

DIAS WINS SW REGIONAL AWARD...p. 5

Southwest

RETORT

October
2009

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77774 YEARS AGO IN THE SOUTHWEST RETORT

Dr. James. E. Killian, former President of MIT and Special Assistant for Science and Technology to President Eisenhower, will give a talk sponsored by the Council of Scientific Societies, of which the D-FW ACS section is a member. The talk will be given at 8:15 p.m. on Oct. 22 in the theatre of Dallas Memorial Auditorium.

The ACS tour speaker for this month is **Prof. Clifford S. Garner** of UCLA. The three topics from which he will speak are "Radioactivity," "Isotopic Tracers in Chemical Research," and "Nuclear Fission."

The ACS Southwest Regional Meeting will be held in Baton Rouge Dec. 3-5. Besides the regular sessions, major symposia with outstanding speakers are scheduled on "Organometallic Chemistry," "Polymerization Chemistry," "High Energy Combustion," and "Chemical Education."

The Welch Foundation will sponsor a research conference in Houston Nov. 16-18 on "Molecular Structure." Speakers will be **M. Eigen**, **Henry Eyring**, **H. B. G. Casimir**, **Gerhard Herzberg**, **E. Bright Wilson**, **G. P. Thomson**, **C. H. Townes**, and **Warren Weaver**. Discussion leaders include **W. O. Baker**, **Jacob Bigeleisen**, **Bryce L. Crawford, Jr.**, **Lawrence O. Brockway**, **Raymond Fuoss**, **Walter Gordy**, **Joseph O. Hirschfelder**, **H. A. Levy**, **F. A. Matsen**, **Joseph E. Mayer**, **Robert S. Mulliken**, **Lars Onsager** and **Charles P. Smythe**. **Dr. W. O. Milligan**, Director of Research for the Foundation will preside at the conference. **Dr. Warren Weaver** will give an address at an informal banquet.

Drs. J. J. Lagowski and **Jefferson C. Davis, Jr.** have joined the faculty of the University of Texas (now *UT-Austin*). Dr. Lagowski has doctoral degrees from both Michigan State and Oxford Universities and does research in inorganic chemistry. Dr. Davis is a graduate of UC-Berkeley; his research area is spectroscopy.

In Dallas-Fort Worth, former *Retort* editor **Norman Uranson** is back in Dallas after a year in Little Rock as assistant to the head of the Graduate Institute of Technology of the University of Arkansas. Norm now works for TI as Technical Editor in the Technical Information Service of the Central Research Laboratories. **Archie Broodo**, another former *Retort* editor, is leaving Dallas to work for General Electric in South Carolina. At Texas Woman's University, **Dr. Robert W. Higgins** attended the August meeting of the Advisory Committee of the American Petroleum Institute, Projects 51 and 58, held Aug. 24-26 in Laramie, WY. **Dr. Helen Ludeman** spent the summer doing research at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

A gift of \$500,000 was received by Baylor University from the estate of Jim McMurry to be used for a new science building.

****Continued from Page 9****

working on amyloid peptide-small molecule interactions. **Jean Cui** from Bob Neilson's group presented a poster at the Washington ACS meeting.

UT-Dallas. **Dr. Michaela Iovu** gave a seminar at Duquesne University, while **Dr. Paul Pantano** gave a seminar at UT-Arlington.



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. 62 October, 2009 No. 2

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

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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DIAS WINS SOUTHWEST REGIONAL AWARD

A nice crowd of about 45 people attended the September meeting of the D-FW ACS on the 24th to hear Doherty Award winner Rasika Dias of UT-Arlington talk on “Taming Reactive Molecules.”

Rasika pitched the talk at the right level to reach the high school students and spouses attending this meeting. The section was pleased to have 50-year members Martin Pomerantz, Vito Jurevics, and Don Shaw along with 60-year member Glen Crain attending. These four were accompanied by their spouses. The honorees all made brief remarks about their careers in chemistry and their work in the D-FW area.

The frosting on the cake came just two weeks later when the D-FW ACS Section learned Rasika Dias is the winner of the 2009 ACS Southwest Regional Award. This award includes: a \$2000 cash award; reimbursement for travel to the Southwest

Regional Meeting (SWRM) Nov. 4-7 in El Paso; tickets for Rasika and guest to the SWRM Awards banquet, and a commemorative plaque honoring his achievements.



At SWRM, Rasika will give a 20 minute talk on his achievements, either at the awards banquet or at a suitable symposium. Rasika's accomplishments were the subject of our feature article in last month's *Retort*. I am sure our readers attending SWRM will want to hear what Rasika has to say.

Rasika is now the fourth individual from the Dallas-Fort Worth ACS Section to win this prestigious award. Previous winners from our area were organic chemist Paul Bartlett (TCU) in 1984, biochemist Ron Estabrook (UT-Southwestern) in 1989, and physical chemist Don Woessner (Mobil) in 1991. Congratulations go to Rasika Dias for breaking this 18 year drought of winners.

CLAUDIA WALLACE WINS 2009 SCHULZ AWARD

Profile by E. Thomas Strom

It's hard to believe that 19 years have gone by since Dr. Bob Roe donated money to the D-FW ACS section to establish an award for D-FW Metroplex high school chemistry teachers to honor Bob's deceased friend Dr. Werner Schulz. Werner and Bob had taught together, first at the Skyline Science Cluster and later at Hockaday. Bob wanted the award to go to teachers, like Werner, who brought something extra to the teaching of chemistry. The section has put its own money into the award as well, and now the stipend has reached \$1000. The winner is also given a plaque. Handsome pictures of the winners plus a photograph of Werner himself are hung in the Science Building at Tarleton State University to provide a continuing remembrance of Werner Schulz and the excellent chemistry teachers who have followed him. This year's winner, Claudia Wallace of Creekview High School in Carrollton, is the 17th winner of this award (on two occasions no winner was selected). The future hanging of her picture in the Gallery of Schulz Award winners at Tarleton will have particular resonance for Claudia, as she is a Tarleton alum.

Claudia Wallace decided to be a chemist out of the blue when she was in middle school. A favorite aunt asked Claudia what she wanted to do with her life. Claudia replied that she was going to be a chemist. The react-

ions of the aunt and all others listening were surprised but positive. They thought you really had to be a smart person to be a chemist. (*Editor's Note. This is true! All chemists are smart people.*) Claudia followed up on this earlier resolution and attended Tarleton State, receiving a B.S. chemistry degree in 1971. She got married after graduation and went to work at the USGS Pesticide Residue



Lab in Austin. This was one of two such labs in the U.S. LBJ was still alive then and delighted in bringing visitors to tour the lab. After LBJ's death, the Austin lab was moved to Denver and the East Coast lab was moved to

Atlanta. Claudia traveled to both places to help set up the new labs; but she was then pregnant with the first of her four boys, so she decided to stay at home. In 1981 she did get her teaching certificate at Southwestern University. In 1988 there was a real need for her to get a job, so she started teaching at Seguin High School and loved it.

The move to the Metroplex was really due to her youngest son Mark. Mark was an excellent soccer player and had met lots of people in the D-FW area in soccer competitions. Some of these friends suggested that Mark should move there. Claudia was divorced by then and thought, "Why not?" She got a job at Creekview High School in Carrollton teaching chemistry, AP chemistry

and PAP chemistry, and her son was able to spend his last two years of high school in Carrollton. Now Claudia is the Science Department Chair at the school.

Claudia has worked long and hard to hone her teaching skills and knowledge base. She has attended more than 45 state and national conferences to expand her toolbox of teaching strategies. She has shared this knowledge by presenting over 20 workshops. In 2001 she received the Outstanding Chemistry Teacher Award from the Associated Chemistry Teachers of Texas (ACT2), the award now known as the George Hague Award. After all these years of teaching, she still loves her job and likes her kids. She says there is nothing as rewarding as seeing the

light bulb come on when her students catch on to a difficult concept.

Claudia's three oldest sons, Scott, Ben, and John, have careers outside of science, but son Mark was a physics major who currently teaches math and coaches soccer. With all the grading and preparation necessary for high school teaching, Claudia has very little time for recreation. She does like reading and working in her yard. I hope many of us will hear this master teacher when she receives her Schulz Award at the D-FW Section's November 19 meeting. Her topic meets certain current views head on, "The Bum Rap Given to Public Education." I certainly want to hear what she says, and you readers should, too.

Around-the-Area

East Texas

ACS Fellow **Dr. Charles Whiteside** spoke on "Confessions of a Compassionate Conservative Environmentalist: An Insider's Perspective" at the Sept. 24th Section meeting held at Ana-Lab in Kilgore.

The November meeting will be held Monday, Nov. 16, at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches. **Donald F. Burland** will speak on "What Happened in That 'Warm Little Pond'—The Search for the Molecular Origins of Life."

Wichita Falls-Duncan

The 50 year anniversary of the Section takes place on Friday, Oct. 30. The celebration will be in the form of a "Salute to Excellence" ban-

quet to be held at the CETES Conference Center at Cameron University in Lawton. Honored guests will be past ACS presidents **E. Ann Nalley** and **Attila Pavlath**, the current presidents of Cameron and Midwestern State Universities, Halliburton's vice president of technology, **Joe Sandy**, and most of the past section chairs. Award of excellence plaques will be presented to all past chairs by Attila and to the heads of the major supporting entities (Midwestern, Cameron, and Halliburton) by Ann.

With the celebration being held during National Chemistry Week, the Section has initiated a poster contest that includes the middle schools of the three primary communities the Section represents: Lawton and

Duncan, OK, and Wichita Falls, TX. The poster theme is the National Chemistry Week theme, "It's All Elemental." Ten winning posters will be chosen from each community by the ACS student affiliate chapters at Midwestern and Cameron, and the posters will be exhibited Oct. 19-23 at Midwestern, Cameron, and the Cameron University Center in Duncan. The 30 students submitting the winning posters will each receive a trophy and be represented locally the week before the banquet.

The October section meeting was held Oct. 12 at Cameron University and featured ACS tour speaker **Robert Blackledge** speaking on the topic "Glitter as Forensic Evidence."

Heart o' Texas

Baylor University. **Dr. David Pennington** attended the fall meeting of the Joint Admission Medical Program Faculty Directors in Austin Aug. 21. The department hosted its Fourth Annual Advanced Instrumentation Workshop Oct. 9-10. **Mieke** and **Alejandro Ramirez** announce the birth of their first baby **Alexander Javier Ramirez**.

Colloquium Speakers: **Sept. 11**, Darrin Bellert, Baylor; **Sept. 18**, Karla McCain, Austin College; **Sept. 25**, Sung-Kun Kim, Baylor, **Oct. 2**, Andrea and Lonnie Hazlitt, Dow Chemical; **Oct. 9**, Mathias Weber, University of Colorado.

South Plains

Texas Tech University. **Professor Carol Korzeniewski** has been awarded a four year, \$487,493 grant from NSF to study "Elucidating Processes that Limit Energy Transfer in

Electrocatalysis." **Assistant Professor Michael Mayer** has been awarded a five year, \$546,784 grant from NSF to study "Preparation of Materials Composed of Mechanically Interlocked Nanoscale Species."

The Summer Research Academy for Theoretical and Computational Chemistry (SRATCC) 2009 ran from June 15 to July 9 under the direction of **Dr. Jorge A. Morales**. Chemistry professors **David Birney**, **Greg Gellene**, **Bill Hase**, **Bill Poirier**, and **Ed Quitevis** were collaborators for the program. SRATCC 2009 encourages participation by local high school students and teachers. This year five students and one teacher were chosen from Estacado High School in Lubbock to work with the organizing professors on research projects supported by NSF, ACS, and the Welch Foundation. The high school participants presented their results in a public session on July 9 followed by a closing dinner.

Welch Professor **Bill Hase** and University of Pisa professor **Maurizio Persico** organized the NSF/PIRE Workshop "Theoretical and Computational Studies of Electronic Non-Adiabatic Dynamics, Charge Transfer, and Molecular-Surface Collisions" held at the University of Pisa July 21-22. **Dr. George Barnes** and **Kyoyeon Park** presented talks at the Workshop. Hase presented a plenary lecture at the 10th Iberian Joint Meeting on Atomic and Molecular Physics held in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, July 12-15.

Edward Quitevis gave an invited talk at the 6th International Discussion Meeting on Relaxations in Com-

plex Systems held in Rome Aug. 31-Sept. 5. **Robert Shaw** was the featured expert in an article in *Texas Tech Today*.

Dallas-Fort Worth

Our local reporter is Dr. Tracy Hanna of TCU. Material for this section should be e-mailed to Tracy at t.hanna@tcu.edu.

TCU. Dr. Jeffery Coffer was honored at the TCU Convocation on Sept. 8 as the winner of the 2009 Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Achievement as a Teacher-Scholar. Jeff is the fourth faculty member in the chemistry department to be so honored, joining **Bill Watson, Bill Smith,** and **Bob Neilson.** On Sept. 18 Jeff presented a seminar at UT-Dallas.

Professor Anne Richards received a three year, \$345,000 NSF grant to study "Facile Routes to Multinuclear Metal Phosphonates and Phosphinates: New Materials with Diverse Functions." Graduate student **Nicholas Smith** from **Sergei Dzyuba's** group received the 2009-2010 ACS Division of Medicinal Chemistry predoctoral fellowship sponsored by Wyeth. Nick is currently in his third year of study

****Continued on Page 2****

Metroplex November Seminar Schedule

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

UT-Arlington. Nov. 6, Rosalie Uht, UNT Health Science Center, "Estrogen and Glucocorticoid Regulated Gene Expression Implications

for the Stress Response." **Nov. 13,** Andrew Bocarsly, Princeton, "Electrochemical and Photoelectrochemical Conversion of Aqueous CO₂ to Alcohols: Single Electron Redox Catalysis of a Multielectron Process."

Nov. 20, Xiaolian Gao, University of Houston, "Proteomic Peptide Chips--Highly Parallel Picoliter Protein Assays." **Dec. 4,** Kevin Schug, UT-Arlington, "Mass Spectrometry is a Versatile Research Tool." Seminars are normally at 2:30 p.m. in Room 114, Baker Chemical Research Bldg.

UT-Dallas. Nov. 6, Richard D. McCullough, Carnegie Mellon University, "Novel Materials for Organic Electronics." **Nov. 13,** Chris Gamblin, University of Kansas, "Effect of Pseudohyperphosphorylation on the Functions of the Microtubule-Associated Protein Tau." **Nov. 20,** Lev D. Gelb, Washington University of St. Louis, "Computational Studies of Capillary Phenomena: The Effects of Aerogel Compliance on Adsorptive Behavior." Seminars are normally at 2 p.m. in the Conference Center, Room CN1.102.

UNT. Nov. 6, Roshan Perera, UT-Arlington, "Proteins Containing Unnatural Amino Acids." **Nov. 13,** Michel Dupuis, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, TBA. **Nov. 20,** George Schatz, Northwestern, "DNA Structures, Excited States, and Nanomaterials." **Dec. 4,** Wes Borden, UNT, "Tunneling in Organic and Organometallic Chemistry—Calculations Tell Experimentalists Where to Look and What to Look For." Seminars at 3:30 p.m. in Rm. 106, Chem.

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22 Ti 47.867	23 V 50.942	24 Cr 51.996	25 Mn 54.938	26 Fe 55.845	27 Co 58.933	28 Ni 58.69	29 Cu 63.546	30 Zn 65.38	31 Ga 69.723	32 Ge 72.64	33 As 74.922	34 Se 78.96	35 Br 79.904
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 106.32	47 Ag 107.87	48 Cd 112.41	49 In 114.82	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 186.21	76 Os 190.23	77 Ir 192.22	78 Pt 195.08	79 Au 196.97	80 Hg 200.59	81 Tl 204.38	82 Pb 207.2	83 Bi 208.98	84 Po (209)	85 At (210)
104 Rf (261)	105 Db (262)	106 Sg (266)	107 Bh (264)	108 Hs (277)	109 Mt (268)	110 Ds (271)	111 Rg (272)	112 Cn (285)	113 Nh (286)	114 Uuq (289)	115 Fl (289)	116 Lv (293)	117 Ts (294)
57 La 138.91	58 Ce 140.12	59 Pr 140.91	60 Nd 144.24	61 Pm (145)	62 Sm 150.36	63 Eu 151.96	64 Gd 157.25	65 Tb 158.93	66 Dy 162.50	67 Ho 164.93	68 Er 167.26	69 Tm 168.93	70 Yb 173.04

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**NOVEMBER D-FW ACS MEETING
THURSDAY, Nov. 19, 2009**

at the Olive Garden

4240 BELTLINE RD Addison, TX 75001

Honoring 2009 Werner Schulz Award Recipient

CLAUDIA WALLACE

Science Department Manager

Creekview High School, CarrolltonFarmers-Branch ISD

**"The Bum Rap Given to Public Education:
Many Resources & Opportunities *ARE* Available"**

About the Talk: The Werner Schulz Award is presented to High School chemistry teachers who most embody the educational mission of its namesake. Recipients of this prestigious DFW local section teaching award are recognized with a formal portrait, displayed in the Schulz Gallery in the Chemistry building of Tarleton University, a plaque to be displayed for a year in the Awardee's school, and a monetary award. The 2009 award will be presented to Ms. Wallace at this dinner in her honor. Ms. Wallace will speak on the many opportunities afforded to students in the public schools. Many of the resources available to students are unknown or misunderstood, sometimes even by educators. The talk will enlighten the attendees as to these opportunities.

About the Speaker: Ms. Wallace earned a BS in Chemistry from Tarleton State University in Stephenville Texas, and followed her undergraduate education with graduate work and advanced training. Although initially a pesticide residue chemist with the US Geological Survey, a change in careers led her to recognize her calling. Ms. Wallace has educated others as a Technology Trainer, a high school teacher in Seguin and Creekview High Schools, where she is department chair, and Dean of CFBISD Summer School. Ms. Wallace participates in professional committees and has presents educational workshops. She has won numerous awards, including the 2001 Outstanding Chemistry Teacher of the ACT2.

Times: Social Hour, 6-7 p.m., Dinner, 7-8 p.m.; Lecture, 8-9 p.m. All events in the Banquet Room of the Olive Garden.

Reservations/Dinner: Contact the Local Section, info@acsdfw.org, or Dr. D. Merkle, (817) 921-0029, by noon on Monday, November 16th. Dinner costs \$20 and will be selected onsite from a set list of entrees. Beverages included.

How to Get There: www.olivegarden.com. From 35E or 161/190 in Carrollton, take E. Beltline Road East. The restaurant is just east of the intersection of Webb Chapel and E. Beltline Roads.

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SMU. Oct. 30, Dieter Cramer, SMU, "A New Way of Understanding Chemical Reactions." **Nov. 4**, Marcus Weck, New York University, "Supramolecular Copolymers." Both previous seminars are in Room 152, Fondren Science Bldg. **Nov. 13**, Onofrio Annunzaita, TCU, "Multi-component Diffusion in Micellar and Macromolecular Aqueous Solutions." **Nov. 20**, James Sacchettini, Texas A&M, TBA. Seminars are normally at 3 p.m. in Room 155, Fondren Science Bldg.

TCU. Nov. 3, Marcus Weck, New York University, TBA. **Nov. 10**, Eric Simanek, Texas A&M, "From Flecks in the Flask to Kilo-

grams on the Bench: Moving Triazine Dendrimers Toward the Clinic." **Dec. 3**, Adam Urbach, Trinity University, TBA. Seminars are normally at 11 a.m. in Lecture Hall 3, Sid Richardson Science Bldg.

UT-Southwestern Biochemistry. Nov. 12, Andrew Chess, Harvard, "Sequence-Influenced Methylation Polymorphism." **Nov. 19**, Tom Wandless, Stanford, "General New Methods to Regulate Protein Function." Seminars are normally at 12 noon in L4.176 Biochemistry Bldg.

UT-Southwestern Biological Chemistry. Nov. 17, Tehshik Yoon, University of Wisconsin, TBA. Seminars are normally at 12 noon in L4.162, Biochemistry Bldg.