

MAY/JUNE METROPLEX SEMINAR SCHEDULE

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

UT-Arlington. May 2, Sergeo Dzyuba, TCU, "Bioorganic Studies on Amyloid Peptides---en Route to Understanding the Complexity of Alzheimer's Disease." Seminars are normally at 2:30 p.m. in Room 114, Baker Chemical Research Bldg.

UT-Southwestern Biochemistry. May 8, Sriram Subramaniam, National Cancer Institute, "Visualizing Cells at Molecular Resolution." May 15, Judith Frydman, Stanford, "Molecular Origami: Protein Folding and Misfolding in the Eukaryotic Cytosol." May 22, Jeff Gelles, Brandeis University, "Elucidating Regulatory Mechanisms in Complex Sys-

tems by Single-Molecule Light Microscopy." May 29, Jared Rutter, University of Utah, "Energy Sensing and Signaling by PAS Kinase." Seminars are normally at 12 noon, Biochemistry Lecture Hall L4.176.

TCU. June 20, Simon Aldridge, University of Oxford, TBA. Seminars are normally at 11 a.m. in Lecture Hall 4, Sid Richardson Science Bldg.

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INTERVIEW WITH ACS PRESIDENT- ELECT TOM LANE

p. 5

Southwest

RETORT

April/May
2008

TABLE OF CONTENTS

50 Years Ago.....	2
Interview with Tom Lane ACS Pres.-Elect.....	5
Chem Gems & Joules.....	8
June Retort Deadlines.....	9
Around-the-Area.....	10
U of Arkansas/Wilkins Symposium.....	10
East Texas.....	10
Heart o' Texas.....	10
South Plains.....	11
Texas Tech University/Henry Shine.....	12
D-FW/Balkus, Bernabo Win Local Awards.....	12
Meeting-in-Miniature.....	12
2008 Student Scholarships.....	13
May/June Metroplex Seminar Schedule.....	16
D-FW Section June Meeting.....	16

INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

American Polymer Standards Corp.....	16
Applied Analytical.....	9
ANA-LAB.....	4
Chemir.....	8
Huffman Laboratories.....	3
IQ Synthesis.....	9
Kelly Scientific Resources.....	8
Sponsor Members	3
Texas A&M University-Commerce.....	16

PERIODICAL

FIFTY YEARS AGO IN THE SOUTHWEST RETORT

The April tour speaker was **Dr. Frederick R. Duke** of Iowa State College (*Editor's Note. Fred Duke later became the first Welch Professor at Texas A&M*). His tour lectures will include "Oxidation-Reduction Mechanisms", "Complex Ions in Fused Salts", and "Ion Mobilities in Fused Salts."

The University of Texas Chemistry Department was responsible for about 125 publications during 1957. Not counting the new faculty or their publications, the average was five papers for each faculty member. **Dr. Norman Hackerman** gave a lecture tour before sections of the Electrochemical Society in the Northeast. An NSF grant was recently awarded to **David Himmelblau** in the Chemical Engineering Department.

Dr. Thomas C. Franklin spoke to the Baylor Sigma Xi Club on electrochemistry. **Dr. John S. Belew** spoke on infrared spectra to the Student Chapter of the American Institute of Physics. **Prof. E. S. Amis** of the University of Arkansas will head the instruction in the Baylor University Summer Science Institute. Dr. Amis is well known as the author of the book *Kinetics of Chemical Change in Solution*. Master's student **Marc Johnson** has completed a thesis under the direction of **Dr. A. G. Pinkus** and has accepted a position with Texas Eastman in Longview.

The University of Arkansas's Main Library was designated as a

depository for unclassified publications by the Atomic Energy Commission. **Drs. T. C. Hoering** and **R. W. Fink** received renewals of their respective NSF grants. **Dr. E. S. Amis** spent the week of Feb. 9-14 at Mississippi College in Clinton, MS as representative from the sciences during Religious Focus Week. His main topic for discussion was titled "Science in Religion." **Dr. Jacob Sacks** has a paper accepted for presentation at the second Atoms for Peace Conference to be held in Geneva, Switzerland in September.

At Humble Oil in Houston **S. H. Hastings** attended the Western Spectroscopy Annual Conference in Asilomar, CA. New members of the R&D Division are **J. Q. Foster** and **Lowell Westerman**. **J. L. McAtte, Jr.** reports from Baroid that **Bill Neuberg** and **Bill Starr** have joined the Bentone Laboratories. A number of individuals from Dow Chemical attended the opening of the new science building at Texas Southern University, where they heard a speech by **Joel Hildebrand** of UC-Berkeley.

San Antonio completed its most successful Science Fair Mar. 15. The number of entries from 185 high school students doubled the number from last year. Grand prize winners were senior **Norma Lee Wallace** from Alamo Heights High School and junior **James Karney** from Burbank High School.

Golden has announced that the B.S. degrees in chemistry, biology, and biochemistry with Forensic Science Certification is now officially nationally accredited---one of only ten accredited undergraduate programs in the U.S. and the only program west of the Mississippi River.

UT-Arlington. **Dr. Kevin Schug** presented a seminar at Baylor on April 4. He gave an invited presentation titled "Dynamic Titration Methods for High Throughput Binding Constant Determinations by Electrospray Ionization Mass Spectrometry" at the New Orleans ACS Meeting in the symposium on "New Techniques in Biological Chemistry." **Dr. Subhra Mandal** also attended the meeting, giving an invited presentation on "Chemical Nucleases as Potential Chemotherapeutic Agents."

Dr. Krishnan (Raj) Rajeshwar visited India in February to publicize the mission and activities of the Electrochemical Society. During this trip he also presented seminars on his research on solar energy conversion at the Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai, the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and the Central Electrochemical Research Institute in Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu. He also presented a keynote lecture titled "New Generation Oxide Semiconductors for Solar Energy Conversion and Environmental Remediation" at the 6th International Society of Electrochemistry meeting at Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil Mar. 16-19. He gave a seminar on the same topic at Rutgers University on April 4.

Undergraduate **Michael Cason** won 1st prize in the Honors Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (HURCA) symposium. His talk was entitled "Combustion Syn-

thesis and Characterization of Nanocrystalline WO₃." This work will appear as a *JACS* communication with coauthors **W. Morales**, **O. Aina**, **N. Tacconi** and **K. Rajeswar**. Graduate student Mauro Fianchini won a \$300 President's Award in the UTA Annual Celebration of Excellence.

A number of students were honored at the College of Science Awards Ceremony on April 22. The John T. Murchison Award for Outstanding Senior went to **Trung Nguyen**. **Mason Stewart** received the R. L. Hoyle Award for Outstanding Junior. The Robert Francis Award for Outstanding Sophomore went to **Alysha Varley**, while **Aaron Morgan** received the *CRC Handbook* Award for Outstanding Freshman. The ACS Award for Outstanding Chemistry and Biochemistry major went to **Michael Cason**. The award for Outstanding Chemistry and Biochemistry Society Member went to **Nathan Roehr**. **Sandra Spencer** received the Undergraduate Award in Analytical Chemistry. **Jose Redriguez** received the Outstanding Chemistry Clinic Tutor Award, and **Lawton A. Seal** received the Undergraduate Teaching Award.

James Grant won the Undergraduate Research Award. The Graduate Teaching Award went to **Luis Reyes**, and the Graduate Research Award went to **Dhiman Bhattacharyya** and **Jaime A. Flores**.

UT-Southwestern. The medical school has created six colleges for its 240 first year medical school students. One of the colleges is named after **Dr. Ronald W. Estabrook**, who built the biochemistry department into a world-recognized center for research.

members of their chemistry clan had presentations. **Beth Neilson** (B.S., Duke, 2008) gave a poster in the undergraduate Chemical Education Division, while **Andy Neilson** (Ph.D. Clemson, 2008) had an oral presentation in the symposium on "Novel Fluorophores" in the PMSE Division. **Kim Brien** from the Hanna group presented a poster in New Orleans.

UT-Dallas. UTD welcomes **Mihaela C. (Stefan) Iovu** as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry. Mihaela received her bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry and her Ph.D. in polymer science from the Politechnica University in Romania. Her research has taken her to South Africa's University of the Western Cape and to Carnegie Mellon University, where she was a post-doc and later a visiting assistant professor and research scientist prior to joining UTD. Her research interests focus on the development of advanced materials for organic electronics and medicine.

UNT. **Dr. Diana Mason** has won a \$2.4 million grant for "Teach North Texan (TNT). Replication of UTeach at UNT." The grant was funded with \$1.4 million from the Greater Texas Foundation and \$1.0 million from NMSI. The grant is shared with the Colleges of Education and Engineering. Dr. Mason was keynote speaker at Qatar University, Doha, Qatar, with a talk on "Knowledge for College: The Importance of Teaching Science" at the 3rd Qatar Symposium on Science Teaching & Learning: Increasing Problem Solving Skills in Science. With **G. Robert Shelton** she had three other presentations at the meeting.

Drs. Angela Wilson, Tom Cundari and colleagues presented three

papers at the New Orleans ACS Meeting. Represented with presentations were **Dr. Diana Mason, Kristin Sherman, and Mohammad Omary.**

Dr. Tom Cundari received a \$300,000 DOE grant to study "Modeling of Catalytic Processes for More Efficient Utilization of Hydrocarbon Resources." He presented seminars at LeTourneau University, the UNT Materials Science and Engineering Dept., and at New Mexico State University.

Dr. Angela Wilson was appointed to the U.S. National Committee of IUPAC, as a Member-at-Large in the Division of Computational Physics of APS, and as an Associate Member of the IUPAC Division of Physical and Biophysical Chemistry. She gave a presentation at the Austin Molecular Symposium Mar. 3 and seminars at the University of Central Oklahoma, TCU and TWU.

Welch Chair **Dr. Wes Borden** will give talks in May at the University of Köln and at the Czech Academy of Science. In June he will give a lecture at the UCLA in honor of the 65th birthday of Ken Houk. He and Dr. Cundari will lecture at the summer school run by the Center for Enhancing New Technologies through Catalysis (CENTC), NSF's first Chemical Bonding Center. In August Dr. Borden will give a lecture at the International Symposium on Free Radicals on Heron Island, located on Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

Dr. Jim Marshall was elected Alternate Councilor of the History Division of ACS. He presented "Rediscovery of the Elements—the First Discoveries" at the University of Arkansas on Mar. 13. **Dr. Teresa**



Southwest Retort

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40 Zr 91.224	41 Nb 92.906	42 Mo 95.94	43 Tc (98)	44 Ru 101.07	45 Rh 101.07	46 Pd 106.42	47 Ag 107.87	48 Cd 112.411	49 In 114.818	50 Sn 118.71	51 Sb 121.76	52 Te 127.60	53 I 126.90
72 Hf 178.49	73 Ta 180.95	74 W 183.84	75 Re 186.207	76 Os 190.23	77 Ir 192.222	78 Pt 195.084	79 Au 196.967	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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\$1500 2008 W. T. Doherty Award. The winner of the \$1000 Schulz Award will go to Jennifer Bernabo of Plano East High School. Both winners will receive their awards at a fall local section meeting. Profiles of both winners will appear in a future issue of *The Southwest Retort*.

Meeting-in-Miniature. The 41st Annual Meeting-in-Miniature was held at SMU on April 19. There were 18 undergraduate and 41 graduate presentations. Nine area universities were represented. Prizes of \$150, \$125, and \$100 were given, respectively, to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in the two divisions. Winners in the undergraduate division were 1st Elena N. Zamora of TCU, Mentor Anne F. Richards; 2nd David K. Bushdiecker, UTD, Mentor Inga H. Musselman; 3rd Teresa Brown, TWU, Mentor M. E. Anderson; and Honorable Mention, Kara D. Johnson, Abilene Christian, Mentor Gregory L. Powell. Graduate division winners were 1st Somdatta Chowdhury, UTD, Mentor A. Dean Sherry; 2nd Grace Jones D. Kalaw, UTD, Mentor John D. Ferraris; 3rd Andrew P. Vogt, SMU, Mentor Brent S. Sumerlin; Honorable Mention, Charles L. Browning, UNT, Mentor Mohammad A. Omary.

Judges for the undergraduates were Amina K. El-Ashmawy from Collin County Community College, Spring Creek and Sean O'Brien from TI. Graduate judges were Ric Zarzycki and Paul Sood from Access Pharmaceuticals and John Maguire and John Buynak of SMU. Michael Lattman assisted by other SMU faculty made the arrangements for the Meeting-in-Miniature.

2008 ACS Student Scholarship Award Winners. For a number of

years the D-FW Section of the ACS has given \$100 scholarships to the most outstanding chemistry student from each of the area universities. Here are this year's winners: Abilene Christian University, **Matthew Mullings**; Austin College, **Kelly Wiggins**; SMU, **Thoris Pan**; Texas A&M-Commerce, **Erica Parker**; TCU, **Saeed Alzghari**; Texas Wesleyan University, **Megan Ngo**; Texas Woman's University, **Teresa Brown**; University of Dallas, **Jacob McClernon**; UNT, **Roy McDougald**; UTD, **Marie Maher**; UTA, **Michael Cason**.

SMU. Dr. Brent Sumerlin presented two talks at the ACS National Meeting in New Orleans. Also presenting talks were Sumerlin graduate student **Jennifer Cambre** and postdoc **Priyadarsi De**. Sumerlin graduate student **Andrew Vogt** was chosen to deliver an oral presentation during the "Excellence in Graduate Polymer Research" symposium, designed to highlight the best polymer chemistry graduate students in the nation. Brent co-organized the symposium "Efficient Chemical Transformations in Polymer Chemistry: Click Chemistry and Beyond" at the meeting. Brent also had the most highly cited paper in *Macromolecules* in 2007 and two of the top four "Hot Papers" in *Macromolecules* for November, 2007. Undergraduate student **Afsha Rais**, who works with **Ed Biehl**, presented a paper on microwave synthesis at the New Orleans ACS Meeting. **John Maguire** received a renewal grant from the Welch Foundation.

TCU. Bob Neilson (TCU) and Patty Wisian-Neilson (SMU) attended the New Orleans ACS meeting where the two younger

University. **Sally Ham** from South Plains College received an ACS Outstanding Graduating Sophomore in Chemistry award. The featured after dinner speaker was **Dr. Howard Peters**, former ACS Director-at-Large, with a most entertaining talk on "Chocolate--- Food of the Gods."

Texas Tech University

Henry Shine will at long last close his research lab and end on May 31 the Welch grant he has held since 1955. He will continue to have an office in the department, and he will take up the writing of the second part of the history of the department, the first part of which was published in the *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry* in 2004.

Texas Tech University will receive one of 26 GK-12 grants starting in 2008. The \$2.7M grant for five years is titled "Building Bridges: Integrating Math, Science, and Engineering Education in the South Plains", and will provide \$30K stipends for 8-10 graduate students per year in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) disciplines in exchange for participation in two summer institutes and 15 hours per week service working with area high school math and science teachers. The multidisciplinary PI team includes **Dominick Casadonte** (Chemistry and Biochemistry; PI), **Jerry Dwyer** (Mathematics; co-PI), **Mary Baker** (Electrical Engineering; co-PI), **Jennifer Wilhelm** (Math/Science Education; co-PI), and **Kim Perry** (LISD Science Specialist; co-PI). More information can be found at: <http://www/depts.ttu.edu/gk12/>.

Bob Blake was awarded a grant of \$149,996 from the Texas Higher

Education Coordinating Board to redesign CHEM 1411/CHEM 1412, General Chemistry I and II. Active lecture strategies, online resources and peer-led discussion sections will be integrated into the course to improve student performance and reduce costs. He organized a symposium on "Faculty Development in Chemical Education" at the Spring ACS national meeting. He also gave a talk "Ten Year Process: From Inorganic Chemistry to Chemical Education" in the symposium. He served on the General Chemistry Exam Committee of the Examinations Institute, which met at the ACS meeting. Blake has been appointed to the Chemical Education Research Committee of the Division of Chemical Education from 2008-2010 and was elected secretary of that committee.

Receiving three year renewal grants from the Welch Foundation were **Dr. David Knaff** for "Mechanisms of Protein Disulfide/Dithiol Redox Reactions", **Dr. David Birney** for "Studies of Pseudopericyclic and Pericyclic Reactions", and **Dr. Jorge Morales** for "New Challenges for a Novel Coherent-States Dynamics Methods."

Dr. Richard Bartsch presented a seminar at UNT on Mar. 28, Graduate student **Kelong Wang** has been selected to receive a Horn Professor Graduate Achievement Award for his accomplishments in the field of analytical chemistry in the lab of **Dimitri Pappas**.

Dallas-Fort Worth

2008 Doherty, Schulz Award Winners Professor Ken Balkus has been chosen by the D-FW ACS Awards Committee to receive the

Southwest Retort

SIXTIETH YEAR

April/May 2008

INTERVIEW WITH ACS PRESIDENT-ELECT TOM LANE

Interviewer E. Thomas Strom

Editor's Foreword. Over the past several years our magazine has run interviews with almost all of the ACS Presidents-Elect. We continue this series with interviewee Dr. Thomas Lane. The interview took place in New Orleans April 9.

Retort: What would you like to accomplish in your three-year stint as ACS President-Elect, President, and Past-President?



Lane: I hope to put a human face on chemistry by focusing on relationships, education, and measuring outcomes, to show people that we do believe in the "transforming power of chemistry."

Retort: What kind of outcomes do you hope to measure?

Lane: Outcomes are difficult things to measure, and often people shy away from trying. It may be as simple as pre- and post-testing to see what are people's attitudes about chemistry. I do try to talk to organizations that we don't normally associate with. I talked with our local Big Brother, Big Sister organization and asked them, "What do think a chem-

ist does?" The first response is "You blow things up." I tell them you mix things that you can taste, touch, see, and smell. We make things that people use; we create stuff. As I talk to kids, I tell them that the chips in their cell phones and the plastic case are all a product of chemistry. They come to realize that chemists are responsible for many of the things they taste, touch, see, and smell.

Retort: Let's stay with outcomes for a minute. That sounds like surveys to me.

Lane: It may be surveys. I would like it to be educational attainment. I am very interested that the general public know something about the scientific hypothesis. I would hope that people would make decisions on data rather than opinions. The outcomes may just be in terms of the quality of decisions. Obviously this is something for the longer term and not just in my three year window. I

am planning on working with our sister organizations and especially the National Science Teachers Association. There is an international survey going on called the Rose Study, the Relevance of Science Education. The U.S. did not participate in this survey, yet 32 other countries did participate in this survey of 15-year-old boys and girls. I would like to see the ACS get involved in this study along with the National Science Teachers Association to put a stake in the ground to measure the attitudes of our 15-year-olds. Surveys are valid tools to measure outcomes.

Retort: I asked the ExeCom of the Dallas-Fort Worth Section if they had any questions for you. Here is one. DOE has traditionally been a funding source for chemistry, but the amount of research money from DOE has been going down. Does ACS have plans to push for increased funding from this source?

Lane: I plan to continue the efforts started by Katherine Hunt and continued by Bruce Bursten. We need to continue to make use of congressional visits to let them know how important education and science funding is. This is not just DOE and NSF; we looking for broad funding. I plan to participate in these efforts. Katy, Bruce, and I have a shared vision, and there will be good continuity. We don't want to lose momentum.

Retort: We have seen recent closures of lab facilities with chemists losing their jobs. This happened in the D-FW area just last year. With that in mind, is there any reason for an expansion of the number of chemists?

Lane: I think this is the best time ever to be a chemist. I am excited about the possibilities for people just going into chemistry today as well as those emerging from undergraduate and graduate school. The average age of a chemist now is in the late '40's, while the average retirement age is in the middle to late '50's. That means in the next five to seven years up to half of the current work force is going to change out. That provides an incredible opportunity for younger chemists. I think there are not only going to be jobs but great jobs that are offered to younger chemists at even an earlier age than customary.

Retort: The respected chemist and scientific administrator Norman Hackerman once told me that we now have all the scientists we need. He said that with advances in instrumentation, the individual scientist was much more productive today than ten or twenty years ago. People were needed in the pipeline to replace deaths and retirements, but there was no need for growth in the pipeline. Would you care to comment on that?

Lane: Maybe we do have enough people in the pipeline, but there are serious distribution problems. The coasts may be overpopulated with chemists, but there are opportunities in the Midwest, South, and Southwest. The loss of the baby boomers will definitely put a strain on the pipeline. Maybe instrumentation has made things easier, but I go home later and later every year, not earlier and earlier.

Retort: Let's diverge from this topic for a minute. What made you decide to be a chemist?

Lane: I always had an interest in chemistry. As a small child I would

an African Tree to Cancer and Blindness Clinical Trials."

Dr. David Pennington attended the 2008 National Convention of Alpha Epsilon Delta, the National Premedical Honor Society, as sponsor of the Texas Beta Chapter along with Baylor student members **David Leverenz, Kenneth Ike, Tracy Bernard, Andrew Bui, Mai Tran,** and **Jacob Van Houten.** Dr. Pennington received a certificate acknowledging his 20 years as sponsor or co-sponsor of Texas Beta. The Chapter won 1st place for the Activities Award for Large Chapters in Region IV.

Dr. Alton Hassell presented a seminar at Prairie View University on Mar. 28. Baylor faculty and students recently authored a paper in a special issue of *The Journal of Natural Products* in which all articles were invited and honoring **Professor George Petit.** The authors were **Drs. Kevin Pinney, Mary Lynn Tra- wick, and Charles Garner,** postdoc **Dr. Rajsekhar Guddneppanavar,** and current and former graduate students **John J. Hall, Dr. Rogelio Siles, J. Freeland Ackley, Dr. Mallinath B. Hadimani, Dr. Benon E. Mugabe and Dr. Keith Monk.**

A group of nine students and two faculty (**Drs. Linda Schultz and Dr. Peter Bell**) from Tarleton State University visited the University on April 19 to use the 500 MHz machine and tour the Science Building. **Drs. Charles Garner, Al McDaniel and David Pennington** along with students **Julie Vo, Taylor Ott, Adam Gann, An Nguyen, Jerry Choate and Aubrey Sperier** participated in the Chemistry Magic Show April 12. Students **Rema**

Amawi and Drew Dean successfully completed their master's defense.

Administrative Associate **Adonna Post Cook** was inducted into *Who's Who in America's Credit Unions* for 2008. Adonna has just stepped down after three years as Chair of the Board of 1st University Credit Union.

Colloquium Speakers: April 4, **Dr. Kevin Schug,** UT-Arlington; April 11, **Dr. Ron Elber,** UT-Austin; April 18, **Dr. Greg Tschumper,** University of Mississippi; April 25, **Dr. Paul Pantano,** UT-Dallas.

South Plains Section

The 2008 Awards Banquet for the South Plains Section was held April 11 at the Merket Alumni Center at Texas Tech. Students and faculty from Eastern New Mexico University, Lubbock Christian University, South Plains College, Wayland Baptist University and Texas Tech University participated. **Ms. Robyn Green** of Lubbock-Cooper High School was recognized as the ACS Outstanding High School Chemistry Teacher. Winners from the South Plains Regional Science Fair were introduced: Elementary Division, **Bailey Wilson** from Rosco Wilson Elementary School in Lubbock; Junior Division, **Kuna and Saahil Mehta** from St. Andrews Episcopal School in Amarillo; and Senior Division, **Chesley Kirk Olton** High School in Olton. ACS Outstanding Senior in Chemistry awards were presented to **Mary Sullivan** and **Roger Williams** from Eastern New Mexico University, **Kime Rogers** of Lubbock Christian University, **Lori Pretzer** from Wayland Baptist University, and **Preston May** from Texas Tech

Around-the-Area

University of Arkansas

Wilkins Symposium. A symposium to honor the lifetime contributions of **Charles L. Wilkins** to analytical chemistry will take place on Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008, at the University. Speakers will include internationally recognized researchers in mass spectrometry and former students. Scheduled speakers are **Michael L. Gross**, Washington University; **Catherine Fenselau**, University of Maryland; **Catherine E. Costello**, Boston University; **J. L. Beauchamp**, Cal Tech; **Richard M. Caprioli**, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine; **Robert S. Brown**, Utah State University; **Robert L. White**, University of Oklahoma; and **Lydia Nuwaysir**, Applied Biosystems.

Dr. Colin Heyes will be a new faculty member in experimental physical chemistry starting this fall. He has a B.Sc. in chemistry from Loughborough University and a Ph.D. from Georgia Tech with Mostafa A. El-Sayed as his mentor. He did a post-doc in biophysics at the University of Ulm, Germany, and is currently a post-doc at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. He will be working in single molecule spectroscopy combined with quantum dot technology to address fundamental biochemical questions.

Nobel Laureate **Robert H. Grubbs** will be the Fry Lecturer at U of A, April 13, 2009

Neil Allison was honored at the Faculty Appreciation Banquet on Feb. 21 as a nominee for outstanding faculty. **Peter Pulay** gave a lecture at the 2008 Sanibel Symposium, while

Tomasz Janowski presented a poster there. **Paul Adams** gave an invited lecture Feb. 29 at Pittsburg State University. **T. K. S. Kumar** gave an invited talk at the 2008 Functional Genomics Consortium meeting at Kansas State University Mar. 4. **Jack Lay** gave a bioinformatics workshop at UAMS Mar. 7. Attendees and speakers at Pittcon in New Orleans Mar. 1-6 were faculty **Ingrid Fritsch**, **Julie Stenken**, and **Charles Wilkins** and graduate students **Coy Batoy**, **Sasa Miladonovic**, and **Melissa Weston**.

East Texas Section

The April meeting was held at East Texas Baptist University in Marshall. The speaker was **Dr. Wayne Jones**, whose topic was "How Small Can You Go? Molecular Wires and Devices in the Modern World." The next meeting of the section will be Thursday, Sept. 25, at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches. The speaker will be former ACS President **Helen Free**. The East Texas Section has been nominated for a hospitality award by the ACS Speaker Service. The Texarkana College Chemistry Club has received a Green Chemistry Chapter Award.

Heart o' Texas

Baylor University. New Lecture Series Inaugurated. April 22 was the date of the first W. Dial Black Family Lectures. The lecture series was funded through the generosity of **Sadie Jo Black**. The lecturer was **Professor George R. Pettit** from Arizona State. His topic was "From

say "I want to be a chemist," when they asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. That always got great laughs. I'm from a working class family; both of my parents worked. I was the first in my family to go to college. When I got older, I remember going to the dictionary and looking the word up, because, if I wanted to be one, I ought to know what it was. I gravitated toward the sciences, and I had an incredible teacher/mentor, Kneeland Niesus, my high school chemistry teacher. He provided opportunities for me that my family couldn't. He took me to regional science fairs and put in the extra effort to see that I had opportunities. He stopped high school teaching after I graduated to go back to graduate school, and now he is a professor in marine biology at Old Dominion University.

I went to Purdue and did undergraduate research with Bob Benkeser in silicon chemistry, and I later worked with Phil Fuchs. Benkeser actually worked with me, teaching me the techniques rather than using me as a pair of hands for a graduate student. Bob suggested that I consider working for Dow Corning. That was my one interview. I got the job and have been there for 34 years, although I did get an M.Sc. degree from Central Michigan and a Ph.D. from the Open University at Milton Keynes, England, working with Alan Bassindale, all paid for and supported by Dow Corning.

I have a wife and three children. My daughter Julia is finishing a master's degree in education and plans to teach biology. She is going to teach biology in the Arctic Circle to Inuits. She is getting married this June to a Canadian who is a field

biologist. My son Peter received an undergraduate degree in physics, spent a year working in public policy in Washington, D.C., and decided he wanted a Ph.D. in economics. He will start graduate school at Duke this fall. My son **Samuel Isaac Lane** (silane, get it?) is 15 years old. My wife Janis is a sector executive at IBM in super computing.

Retort: This is another question from one of our D-FW Excom members. She cited an article from *Forbes* magazine and wondered how our efforts in science and engineering compared with those of other countries.

Lane: The U.S. position in science and engineering as compared to the rest of the world is woefully average and losing ground. All of the data forecast that. We have to do what we can to reverse that trend. This gets back to where we started in my efforts to put a human face on chemistry. This is an extremely complicated situation. Getting back to the ROSE report, the findings are that, the more highly developed the country, the less the interest in science. Those trends are startling. Youth in underdeveloped countries are looking for science as a way out, as a way of changing the environment. For youth in highly developed countries, they consider that science has always been there and will always be there. We need to tell people that we make stuff, and we make stuff every day that improves your life.

Retort: The ACS has recently changed its membership requirements. Right now we are getting many new members, although the attrition rate is high. We lose lots of members after two years. Is it reason-

able to expect continued growth in we expect a steady state to be reached sometime soon?

Lane: Eventually we will reach steady state, but I don't think it will be anytime soon. At my own company, Dow Corning, only about 1/3 of the people who qualify are members, and I don't think that's unique or unusual. There is a huge untapped potential there. It's the task of the present members of ACS to get the word out as to all the benefits of the Society.


Retort: What about all the competition from what Madeleine Jacobs calls boutique societies?

Lane: I don't think those societies are the problem. There's a large group of practicing chemists who don't yet realize the importance of supporting their professional society. I have been the recipient of kindness from many chemists throughout my career, and there is a need for me and other chemists to "give back." Joining ACS is the right thing to do.

Please tell your members in Dallas-Fort Worth and the other

the numbers in the ACS, or should areas served by your magazine to contact me with their suggestions on how to put that human face on chemistry. I actually have a site on Face Book. This is a medium used by young people and particularly younger chemists.

Retort: Thank you for your time. We wish you every success in your three years of the presidential succession.



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CHEM GEMS & JOULES

In addition to host month for National Library Week, April is National Poetry Month. Blending these two observances is *Chemistry Imagined* by Roald Hoffman. In this work, Hoffman presents a whimsical or philosophical look at chemistry topics and themes while illustrator Vivian Torrence paints collage tapestries of unrelated items to make her point. Asked to interpret an artwork or to review a poetry entry, students' responses ranged from "This is just

plain weird" to two-page indepth analyses. This assignment works well college and 10th-12th graders.

To my knowledge the *Retort* has never printed a biography of a poet who was also a chemist, but it has occasionally printed the works of B.S. Thyagarajan and others who have written poems. As part of cross-curricular activities and encouragement of self-expression, students have been asked to write a poem for display or to choose a favorite poem

for display under a "Poem in My Pocket" banner. This assignment is generally well received by college and high school students. Following are a few of the poems from my 2007/8 classes.

Chemistry Limerick

by Ben Adams

There once was an element named Boron
Who became very fond of Neon.
Neon was flattered.
And Its Lights shattered.
So its brightness was no longer a turn on!

Untitled

by Dwight (Doc) Rosenbaum

Photosynthesis
Beautiful green pentosan
Nature's energy

The Chemical Makeup of Poetry

by James D. Teel

We made it through a semester of chemistry
And learned the names of its history
The atom is so very small
But not the smallest of them all
But to some it will always remain a mystery

Untitled

by Dany Shafie

Liquid meets Liquid
Cloud of solids swirl at once
Calm filter awaits
Mother liquor rests
Budding crystals glint in light
Shame to disturb them

Limerick

by Courtney Boyd

The chemical engineer tried to get a date.
"No," she said his dingy white teeth sealed his fate
Driven to work hard in his lab with intensity,

Making teeth whiter became his new ministry.

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June Retort Deadlines

Unlike the usual *Retort* issue, where our magazine is late because of the post office, our June issue runs late because we want to include end-of-the-academic-year news from our area academic institutions. The deadline for sending material for this issue is June 6.

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