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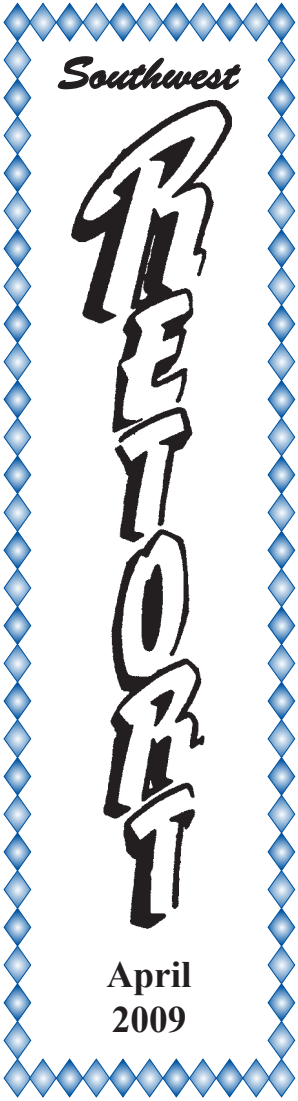

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PERIODICAL

Fifty Years Ago in The Southwest Retort

This month's tour speaker is **Dr. Otto Eisenschiml**, Chairman of the Board of the Scientific Oil Compounding Co. of Chicago, which he founded,. At the various lecture sites, Dr. Eisenschiml will give one talk from five different topics: The Scientific Manpower Situation; The Business Side of Chemistry; Solving a Chemical Murder Case; A Chemist's Adventures in History; and A Chemist's Adventures in Book Writing.

The Graduate Research Center, a private corporation founded in Oct. 1957 by SMU and the Dallas Chamber of Commerce, is planning its first building, a $750,000 research library on SMU's grounds.

Trinity University in San Antonio has finished construction of its series of science buildings. The westernmost building had been completed first, with chemistry and biology occupying its two floors. The newest structure is the Marrs McLean Science Center. The two bottom floors will contain geology and physics classrooms with the third floor housing various research projects. The San Antonio ACS section's local meeting featured **Dr. Harold Walton** of the University of Colorado speaking on "Studies in Uranium Geochemistry."

Dr. A. F. Isbell from Texas A&M was the speaker at the Dallas-Fort Worth ACS Section's April meeting. His topic was "Chemistry of Organo Phosphorus." Member **John M. Hulme** died recently at age 33 after a extended battle from a progressive disease that cost him his sight two years ago. An employee of the A. E. Illes Co. of Dallas, he became chief chemist after losing his sight.

At the University of Texas (*now UT-Austin*) **Dr. F. A. Matsen** has received a $68,840 grant from the Air Force for "A Study of the Physics of Metastable Systems." **Dr. Philip Bailey** has received a two year renewal of his NSF grant on "Abnormal Ozonation." Last month **Dr. David Curtin** of the University of Illinois gave five seminars.

In Houston, Shell Oil hosted **Dr. Herman Pines** from Northwestern University who spoke on "Thermal Reactions of Hydrocarbons." **Dr. Richard B. Turner** of Rice gave an invited talk on "The Thermochemical Aspects of Conformational Analysis" to the North Jersey Section of the ACS.

At Baylor **Dr. John S. Belew** spoke to the physics student affiliates on nmr. **Drs. T. J. Bond** and **Virgil Tweedie** made the trip to College Station to hear ACS tour speaker **Clive M. McCay.**

At the University of Arkansas **Dr. R. W. Stoughton** of Oak Ridge National Laboratory was the speaker at the local section meeting. His talk was on "High Temperature Aqueous Solution Chemistry." **Dr. Jacob Sacks** recently talked to the research group at the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. in Winston-Salem, NC on tracer techniques.

Southwest Retort

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

Published by

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

Vol. 61 April, 2009 No. 8

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

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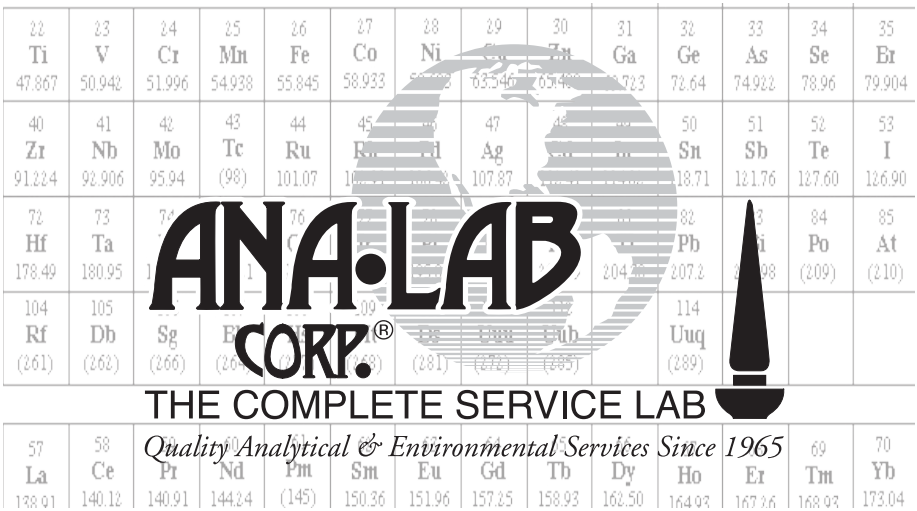

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Southwest Retort

SIXTY-FIRST YEAR April 2009

INTERVIEW WITH ACS PRESIDENT-ELECT JOE FRANCISCO

PART 1, Copyright 2009

Interviewer E. Thomas Strom

Our new ACS President-Elect Joe Francisco of Purdue University generously gave up one hour of his time in the very early morning of Mar. 23 for this interview. The interview dealt with plans for his three years in the presidential succession and also with the background of his choice to become a chemist. Clearly, this logically breaks the interview into two parts, and I choose to deal with his career choice in this part. Joe is only the second African-American ACS president, and, considering the under representation of minorities in the chemical profession, how Joe became a chemist is of significance.

Joe grew up in Beaumont, TX, where there were lots of refineries and chemical plants. Playing on the railroad tracks when he was in junior high school, he noticed spills of different colored materials from the tanks cars. That got him going to the library out of curiosity to see what those substances might be. He found out, for example, that the yellow stuff was sulfur. He was able to get a store of chemicals just from spills on the tracks. He wanted to do some model rocketry, so he took apart a bottle rocket to see what was inside it. That was gunpowder, so he learned the components of gunpowder at the library. He already had sulfur from his spillover chemicals, and he got charcoal from burnt wood. Saltpeter was available at the grocery store, so he could make his own gunpowder.

He got a job as the clean-up boy at the pharmacy across the street. He worked his way up to clerk at the pharmacy and then became the pharmacist's assistant. Thus he learned about drugs and chemical formulas. This got him interested in why drugs have their particular physiological properties. He worked very hard in junior high to get high grades in physical science, so that he could get to chemistry fast in Forest Park High School. As a result, he was allowed to take chemistry in 10^{th} grade.

When he was in 11^{th} grade, he visited the campus of Lamar University on Beaumont and was looking

around the chemistry department. He struck up a conversation with one of the chemistry faculty, who showed Joe his lab. The faculty member went on to show Joe a gas chromatograph. He then drew a diagram of the chromatograph on a coffee napkin. Joe took the napkin home with him and decided to make his own chromatograph from materials found in the junkyard. He did so successfully. His high school chemistry teacher Irene Martin and physics teacher Ron Bartlett were quite impressed and asked him to enter his project in the Science Fair. His project finished in second place in the state.

At that time, Joe knew nothing about college and had no ambitions to go to college. Although his chemistry and physics teachers pushed him in the direction of college, Joe gives prime credit to a chance encounter with Lamar University mathematics teacher Dr. Richard Price. Price was walking to his mother's house and had stopped in front of Joe's house to look at a map, just as Joe came out after dinner to play with his dogs. Joe walked Price to his mother's house, but during the walk their conversation dealt with the importance of college and the way to prepare for college. Joe often thinks that, if he had stopped in front of the refrigerator instead of going out at that particular time, his life would have turned out much differently.

Joe finally fixed on college, but he had no money to go. His folks assured him they would figure out something. Then he got a call at home from Professor Tom Edgar of UT-Austin offering a scholarship to start in the summer. At that time, Joe, who hadn't been out of Beaumont much, really didn't know where Austin was. He was delighted to learn that it was about 300 miles away from home, because his folks were pushing him to stay in town, and he didn't think that was a good idea. Joe started out as a chemical engineering major, switching to chemistry his sophomore year. Joe was shy and liked the idea of the large classes where you got lost in the numbers, **and** they had to be objective in the grading. At the end of the summer, Joe's chemistry teacher Raymond Davis asked him to stop by his office. Davis showed him an x-ray diffractometer, which helped chemistry come alive for Joe. Davis wound up giving him a key to the building. Joe thought, "How many freshmen get their own key to the chemistry building?" He was hooked on research. It was fun; he could do it; and it opened up doors to something new. However, Joe wanted to move around to learn about different research areas. Later he did undergraduate research with Joe Lagowski on solvated electrons. Lagowski was always interested in how Joe thought about things, which Joe appreciated. One thing that Joe took from his undergraduate experience was a desire to teach freshman chemistry and to identify bright students who could benefit from early exposure to research.

The UT faculty encouraged Joe to think of graduate school. He was playing tennis with Allen Bard, and Bard talked up Cal Tech. Lagowski pushed Berkeley and MIT. Joe wonders even now with such a large faculty and group of students at UT how they made it a family-like place. Many of his classmates, like Joe, wound up as faculty members at important universities. Joe was admitted to graduate school at Berkeley, MIT, and Stanford. He wanted to go to a university where

there were a number of potential mentors. While most of his classmates opted for Berkeley, he chose MIT, because he knew no one there. That would give him a chance to meet new people and have different experiences. Then came an unexpected tragedy---three weeks before graduation his father died. He asked to delay his entrance to MIT so that he could help his family with the transition. In the interval he commuted from Beaumont to Texas City, working in the Monsanto chemical plant there. After that delay, he entered graduate school rested and with a new sense of focus. His experience in industry showed him that someone with just a bachelor's degree had no creative control and also that it was important to be able to make good presentations.

At MIT he worked with Jeff Stinefeld. He sought to learn what physics happened when a molecule interacted with laser light and how was chemistry induced by a laser than conventional chemistry. This allowed him to bring in chemistry, physics, and mathematics in an integrated way. A scientist from Australia became interested in Joe's work and, on a visit to the US, saw Joe and asked him if he would like to work with him in Australia for a while. Joe asked eagerly, "Will I get to see Vienna?" Joe had the usual Texan's knowledge of geography, so he was told politely that Vienna was in Austria. Joe did go to Austrialia and learned a lot. This gave him an alternate perspective of how other people look at science.

Joe' advisor encouraged him to do post-doctoral work outside the US. He had offers to go to Oxford, Cambridge, and the Max Planck Institute, and he opted to go to Cambridge. After the Cambridge post-doc was over, Joe spent another year at MIT. Although he was being steered toward the academic life, he did have an interview with Bell Labs. However, he wound up taking a faculty position at Wayne State University in Detroit. He saw opportunities there. Wayne State wanted you to be a good chemist, and they didn't care too much which direction you cared to go. That was good, because Joe wanted to switch directions from his graduate research. Also, there were opportunities to give back to the community, as Detroit had a large African-American population. Joe set up a tutoring service on science and math in a local church, using tutors from the chemistry department. They identified some promising kids who spent time in the Wayne State labs.

At Wayne State Joe started research on how chlorofluorocarbons destroyed ozone. Looking at the details of that chemistry, Joe worked on how computational chemistry could map out complete oxidation pathways and identify intermediates and used those results to work out a laboratory program. This novel approach got the attention of scientists at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Joe's group teamed up with them to work together in this area. This pace-setting research got the attention of Purdue University, and Joe joined the Purdue faculty in 1994, where he's been ever since.

Joe and his wife have three daughters: Sara, Ashley, and Laura. At present Sara wants to be a chemist. Ashley really likes mathematics, but she has a bent for the sciences as well. Laura is very inquisitive and curious and loves hands-on experiences. Joe's wife Priya is an economist on the faculty at Purdue.

Joe had more to say about his proposed program in the ACS presidential succession. That will have to wait for the May issue, but this poised, articulate chemist had much of interest to say. Stay tuned.

BILL CARROLL WINS HENRY HILL AWARD

DFW ACS member and past president Bill Carroll is the 2009 winner of the Henry Hill Award given by the ACS Division of Professional Relations. The award was established in 1984 to honor distinguished service and achievement towards the advancement of professional relations. It honors Dr. Henry Hill, distinguished chemist, a director and past president of, and first African-American president of, the ACS. A partial listing of past winners includes such luminaries as Alan Nixon, Gordon Nelson, Dennis Chamot, Ann Nalley, James Burke, Eli Pearce, John Borchardt, Alfred Bader, and Mary Virginia Orna.

Bill Carroll is a vice president at Occidental Chemical Corp. and Adjunct Industrial Professor of Chemistry at Indiana University. His service to ACS has been considerable. He was president in 2005, where he kept a busy schedule of national lectures and appeared at over 100 local section functions. He has served on many ACS Task Forces including those on the Environment, Recycling, Energy Recovery, Public Health, and Science Policy. At present he serves on the ACS Board of Directors and is Co-Chair of the California Green Ribbon Science Panel.

Your editor can testify to his effectiveness as a speaker. His farewell presidential address to the Council covered his accomplishments with rare good humor. He can talk on what could be a dry topic such as polymer recycling and actually make it interesting and funny. He fits in well among the past winners of the Henry Hill Award and is probably the best speaker of the bunch. *The Southwest Retort* congratulates Bill Carroll on this singular but well-deserved honor.

SANDY DASGUPTA HONORED

UT-Arlington Chemistry Professor and Chair Purnendu (Sandy) Dasgupta was given the new "Conference Award" at the Berlin Conference Uber Ionenanalyse in March. The last talk of the conference given by **Prof. Wolfgang Frenzel** of the Technical University of Berlin was titled "The Many Facets of Ion Analysis: A Tribute to the Work of Purnendu (Sandy) Dasgupta." Sandy gave the opening plenary talk, "Ionic Semiconductors: What Are They Good For." In late March Sandy visited Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, China, as Zhejiang University Foundation lecturer and presented three different lectures.

D-FW ACS SPECIAL MAY MEETING AT LOCKHEED MARTIN

You readers may be thinking that the May meeting was the May 2 Meeting-in-Miniature at UNT, but the D-FW ACS Section is having a special meeting May 18th at Lockheed Martin in Fort Worth. Details are given on the back page of this magazine. Between 6 and 7 p.m., members will have the opportunity to tour the aircraft assembly line on electric scooters. When we met there a number of years ago, getting to see aircraft in various stages of construction, from the very beginning to almost completion was a highlight for me. The after dinner lecture, "What Chemists do at Lockheed Martin" also sounds very interesting. Please make reservations by the May 14 deadline.

Around-the-Area

University of Arkansas

Nobel Laureate **Robert Grubbs** gave the Arthur Fry lecture on April 13 on "The Synthesis of Large and Small Molecules Using Olefin Metathesis Catalysts." This lecture series honors retired U of A faculty member Arthur Fry, who was the father of using heavy atom isotopes effects in elucidating the mechanisms of organic reactions. In 1985 he won the ACS Southwest Regional Award.

Presentations were made at the Salt Lake City ACS meeting by graduate students **David Clay, Silvana Dormi, Juliette Rivero,** and **Maha Shrestha** from the McIntosh lab and by **Tamil Marutharaj** from the Durham lab. Several students from the Kumar lab received awards for their presentations. They were graduate student **Koteshwwara Anathamurthy** and undergraduates **Natalie White** and **Amen Ismail**.

Faculty member **Derek Sears** was coauthor of three March presentations made at the Lunar and Planetary Science Conference in League City, TX Mar. 10-14. **Suresh Kumar** gave invited talks at the ACS section in Pittsburg, KS, the chemistry department at Pittsburg State University, and at a structural workshop at UAMS. **Roger Koeppe** presented a Mar. 31 seminar at the University of Kansas. **Charles Wilkins** and graduate student **Sasa Miladinovic** gave presentations at the 60th PITTCON Conference in Chicago in March. **Paul Adams** was an invited speaker on April 14 at the

36th Annual Meeting of the National Organization of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers held in St. Louis. **Joshua Sakon**, postdoc **Leena Philminathan**, and undergraduate **Ryan Bauer** spent spring break collecting data at the Advanced Photon Source at Argonne National Laboratory.

East Texas ACS Section

The tour speaker at the April 15 meeting held at Texarkana College was **Dr. Gary D. Christian**, whose topic was *A Brief History of Analytical Chemistry: From the Beginnings to Modern Analytical Science*. The section's next meeting will be held on Wed., Sept. 9, at Northeast Texas Community College. The speaker will be **George M. Bodner**. He will speak on *Problem Solving: The Difference between What We Do and What We Tell People We Do*.

Wichita Falls-Duncan

The section's March meeting was held Mar. 24 at Cameron University. **Professor Ann West** from the University of Oklahoma spoke on *Phosphorylation-Dependent Signal Transduction in Yeast: A Structural Biologist's Perspective*. The April meeting was held April 16 at Midwestern University. ACS tour speaker **Dr. Gary Christian** of the University of Washington spoke on *The Physiology and Chemistry of Breath Alcohol Measurements or Are You Too Drunk to Drive?*

Heart o' Texas

Baylor University. The Gooch-Stephens Lecturer was **Prof. Omar M. Yaghi**, the Jean Stone Professor of Chemistry at UCLA. He gave a talk on April 16 on *Reticular Chemistry Where Geometry Becomes Beautifully Real and Useful* and on April 17 on *Docking in Metal Organic Frameworks*. A paper out of the Chambliss group on analysis of pharmaceuticals and personal care products in fish has garnered extensive press coverage. Graduate student **Vanessa Castleberry** attended the Gordon Conference on Gaseous Ions in Galveston, TX, where she presented a poster paper. Seven prospective graduate students visited the department Mar. 19-20. **Dr. David Pennington, Mrs. Nancy Johnson,** and **Mrs. Linda Haynes** attended the Texas Association of Advisors for the Health Professions Feb. 5-7 in College Station. Colloquium Speakers were: Mar. 27, **Kevin Chambliss**, Baylor; April 3, **Carl Lovely**, UT-Arlington.

South Plains Section

Texas Tech University. Dr. Bill Hase is Co-PI on a grant from the office of Naval Research to study *Molecular Mechanisms of Enhanced Flame Resistance of Layered Double Hydroxide-Epoxy Nanocomposites*. The grant is for $121,000 for the time period 3.1/09-2/28/10. Dr. Hase recently gave seminars at the University of Wisconsin and at Case Western Reserve University. With postdoc **U. Lourderaj** he published a Centennial Feature Article in *J. Phys. Chem A* on Theoretical and Computational Studies of Non-RRKM Unimolecular Dynamics.

Dr. Richard Bartsch presented a seminar at TCU. **Dr. Dmitri Pappas** chaired a symposium titled *Cellular and Sub-Cellular Separations* at the Pittsburg Conference recently held in Chicago. He also gave two invited papers at that conference. **Sean Burrows, g**raduate student, has received a Horn Professors Graduate Achievement

Award recognizing his strong publication record and achievements in the Pappas group. **Kyoyeon Park**, graduate student, gave an invited "Hot Topic" talk at the 2009 Gordon Research Conference held Mar. 1-6 in Galveston.

Dr. Ed Quitevis presented a paper on ionic liquids at the Salt Lake City ACS meeting. He also had a letter published in *J. Phys. Chem. B*.

D-FW Section

Salutes to Excellence. A small but enthusiastic group attended the fifth biennial Salutes to Excellence recognition dinner at the University of Dallas on Mar. 31. Honorees **Bob Patrizi, Connie Hendrickson,** and **Ed Biehl** were introduced, respectively, by presenters **Ron Estabrook**, retired from UT-Southwestern, **Denise Merkle** of SciConsult, and **John Maguire** of SMU. The honorees gave brief recollections from their long, illustrious careers in this area.

Texas Christian University. Dr. Jeff Coffer received a Welch grant to study *Controlled Formation of New Heterointerfacial Nanostructures on Curved Nanowire Surfaces* **Dr. Tracy Hanna** received a TCU Research & Creative Activities grant for *Synthesis of Molybdenum Mono-oxo Polymerization Catalysts*.

UT-Arlington. Dr. Martin Pomerantz gave a seminar on *Studies of Polythiophenes and Bi- and Trithiophene Model Compounds* at UT-Dallas on Mar. 27. **Dr. Carl Lovely** gave a seminar at Baylor on April 3 on *Total Synthesis of Marine Alkaloids of the Oroidin and Leucetta Families*. Dr. Lovely's Welch grant has been renewed for 2 years.

Graduate student **Bhagya Wijayawardena** from the Perera group won the Provost's Post Award (2nd Place) in the Annual Celebration of Excellence by Students (ACES-2009) graduate poster competition Her poster title was *Protein Bioengineering using Unnatural Amino Acids*. Undergraduate **Sandra Spencer** from the Schug group won 1st place in the ACES undergraduate poster competition. Her title was *MALDI-TOF-MS Fingerprinting of Condom Lubricants and Residues*.

Dr. Krishnan (Raj) Rajeshwar attended the Spring Meeting of the International Society of Electrochemistry in Szczyrk, Poland Mar. 22-24. He presented a keynote lecture titled *Materials Chemistry in the Service of Solar Energy Conversion and Fuel Cells* and also chaired a session. Faculty spending their sabbaticals in Raj's lab are **Dr. Christiane de Arruda Rodrigues** from Sao Paulo, Brazil and **Dr. Luiz Henrique Dall Antonia** from Londrina, Brazil.

Dr. Kevin Schug gave a seminar on *Chiral Recognition and Drug Discovery Using Affinity Mass Spectrometry*. **Dr, Rasika Dias** and graduate student **Jaime Flores** attended the ACS Salt Lake City meeting, where they presented two papers. Dr. Dias also participated in the editorial advisory committee meeting of the ACS journal *Inorganic Chemistry*.

May Dallas-Fort Worth ACS Meeting
Monday, May 18, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics – Fort Worth
Tour of the Lockheed Martin Production Plant
Presentation by LM Aero Chemists:
What Chemists do at Lockheed Martin

Times. 6-7 pm. Arrival in Bldg 6 Executive Conference Center and Tour of the Aircraft Plant 7-8 p.m. Dinner
8-9 p.m. Presentations by LM Chemists

About the Tour: From 6 to 7 pm, the ACS guests will tour the Air Force Plant 4 aircraft production facility, escorted by LM Aero hosts in electric scooters.

Presentation: After dinner (8 pm), five Lockheed Martin Chemists will give short presentations on their work projects involving areas of chemistry related to aircraft technology.

Reservations/Dinner. Contact Barbara Garrett 817-777-3489 barbara.j.garrett@lmco .com by noon on Thursday, May 14. Dinner: Il Paesano Buffet with Chicken Parmesan, Caesar Salad, Broccoli w/lemon, Rotini Marinara, Asst. Deserts, Ice tea, Coffee/tea. Cost $20 by check or cash at the door. Members are financially responsible for unused reservations.

When making reservations with Barbara, please give the following information necessary for admittance by LM Security: name, who you represent (company), US citizen or not, address, phone number, e-mail. Permanent US residents: card number. Foreign persons: passport number, date/place of birth. To be admitted at gate, visitors must show US issued ID (driver's license), non-citizens should have permanent residence card, and foreign persons must have a passport.

How to get there. Lockheed Martin is located in the Northwest part of Fort Worth. From I-30 W, take Exit 7B, Spur 341 to Lockheed Blvd, and drive ~2 miles to the main entrance gate to Lockheed Martin. Show ID to security officers. Proceed to Auto Gate F for visitors parking.

From 820. Take Exit 5A, White Settlement Road exit East. Drive in East direction ~2 miles to the end of the road, bear left across bridge to the Main entrance gate. Show ID to guards. Proceed to Auto Gate F for visitors parking.

From Alta Mere: Cross the overpass on I-30 and turn right down from the overpass, follow signs to Spur 341 to Lockheed Blvd, drive ~2 miles to the end of the road and to main entrance gate. Show ID to guards. Proceed to Auto Gate F for visitors parking.

Parking. From the main entrance gate on Clifford and Lockheed Blvd, drive ~1 mile to Gate F. Visitor Parking lot is in front of the large white office building (Bldg 200) with many tall flags in front. Enter the Main Lobby (Bldg 200) and obtain a visitor's badge. From Lobby go through the long corridor towards the Cafeteria building (Bldg 6) to the Executive Conference Center (ECC).

Additional Info: urszula.g.wettermark@lmco.com, 817-777-3790 (cell: 817-821-3822).