

How to Ruin Your Presentation and Anaesthetize Your Audiencep. 5

Southwest

RETORT

**December
2008**

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PERIODICAL

Fifty Years Ago in The Southwest Retort

1958 Southwest Regional Award winner **Dr. Kenneth A. Kobe** of the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Texas (*now UT-Austin*) died before receiving the much-coveted award at the San Antonio meeting. He suffered a mild cerebral hemorrhage on Nov. 1, which was succeeded by a fatal attack on Nov. 2. The award will be given to his family posthumously at the December meeting.

The sessions for the Dec. 4-6 San Antonio SW Regional ACS meeting, formerly scheduled for the Sons of Hermann Hall, will be now be held in Bolivar Hall at LaVillita, two blocks east of the Hilton Hotel.

Professor William A. Noyes, Jr. was the first of four visiting lecturers at the University of Texas. He gave a series of five talks on the fundamentals of photochemistry and his research in this area. The 5th Annual Conference for the Advancement of Science and Mathematics Teaching was held at UT Oct. 23-25. **Professor Lewis Hatch** was the General Chairman. **Dr. Rowland Pettit** has received a \$5580 grant from the Petroleum Research Fund for studies on new aromatic heterocyclic systems.

After a lapse of several years, the Arlington State College (*now UT-Arlington*) Chemistry Club has been reactivated. Arlington chemistry faculty have been very active in civic affairs. **H. D. Pope** works with the Optimist Club; **H. D. McAfee** is singing with the Arlington Civic Chorus; **John T. Murchison** is conducting an educational program for teachers; and **Harold Burman** is an active Kiwanis Club member.

Drs. Robert W. Higgins and **Helen A. Ludeman** of Texas Woman's University will attend the 2nd Conference on Atomic Structure held Dec. 1-3 in Houston and sponsored by the Welch Foundation. At TI **Dr. Tom Burkhalter** has become Head of the Materials Research Department. He joined TI a year ago, after previously being Professor of Chemistry at Texas A&M. Two new faces at TI are **Charles Jones** and **Paul Wharton**. **Dr. Gilbert Ayres** from UT gave a talk on Oct. 23 on "Principles of Absorption Spectrophotometry" to the Dallas Society of Analytical Chemists.

At Humble Oil in Houston **J. L. Franklin** returned from England, where he had presented a paper on "Ion-Molecule Reactions in the Gas Phase" at the British Institute of Petroleum Conference on Mass Spectroscopy. He also attended the Faraday Society Symposium on Free Radicals. **F. W. Lampe** presented a paper at the Chicago ACS meeting and also presented a paper at the Accelerator Conference in Cambridge, MA.

Consultants paying recent visits to Monsanto in Texas City include **Dr. Van Winkle** of UT, **Dr. Urry** of the University of Chicago, and **Dr. Dick Turner** of Rice.

At Baylor graduate student **Haig Vernon Seklemian** completed work on his dissertation under the direction of **Dr. Thomas C. Franklin** and joined Union Carbide.



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Editorial and Business Offices:

Editor: E. Thomas Strom, 1134 Medalist Dr., Dallas, TX 75232, 214-376-9602; FAX 817-272-3808; tomstrom@juno.com.

Managing Editor: Mary Teasdale, PO Box 461051, Garland, TX 75046; 972-276-9376; owlcritic75@yahoo.com

Business Manager: Kirby Drake, 9715 Dartridge, Dallas, Texas, 75238-1827; 214-553-9810; kdrake@fulbright.com

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Email: gulfcoast@ana-lab.com

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Email: oklahoma@ana-lab.com

Shreveport, LA

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Email: arkla@ana-lab.com

Madison, AL

256-461-0500 • Fax 256-651-7264
Email: alabama@ana-lab.com



Southwest Retort

SIXTY-FIRST YEAR

December 2008

How to Ruin Your Presentation and Anaesthetize Your Audience

by Denise Lynn Merkle, Ph.D.

SciConsult, Inc. dmerkle@sciconsult.com

Over the courses of their careers all scientists attend many meetings, at which they often give talks about their research. Usually they also listen to many more presentations than they give. It is a fortunate chemist who hears only invigorating seminars. It is, however, very common to creep (with anticipation of marvelous science) into a darkened conference room, stagger as quietly as possible past satchels and program books to an available chair - only to find that alien abduction would be a merciful escape from the situation. After wishing that the world would end and remove me from the talks at a recent scientific meeting, I asked local chemists and other professionals what bad habits bother them the most. Following is a list of the Top 10 problems the respondents would like to vaporize, with suggestions on how to properly communicate data and promote happiness among peers.

10. **Free form speaking.** If you are at a poetry jam go right ahead. Free

associate, send your thoughts reeling over the creative cosmos. Encourage your audience to be lost and find themselves again. If you are presenting a scientific seminar, be it 10 minutes or 90, do not do this. Plan your talk and talk your plan. Face your listeners - not the screen - and give them the reasons you did the research. Include your hypothesis. Present the methods, then the data, then draw conclusions from the data collected.

9. **And then, and then...** Unless required by the meeting format or an advisor, **don't** meticulously detail an outline of your talk to the assembled scientists! Use the time to give data, or explain a unique method. Don't spend valuable minutes telling others what they already know should happen. The existence of a conclusion at the end of a talk should not surprise anyone.

8. **R, DEKYP? PN! MSTADFFTF, EIBC!** Define your acronyms! Within reason, of course, also define any terms that will make it

easier for the attendees to understand what you're talking about, OK?

7. **Ok, Well, you know, um, uh,** well, you know, we did this research after they did this other, um, research and, um.... No! No! No! Do not torment others so! Practice your talk and remove the spacers! Know what you want to say, so your listeners are not distracted by ums and uhs, or rapid delivery that leaves them boggled, or a slow pace that makes them wonder if you're making it up as you go. Speak clearly. Do not mumble. Use the microphone, even if you have a voice like Zeus! Nothing leads to snoring faster than an inaudible speaker! Ok?

6. **Fidget. Wiggle. Nibble.** Standing up in front of a bunch of people you don't know – or you do know and wish you didn't – is nerve wracking. Try to stand still and allow your audience to focus on your talk. Don't bite your nails – especially while speaking. Leave your keys alone in your pockets, without adding kinetic energy. Your listeners do not need **that** kind of distraction. Don't flip or twirl your hair. Don't tug on your hems, blouse, tie, collar, or other objects within reach. Don't wear your beach shorts or your nightie. Let the data have **all** the attention.

5. **Ego ergo uh-oh!** There is a fine line between being confident and being a jerk, and there is a hierarchy of where a speaker can sit on that line. A Nobel laureate can justifiably put a lot more pride into a seminar than a first year grad student should. Be aware of your attitude as you speak. Your listeners are highly educated people, who will want to know who *They* are, if *They* performed experiments that inspired yours. Acknowledge *Them*

when you cite *Their* data. If others worked on the project with you, acknowledge them, too. Respect your listeners, your colleagues and your peers. And save your advertisements for last, after the 'We appreciate our funding agencies' slide. It's science, not the classifieds!

4. **I'll show you that later.** Do not play hide-and-seek with your data. Don't tell your audience that the data have been collected but aren't being presented, or are on a slide you don't have time to show, or that they're back in the lab! If a talk has more than one statement indicating that something important will be revealed later, it's not formatted correctly. Please don't tease your listeners. Just give them the data in a logical format.

3. **Where oh where has my datapoint gone?** Modern applications allow speakers to arrange slides full of more information than anyone ever dreamed possible. Data from experiments that took months to complete can be packed into one slide, and projected, larger than life- but harder to read. If you do not want your audience's brains to run out their ears, decide which data are pertinent to your talk (aka required to support your conclusions) and show those data in a clear, understandable format. Preview the projected slides before subjecting others to them. Graph dark lines on light backgrounds and avoid using many lines with colors that are separated by only a few wavelengths. Excel spreadsheets are wonderful tools but should not be presented *in toto* to a room of scientists; no one wants to squint for hours on end. If you have to say, "I'm sorry you can't see this" or, "You can't see this, but...", your data

are not presented in an effective way that validates all the hard work you've done. Oh, and for Pete's sake - Label your axes! Label the rows and columns! You know what you're graphing! Uh, you do, don't you?

2. **Can you see me now?** Don't fidget with the laser pointer, either. There's no need to nauseate, aggravate or hypnotize your listeners by random, repetitive, unnecessary use of the laser pointer, nor is blinding them, even if momentarily, a characteristic of a good speaker. Green laser pointers are especially uncomfortable if used improperly. Be careful!

1. **Bedtime Stories, anyone?** Unless you are conducting compliance training in which the seminar attendees must certify that they've heard every single word, **don't** stand in front of the room and read your slides! If everything that's important about the project is projected in text on the screen, your audience will need pillows and blankets faster than you can say immunoglobulin. Use your slides as a guide and give the seminar. Impart information, don't just read!

Remember that your fellow scientists will not be able to judge the importance of your data or your level of skill if your talk puts them to sleep!

Many thanks to those who responded to my Pet Peeve e-mail and made the Top 10 possible: M. E. Anderson, Ph.D.; P. Cappelletti, MS; J. Cavanaugh, BS; N. E. Claytor, Ph.D.; W. F. Carroll, Ph.D.; M. R. Fraelich, Ph.D.; J. Hatfield; S. Schlitzer, MA; E. Shane, Ph.D.; P. Smith; T. Smith, Ph.D.; T. Strom, Ph.D.; R. Walter, Ph.D. and N. Williams.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Just finished reading the October issue of *The Southwest Retort* which came in yesterday's mail. I really enjoyed the article on the history of *The Retort* and the comments of the former editors. The "Fifty Years Ago" column is always of interest, since it gives insight into the time before I arrived at TCU in 1964. I just want you to know that your efforts are appreciated. Keep up the good work.

Manfred Reinecke, Prof. Emeritus of Chemistry, Texas Christian University, m.reinecke@tcu.edu.

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2008 OKLAHOMA CHEMIST JOE ALLISON

by E. Thomas Strom



The \$1500 2008 Oklahoma Chemist Award was given to ConocoPhillips research chemist Dr. Joe. D. Allison at the Oklahoma Pent-

asectional Meeting held Mar. 8 at the Halliburton Energy Center in Duncan. During Joe's long career, which started when Conoco was an independent oil company, the main theme has been the application of chemical solutions to achieve technical innovation.

Joe's father was in the Air Force and traveled around a lot. Joe was born in California but grew up in a lot of places. However, both parents were born in Arkansas, and Joe wound up in Little Rock at age 17 when his father retired. Joe started out at the University of Central Arkansas as a pre-med student, but he became inspired to become a chemistry major by his organic chemistry teacher, Jerry Manion. Manion had him doing hands-on work on an organic research project.

Joe went on to graduate work at Purdue. During his second year he decided to take a degree in inorganic chemistry, working with Richard A. Walton. His research dealt with transition metal polyhydride complexes. This work involved chemical synthesis and catalysis, from designing and preparing paramagnetic hydride complexes of rhenium to understanding the unusual electrochemical, catalytic, ESR, and NMR properties of the compounds.

After Joe received his Ph.D. in 1983, he joined the Analytical

Research Services Group of the then Conoco Oil Co (Conoco and Phillips merged in 2002.). Early in his career he did research on the use of crosslinked polymers for waterflood diversion. This was the start of a number of special assignments. He studied the oxidative-coupling of methane, and he developed a process for the selective production of trimethyl benzenes from methane through metal-carbide chemistry. During this time period DuPont purchased Conoco, so Joe also carried out several projects for DuPont. He developed several new lixivants as alternatives to cyanide for gold mining. He went on to develop several water treatment schemes for DuPont plants. Upon DuPont's spinoff of Conoco in 1998, he transferred to the newly formed Gas-To-Liquids group. For the last ten years he has considered himself a process chemist focusing on catalysis for C1 chemistry. He is the holder of 33 US patents with 25 others pending.

Joe has been active in the ACS throughout his career. He has served his local section as chair, treasurer, and councilor. He served as the National Program Chair for the ACS Division of Petroleum Chemistry from 2002-2006. After 25 years in Ponca City, Joe transferred location to Bartleville four months ago. As a Fellow in R&D, he has responsibility for developing new, long range research initiatives.

Joe's wife Laura had worked in mass spectroscopy for ConocoPhillips. Son Brent is a CPA in Tulsa, while daughter Tara is doing graduate work in library science at the University of

****Continued on Page 15****

OBITUARIES NEEDED

The Retort isn't actually proposing that more chemists should die. The problem is the passing of chemists in our circulation area ought to be covered in our magazine, and very often we just don't hear about these deaths. Your editor can usually cover the D-FW area, even though we miss a few, but we have no way of learning

about deaths in our other five ACS sections. In this issue we do learn about the passing of Texas Tech present and former faculty members **Dennis Shelly** and **John Kice** thanks to correspondent **Whitney Green**, but such notification is the exception rather than the rule. Readers, please inform *The Retort* staff via e-mail about the passing of chemists in your particular area.

THE CHEMIST'S BOOKSHELF

Cathedrals of Science: The Personalities and Rivalries That Made Modern Chemistry, Patrick Coffey, Oxford University Press, 2008, 379 pp., ISBN 978-0-19-532134-0, Price \$29.95

"This is a magnificent book---a book that ought to be purchased, read, and enjoyed by any chemist who has gone through the physical chemistry course sequence." The quote is from me. I had intended it to be the concluding sentence of my review, but I decided to put it up front in case the rest of the review bores you readers. I can assure you that the book itself won't bore you. After my flight back to Dallas from the Philadelphia ACS meeting was cancelled, I read the book as I wended my way to Dallas via St. Louis. It made those weary hours go faster.

This book is an overview of physical chemistry roughly during the time period from 1880 until 1950. The title is drawn from G. N. Lewis' introduction to his classic book, written with Merle Randall, on "Thermodynamics and the Free Energy of Chemical Substances," McGraw-Hill, 1923. (*Interesting aside, I hope. When I started graduate school at Berkeley in 1958, this edition was still the textbook for the course in chemical thermodynamics.*) Coffey deals with

six main actors---G. N. Lewis, Irving Langmuir, Svante Arrhenius, Walther Nernst, Fritz Haber, and Linus Pauling. Other supporting actors show up occasionally---Harold Urey, Glenn Seaborg, Theodore Richards, etc. Of the six main actors, Coffey focuses on Lewis and Langmuir, both premiere American physical chemists, one of whom (Langmuir) won the Nobel prize, and one of whom (Lewis) didn't. Coffey has poured over the available documents and interviewed those surviving who knew the main actors. The result is a book that is both good history and good reading.

Let me go into that "good reading" comment a little more. This book was recently reviewed in *C&EN* by San Kean (Oct. 6, 2008 issue, a fine review!) who described it as a "warts and all" description of these well-known physical chemists. The character "warts" of all these chemists are given in detail. The only one who comes off as a wholly nice guy is Harold Urey. Coffey gives the telling little examples that show off the personality traits of these chemists, for

either good or ill. This “gossipy” approach should make the book interesting for readers, who well know that top-notch chemists are extremely driven individuals.

Here is one example of many which shows how Coffey’s examination of documents results in new insights. It has always seemed incomprehensible to me and others that Lewis was never honored with a Nobel prize. I always thought that Arrhenius, upset that Lewis sought to correct his treatment of equilibria by using activities, was the one who torpedoed Lewis. Coffey makes a strong case that the guilty person was Walter Palmaer, a member of the Nobel committee and a close friend of Nernst. Lewis never missed an opportunity to gig Nernst in the scientific literature. The year 1932 should have been the year for Lewis to win the prize. Both he and Langmuir were the prime candidates. Lewis had four nominations; Langmuir two. What Palmaer did was to nominate Lewis for the prize two days ahead of the nomination deadline. He then was given the task of writing up the report on Lewis’ credentials. Palmaer’s report was negative, and Langmuir alone received the coveted award.

Coffey also goes into the suggestions that Lewis’ death was a suicide. Lewis died in his laboratory, which was filled with HCN, on Mar. 23, 1946. Coffey has worked out that Lewis apparently had lunch with Irving Langmuir that very day, an event that could have set off black depression. Coffey states that no autopsy was ever done. Coffey nevertheless concludes that Lewis died a natural death. He was seventy years old, not in good physical shape, and smoked dozens of cigars a day. Kean emphasized that aspect of the book in his review, which

motivated me to write a letter to *C&EN* (Nov. 10, 2008, p. 3). I pointed out that Edward S. (Ted) Lewis in his biography of his father (“A Biography of Distinguished Scientist Gilbert Newton Lewis” Edward Mellon Press, 1998) stated in two places (pp. 43 and 82) that an autopsy had been carried out. In a recent phone conversation, Coffey told me that all that was available was a coroner’s report attributing death to heart attack. He states that a coroner’s report is not the same as an autopsy. There’s a little bit of antics with semantics here, but the main point is that both Coffey and Ted Lewis attribute Lewis’ death to natural causes.

Patrick Coffey is a late comer to the history of chemistry, but this book puts him on the historical stage in a big way. His Ph.D. in physical chemistry involved research in quantum chemistry. However, his career has been mostly in industrial settings. With a move to a home in Berkeley, he made use of the resources available at UC-Berkeley, both in chemistry and in the history of science. He toyed briefly with the idea of getting another Ph.D., this time in history of science. Coffey received a visiting scholar appointment at the university. He first thought of writing a biography of Lewis, but then he realized there just wasn’t enough material to do an adequate job. Oxford University Press accepted his proposal to cover these six leading lights of physical chemistry, and this book is the result.

With chemical monographs running well over \$100 in price, this book is a real bargain at \$29.95. This is a magnificent book --- a book that ought to be purchased, read, and enjoyed by any chemist who has gone through the physical chemistry sequence. Or have you heard that before?

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Around-the-Area

University of Arkansas

Research Associate **Karuppan-an Kathir** from the Kumar lab won one of two Best Poster Presentation awards at the 2008 Great Plains Regional Symposium on Protein NMR Oct 3 at the University of Kansas. **Dan Davis** and **Qingfang He** (University of Arkansas at Little Rock) were co-organizers for the 34th Annual Midwest/Southeast Photosynthesis Meeting, Oct 31-Nov.2 in western Indiana. **Colin Heyes** gave a seminar at Hendrix College in Oct.

In December undergraduate **Sean Stevens** will receive the first transatlantic dual BS degree in chemistry awarded by the University of Arkansas and the University of Regensburg. Three other local students are going to follow his path---**Tyler Rogers**, **Zeke Lancaster** and **Jake Burns**. **Penny Lewis** defended her doctoral research, performed under the direction of **Bob Gawley**, and has started work for White River Bioscience, Inc. Graduate students **Brandon Suttles** and **Chris Rugar** have passed their cumulative exams.

Heart o' Texas

Baylor University. **Dr. Sung-Kun Kim** gave a seminar at Texas Lutheran University Oct 24. Attending the Welch Conference Oct 26-27 were **Dr. Kim** and **Drs. Gouri Jas, Carlos Manzanares, David Pennington, Kevin Pinney, and Mary Lynn Trawick**. **Dr. Trawick** gave a seminar at UTEP Nov 7. On Nov 14 **Dr. Charles Garner** hosted a biochemistry class from Howard Payne University.

The department hosted the 3rd Annual Instrumentation Workshop Nov 7-

8. The workshop was attended by 17 undergraduate students and five faculty from ten schools. Instructors were **Ken Busch, Darrin Bellert, Bouri Jas, Charles Garner, Sung-Kun Kim, Alejandro Ramirez, Keven Klausmeyer**. Also assisting was **Sheree Allen**. Planning and logistics were handled by **Barbara Rauls, Rhonda Bellert, and Nancy Kallus**. Also assisting were volunteers from the Chemistry Graduate Student Committee.

Postdoc **Madhavi Sriram** from the Pinney group has accepted the position of Associate Scientific Manager for Syngene International. The company is located in Bangalore. **Jeremy Hayden** and graduate student **Tiffany Turner** were married on Nov. 15.

Colloquium Speakers: Nov. 7, **Maha Zewail-Foote**, Southwestern University; Nov. 14, **Brent Iverson**, UT-Austin; Nov. 21, **Katherine Willets**, UT-Austin.

Wichita Falls-Duncan

2009 section officers are: Chair **Paritosh K. Das**, Cameron University; Chair-Elect, **E. Ann Nalley**, Cameron University; Secretary, **Jeremy Holtsclaw**, Halliburton Energy Services; Treasurer, **Christopher A. Hansen**, Midwestern State University; Immediate Past Chair, **Jianguo Shao**, Midwestern State University; Councilor, **Keith R. Vitense**, Cameron University; and Alternate Councilor, **Tom Dealy**, Halliburton Energy Services.

East Texas

Elections were recently held for 2009 section officers. The Chair will be **Bill Perry** from AnaLab; Chair-Elect, **Justin Briggie**, East Texas Bap-

tist University; Secretary/Newsletter Editor, **Mike Sheets**, Texarkana College; Treasurer, **Patti Harman**, Texarkana College; Councilor (2008-2010), **Mike Sheets**, Texarkana College; and Alternate Councilor, **Phil Verhalen**, Panola, retired.

South Plains

Texas Tech. In Memorium---
Dennis Shelly and John Kice. Faculty member **Dr. Dennis Shelly** died Nov. 21, age 53, in College Station where he was on faculty development leave at Texas A&M. He died as a result of a motor vehicle accident. Dr. Shelly received his undergraduate training at Huntington College and his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry in 1982 at Texas A&M. He worked for a time with Eli Lilly but later went into teaching at Stephens Institute of Technology. He joined the Texas Tech faculty in 1990 and carried out an active research program in leather chemistry. He is survived by sons Ian and Graham Shelly, his parents, and a sister.

Previous department chair **John L. Kice** died Oct 31 in Aurora, CO. Death was a result of brain cancer. Kice was the first chair to come from outside the department. Previously he had been on the faculties of the University of South Carolina, Oregon State University, and the University of Vermont. He had received his AB, MA, and Ph.D. degrees all from Harvard, where he entered at age 15. He was an eminent physical organic chemist, specializing in organosulfur chemistry. Kice had been born in Colorado, so after ten years at Texas Tech he took a position at the University of Denver, first as chair and later as dean, to return to the mountains that he loved.

Faculty member Dick Bartsch did senior research with Kice at Oregon

State and acknowledges Kice's inspiration. "If it were not for him, I would not be where I am. I owe my achievements to having started out with him."

Dr. Bill Poirier will be the 2008 recipient of the Texas Tech University System Chancellor's Council Distinguished Research Award. The award consists of a plaque and a \$10,000 honorarium. His research focuses on quantum mechanics applied to large systems. His postdoc **Jeremy Maddox** is pictured with a group in the Nov. 10 issue of *C&EN*. This is in connection with a new ACS Workshop for Postdoctoral Scholars Planning an Academic Career in Chemistry.

Dr. Richard Bartsch has received a \$375,000 renewal grant from DOE to continue studies of *New Proton-Ionizable Calixarene-Based Ligands for Selective Metal Ion Separations*. **Dr. Robert Shaw** has returned to TTU after giving a series of invited lectures in China Oct 11-24. Among these were a presentation at the International Symposium on Organic Synthesis and Drug Discovery in Nanjing, a seminar at Nanjing University of Technology, and at the Sino-American Symposium on Organic Synthesis and Drug Discovery in Xuzhou. Dr. Shaw and **Dr. Sung-Kun Kim** of Baylor University have been awarded a US patent on *Inhibition of Metallo- β -lactamase*.

J. Phys. Chem. B honored **Dr. Edward Quitevis** by having his paper on *Nanostructural Organization and Anion Effects in the Optical Kerr Effect Spectra of Binary Ionic Liquid Mixtures* as one of six papers featured on the journal's home page.

D-FW Section

Call for Nominations for the 2009 Schulz Award. The D-FW ACS Section solicits nominations for the

2009 Werner Schulz Award for Outstanding High School Chemistry Teachers. The award was established in 1990 to honor the memory of **Dr. Werner Schulz**, a remarkable high school chemistry teacher. The award is designed for teachers, who like Schulz, bring something extra to the teaching of chemistry. It is necessary for high school teachers and ACS members to nominate qualified candidates to maintain the stature of the award.

The award is intended for teachers who teach in the area served by the D-FW ACS Section. Nominees need not be ACS members. The award consists of a \$1000 honorarium, engraved plaque, and a traveling plaque that stays at the winner's high school for the year of the award. A picture of the winner will be displayed for a month at the Science Place I in Dallas. Afterwards the winner's picture will be permanently displayed in the Gallery of Schulz Award Winners on the 4th floor of the Science Building at Tarleton State University in Stephenville. The winner will normally give a talk at a fall meeting of the D-FW Section.

The D-FW Section stretches from Abilene on the west to Sherman on the north to Commerce on the east to Stephenville on the southwest. Nomination forms may be obtained from and should be submitted to D-FW Awards Committee Chair **Luis R. Yudice**, Pepsi, 1000 113th Street, Arlington, TX 76011, Tel. 817-695-3226, E-mail luis.yudice@intl.pepsico.com. Forms may also be obtained from the section's website. Nominations are due by Jan. 20, 2009.

Texas Christian University. Professor **Manfred Reinecke** gave a seminar at Texas Lutheran University Nov 7 on *Medicinal Herbs for Drug*

Development. **Dr. Jyoti Gupta** has joined the Reinecke group to work on the synthesis of HIV-Integrase Inhibitors. **Dr. E. Sherwood Brown**, who took his Ph.D. with Reinecke, has been promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at UTSW. **Dr. Lihua Liu**, former postdoc with TCU faculty members **David Gutsche** and **Tracy Hanna**, has joined BASF in Beaumont. His wife, **Xiangyang Lei**, a Reinecke Ph.D. is on the faculty at Lamar University in Beaumont.

UT-Arlington. **Dr. Carl Lovely** gave seminars in Nov at Utah State University, Idaho State University, and BYU – Idaho. **Dr. Kevin Schug** gave a seminar Oct 24 at UT-Dallas on *Natural Product Drug Discovery using HPLC-ESI-Ion-Trap-MS*. Undergraduate students **Evelyn Wang** and **Sandra Spencer** from the Schug group gave poster presentations at the Little Rock Regional ACS Meeting.

Dr. Krishnan (Raj) Rajeshwar presented an invited talk titled *Materials Chemistry in the Service of Solar Energy and Fuel Cells* at the International Conference on Electrochemical Power Systems held in Trivandrum, India Nov 26-28. He also chaired a session at the conference.

Dr. Purnendu (Sandy) Dasgupta was the featured plenary lecturer in Oct at the International Ion Chromatography Symposium in Portland, OR. He was then honored at the 15th International Conference on Flow Injection Analysis in Nagoya, Japan with the Honor Award from the Japan Society of Flow Analysis. This award is only given every five years. While in Japan, Sandy lectured at Sophia University, Tokyo Institute of Technology, and Gunma University.

The UT-Arlington EPR spectro-

meter has now been equipped with a Bruker Dual-Mode X-Band Resonator. This will allow observation of transitions stemming from integer-spin paramagnetic centers, as part of the research program of **Dr. Brad Pierce**.

****Continued from Page 8****

Oklahoma. Joe considers himself a workaholic, but he does play golf when he gets a chance and played basketball until he turned 50.

Of necessity, the fine work done by industrial chemists sometimes falls under the radar of the scientific community at large. It is nice to see one of these usually unsung heroes honored with this prestigious award.

THE POST OFFICE STRIKES AGAIN

In past issues we have lamented how the post office habitually violates the two to three day limit for putting second class materials into the mail. It seemed with the September and October issues of our magazine that the post office had turned over a new leaf. We had moved our deadlines up, but the post office got our magazine in the mail exactly when they should. Then came the November issue. The issues hit the post office on Nov. 21, well in advance of the Thanksgiving holiday. Your editor, who lives in Dallas, received his magazine on Dec. 2! *The Retorts* reached Arlington on Dec. 4. Presumably points farther away got their magazines after that.

We can only cringe at what may happen with the December issues, since the post office is besieged by the Christmas mailing rush. I think you can expect your December magazines in January. D-FW chemists, don't forget the January 26 section

meeting at UT-Arlington.

January Metroplex Seminar Schedule

Spring seminars schedules are still being developed. Here are the ones we currently know about.

UT-Arlington, Jan 23, John Dawson, University of South Carolina, *Mechanistic Studies of Oxidative Halophenol Dehalogenation by Heme-Containing Enzymes*. **Jan 30**, Zuzanna Siwy, UC-Irvine, *Ion Transport through Nanopores: From Living Cells to Diodes and Transistors*. Seminars are normally at 2:30 p.m. in Room 114, Baker Chemical Research Bldg.

UT-Southwestern Biochemistry, Jan 8, Navdeep Chandel, Northwestern University, *ROS Generation by the Mitochondria and Regulation of HIF*. **Jan 15**, Chad Reinstra, University of Illinois, *Solid State NMR Studies of Membrane and Amuloidogenic Proteins*. **Jan 22**, Tom Ellenberger, Washington University, *Structural Biology of DNA Machines*. **Jan 29**, George O'Tool, Dartmouth University, *Biofilm Formation*. Seminars are normally at noon in Biochem. Lecture Hall L4.176.

UT-Southwestern Biological Chemistry, Jan 27, Lawrence Williams, Rutgers University, *TBA*. Seminars are normally at 12 noon in Biochemistry Lecture Hall L4.176.

Kelly Scientific RESOURCES

Aubrey R. Hemphill

District Manager
Kelly Scientific Resources

2560 SW Grapevine Parkway, Suite 120 / Grapevine, TX 76051

Main: 817-416-0918 / Toll Free: 866-352-2062

Direct: 817-442-5219 / Cell: 469-585-9985

E-mail: aubrey_hemphill@kellyservices.com / Website: www.kellyscientific.com
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PERCHLORATE, WHEREFROM, WHEREIN, AND WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? RE-EMERGENCE OF IODINE DEFICIENCY IN THE US?

JANUARY D-FW ACS MEETING
UT-ARLINGTON, MONDAY, JANUARY 26

SPEAKER
PURNENDU DASGUPTA,
UT-ARLINGTON

About the Talk: Perchlorate competes with iodine, which is essential for proper thyroid function in adults and for neural development in infants. Research from the Dasgupta group shows the presence of perchlorate in the water supply and even in mother's milk. The talk will emphasize Dasgupta's personal involvement in the intensely politicized continuing perchlorate saga and its omnipresence.

About the Speaker: Purnendu (Sandy) Dasgupta is Chair of the Chemistry Department at UT-Arlington. He is the recipient of the Traylor Creativity Award from Dow Chemical, the Benedetti-Pichler Award from the American Microchemical Society, the 2004-2005 Regional Scientist of the Year Award of the ARCS Foundation, and, for the second time, the recipient of the International Outstanding Achievement Award in Ion Chromatography. A perchlorate-related paper from the Dasgupta group published in *Environmental Science and Technology* was selected by the editors as best science paper of 2005.

Times: Social Hour, 6-7 p.m.; Dinner, 7-8 p.m.; Lecture 8-9 p.m. All events in the Carlisle Room, UTA Hereford University Center.

Reservations/Dinner: Contact Nancy Boone at UT-Arlington by noon on Thursday, Jan. 22; Metro 817-272-3171 or nboone@uta.edu. Dinner costs \$15 and is grilled chicken with Chardonnay cream sauce, herb roasted new potatoes, green beans, rolls and butter, double chocolate cake, coffee, and tea. Members are financially responsible for reservations made but not used. It is **not** necessary to attend dinner to attend the lecture.

How to Get There: From either Interstate 20 or 30, take the Cooper St. exit and travel either north (Interstate 20) or south (Interstate 30) to the campus. From either direction turn east at the light at Mitchell at the far west end of the campus, just north of the huge student parking lot. Go one block on Mitchell to the light at West St. and turn left. Go about half a block and turn left into the faculty/staff parking lot at Nedderman and West. After 6 p.m. the bars should be up. After parking, cross Nedderman at the crosswalk about the center of the lot and continue walking north. After you pass Baker Chemical Research Bldg. (connected through a bridge to Science Hall) and then Preston Hall on your right, turn right at the walkway. The University Center is the second building on your left. The Carlisle Room is on the second floor. If parking is full in the faculty/staff lot, there is a parking garage on West St. one half block north of Nedderman.

February Meeting: Wednesday, Feb. 18, Tour Speaker Stanley Manahan, University of Missouri, "What is Environmental Chemistry?"