Before coming here, she had spent 11 years on the faculty of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. The Stenken group is interested in measurements of proteins and peptides involved in chemical communication inside mammalian systems. Targeted areas of interest include proteins (*i.e.*, cytokines) involved with orchestrating immune responses to foreign implants and

peptides that play a role in addiction (neuropeptides). She currently holds two NIH grants to support this research. When not mathematically modeling diffusive transport to and from microdialysis probes, this Ohio native enjoys baking bread from scratch, without a bread machine, and reading non-fiction, especially about international travel.

In August, Intellectual Properties Partners LLC, an Atlanta company, obtained the global license for a multifunctional material developed by faculty member **Z. Ryan Tian**. Tian co-chaired a symposium and presented two papers at the annual meeting of the American Academy

ill at M.D. Anderson in Houston, several former students showed up to wish him well. I remember he and I together facing two irate parents whose precious son was threatened with his first B ever. Dmitry was calm, cool, and collected facing their onslaught.

Dmitry told very few people of his cancer, so it was a shock when his condition went downhill so quickly. There is no telling what heights he would have scaled if he had lived longer. He may have had a premonition that he wouldn't, which would account for his feverish research activity. The great thing about science

is that we scientists can leave permanent footprints in the sands of time. Dmitry's footprints will loom very large.

Editor's Note: I thank Sasha Rudkevich, Fred MacDonnell, and Ed Bellion for sharing their recollections of Dmitry with me.

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OSU'S ZIAD EL-RASSI IS 2007 OKLAHOMA CHEMIST

by E. Thomas Strom

This year's Oklahoma Chemist is Oklahoma State University bioanalytical chemist Ziad El-Rassi. The award consisted of a plaque and a \$1000 cash prize. This is not the first honor for Dr. El Rassi. He was chosen the Oklahoma Academy of Science's Scientist of the Year in 2006, won the

Regents Distinguished Research Award in 2005, and the Sigma Xi Lectureship Award in 2004. He is the Editor-In-Chief of the journal *Electrophoresis*, and he serves on the Editorial Boards of four other prestigious analytical chemistry journals. His research program has consisted of basic and applied research in capillary electrophoresis, liquid chromatography, and capillary



electrochromatography. In a time of severe competition for research grants, his research funding from external and internal sources has averaged \$100,000 per year. Among his important research discoveries are the development of fused silica capillaries with hydrophilic coatings

for the high resolution separation of proteins, nucleic acids, and carbohydrates and the characterization of chiral surfactants and other chiral selectors for the separation of a wide range of enantiomers.

El-Rassi was born in Lebanon, and he became interested in chemistry at age 12 when the subject was introduced in the first year of middle

Service that I must take an exam for the position of Highway Technician 1. The test turned out to be a civil engineering exam and had nothing to do with my job. I knew the answer to exactly one question on the test and guessed at all the others. As soon as I got back into the lab, I told my supervisor about it. We went up to the director's office to find out if I still had a job. "That's the kind of nonsense we can expect from those so-and-sos downtown in the Statehouse," he said. He actually used terms considerably more salty than "nonsense" and "so-and-sos." "Don't worry about it," he added. I didn't, and nothing happened to my job.

Occasionally I got to take a break from measuring spectra to go out with a field crew and measure the reflectivity of paint-test stripes on a highway. This activity provided entertainment to some passing motorists and puzzlement to others. It did look strange to see a person on his hands and knees in the middle of the pavement, looking into a blue box, while a second person stood by with a clipboard. We always took along a state trooper to inhibit extreme reactions on the part of passers-by.

Since I was defined as a spectroscopist, I was assigned to help set up a flame photometer that the lab had just acquired. The ASTM had just put flame photometry on a probationary basis for calcium determination, as a possible alternative for the traditional, slow, wet procedure. Flame photometry was already being rendered obsolescent by the advent of atomic absorption spectrophotom-

etry, and the lab had bought a second-hand instrument. The optical system of the photometer had been jarred out of alignment during shipping, and it took two of us over a week to get it properly aligned and the instrument calibrated. When the director made his daily visit to the lab, he teased us about "Rube Goldberg contraptions." When we finally got it working, we did 15 calcium determinations in one morning, all of which matched the accepted method results. There was no more teasing.

As is true for every organization, the lab had its complement of "interesting" people. The only Ph.D. in the lab---and the only person who always wore a necktie---was a specialist in the measurement of paint durability. He had on his desk a large calculator, of a kind that was popular in those days before the invention of hand-held solid-state calculators. He reported all of his calculation results to the full eight digits that the calculator provided. When people protested that all those digits didn't mean anything, he would insist that "of course they do---the calculator doesn't make mistakes." He apparently had missed class on the day that significant figures were discussed. His reports were edited before they went beyond the director's office.

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At the opposite extreme was a young man who might be politely described as “mentally challenged.” He was a good-natured and friendly sort, but people preferred to keep their distance from him, for he seldom bathed. He was big and strong and useful for moving heavy objects. He had infinite patience, so one of the technicians taught him to weigh samples on the lab’s old fashioned analytical balances. His rank in the Michigan State Civil Service was Highway Technician 2, one step above me, though I doubt that he had passed any kind of exam. It was rumored that he was the brother-in-law to someone high in the bureaucracy of the Highway Commission.

The janitor was the richest person employed by the lab. He arrived for work every morning in a chauffeur-driven Cadillac and changed out of his three-piece suit into his janitorial clothes in the broom closet. At the end of the day, the Cadillac returned, and, clad in his elegant suit, he left in style. The janitor made the coffee for the mid-morning coffee break and sold it for about three cents a cup. That’s about what it was worth. He weighed out the coffee grounds on one of the balances before making the coffee. One of the technicians eventually “adjusted” the balance so that it gave more coffee than the balance indicated. The janitor had emigrated from Croatia right after World War I. He saved every nickel and dime he made and invested in real estate, eventually owning several apartment buildings in Lansing. But he had

worked all his life as a janitor and saw no reason to quit.

I worked in the lab for about six months and eventually had had enough of tar. I had my first full-time teaching job awaiting me in the fall, so I gave two weeks’ notice at the first of August. I don’t know if my supervisor’s expectation of “fingerprinting” the tar samples was successful. When I told my major professor about some of my experiences in the highway job, he said, “Don’t list that job in your vita.” I didn’t!

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IN MEMORIAM: DMITRY RUDKEVICH

UT-Arlington and organic chemistry lost an amazing chemist with the death from melanoma on Aug. 4 of Associate Professor Dmitry Rudkevich, age 44. Dmitry is survived by his wife Sasha and sons Dmitry Jr. and Eric. The Rudkevich Memorial Fund has been set up. Checks should be made out to Rudekivich Memorial Fund and mailed to Educational Employees Credit Union, 2212 Southgate Street, Arlington, TX 76013.

Dmitry’s death may have been the most recent that resulted from the Chernobyl disaster in the Ukraine on April 26, 1986. Dmitry’s national guard unit was called to the site shortly after the disaster. Fred MacDonnell reports that Dmitry told him that everyone else in his 20-man squad had died of cancer. Regrettably, Dmitry has now joined their number.

Dmitry was born in the Ukraine. He studied chemistry at the Institute of Organic Chemistry at the National Academic of Sciences of the Ukraine with Prof. Leonid N. Markovsky and received a Ph.D. in chemistry in 1989. It was there that Dmitry met his wife of 15 years, Sasha. He completed a second Ph.D. under Professor David N. Reinhoudt at the University of Twente in the Netherlands in 1995. In 1996 he moved to the U.S. to work with Prof. Julius Rebek, Jr., first at MIT and later at the Scripps Research



Institute at La Jolla. He joined the faculty at UT-Arlington in 2001, coming in with 80+ research publications. He was promoted to Associate Professor in the remarkably short time of three years (normal is six years). His research was funded by NSF, PRF, and the Texas Advanced Technology Program. He was UT-Arlington’s first homegrown Alfred P. Sloan Fellow.

Dmitry’s research interests included molecular recognition, applications of calixarenes, and the supramolecular chemistry of gases. One particularly interesting area of his research was synthesizing copolymers of carbon dioxide and amines. He had over 125 publications at the time of his death. In at least three instances, his articles provided journal covers. At the recent Southwest Regional ACS meeting held in Fort Worth, he arranged a super symposium on calixarenes with representation from all over the world. These renowned chemists came to Fort Worth because of Dmitry.

While the loss to chemistry because of Dmitry’s death is great, one other fact shouldn’t be overlooked. Dmitry was a genuinely NICE GUY! I know lots of hot-shot chemists who are NOT nice people. Dmitry always had a smile on his face, and he really cared about people. Sasha said that while he was