

# INTERVIEW WITH ACS PRESIDENT ELECT BASSAM SHAKISHIRI.....p. 5

*Southwest*

## RETORT

April  
2011

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# FIFTY YEARS AGO IN THE SOUTHWEST RETORT

The ACS April tour speaker will be **Dr. David M. Gates** of the Boulder, CO, laboratory of the National Bureau of Standards (NBS). He will be speaking on one of three topics: High Altitude Spectroscopy from Balloons; Energy and Environment; or Science in Russia. Dr. Gates is a space expert who obtained the first infrared spectra of the sun and of the earth's atmosphere from balloons at 100,000 feet. With NBS he has been coordinator for the International Geophysical Year Program. In addition he helps plan and operate the research program of the Radio Propagation Physics Division.

**Dr. M. Gilbert Burford** from Wesleyan University visited the chemistry department of Stephen F. Austin College Feb. 22-24 under the auspices of the Visiting Scientist Program sponsored by NSF and ACS. The chemistry faculty at Stephen F. Austin consists of **Drs. H. E. Abbott, E. L. Griffin** and **A. R. Machel**. Dr. Burford talked to students in the quantitative analysis and physical chemistry courses and was available for student conferences. He was the main speaker on "Opportunities in the Field of Chemistry" at the television program given over KTRE-TV at Lufkin.

**Dr. W. B. Smith** will be the new chair of the chemistry department at TCU beginning Sept. 1, 1961. Dr. Smith received his Ph.D. from Brown University and after a post-

doc at Florida State and the University of Chicago was a faculty member at Ohio University for five years. He is currently a Robert A. Welch visiting professor at TCU. He recently received a renewal of his PRF grant for two years and along with **Dr. W. H. Watson** attended the spring meeting of the ACS in St. Louis. Dr. Watson recently received a renewal of his NSF grant. **Mr. Duke Slavich**, a recently retired Army Supply Sergeant, has been hired as Storeroom Manager and Purchasing Agent for the chemistry department. This summer Texas Woman's University (TWU) will offer NSF sponsored institutes in Science, Radiobiochemistry, and Mathematics. **Dr. William Mecay** of TWU will spend the summer doing research at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. At North Texas State College (*now UNT*) **Drs. Price Truitt** and **C. W. Schimelpfenig** attended the spring ACS meeting in St. Louis.

At the Feb. local ACS section meeting held at Baylor, **Dr. W. H. Urry** of the University of Chicago lectured on "New Chemistry of Free Radicals in Solution." **Dr. John S. Belew** of Baylor participated in a panel discussion for high school and college students on the topic "What Jobs Are Open to the Science Major?"



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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; kbdrake2000@yahoo.com

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# Southwest Retort

**SIXTY-THIRD YEAR**

**April 2011**

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## **“ADVOCATE BY CONVICTION—OPTIMIST BY NATURE”**

### **AN INTERVIEW WITH ACS PRESIDENT- ELECT**

#### **BASSAM SHAKASHIRI**

Interviewer Dr. E. Thomas Strom

*Editor's Foreword. Much of this piece consists of direct quotes from Dr. Shakashiri. To avoid awkward transitions, quotation marks have not been inserted.*

If a person were to write out a laundry list of desirable characteristics for ACS President, I think the top item on the list would be good communicator to the public. The ACS President is the visible face of the Society. You want that face to present our society in the best possible light. You also want that individual to be comfortable in presenting difficult concepts to the general public in readily understandable terms. You want that person to be familiar with the various media. As I come to think about it, these criteria mean that you want Bassam Shakashiri. He has given over 1300 invited lectures and presentations in North America, Europe, Asia,

Australia, the Middle East, and South America. He has been featured in newspapers, magazines, and national and local radio and television. His annual television Christmas program for the general public, “Once Upon a Christmas Cheery, In the Lab of Shakashiri,” has appeared 41 straight times. Furthermore, he served for six years as Assistant Director of NSF for Science and Engineering Education. The first lines of the title for this interview came from Shakashiri's website, in which he describes himself as “Scientist by training, teacher and public servant by trade, advocate by conviction, optimist by nature.” I was very pleased for the eighth time to have the opportunity to interview

an ACS President-Elect. My interview with Dr. Shakashiri took place in Anaheim on Mar. 27, 2011.

My initial question to Bassam dealt with what brought him to chemistry, but I'll defer that material to the end of this article. I went on to ask about his feelings about being elected ACS President. Bassam began by saying that as a 50-year member of ACS he was highly emotional about becoming ACS President, as this is the highest honor that ACS members can bestow on anyone. He takes his responsibility very seriously, and it is his obligation to pay back to ACS, and through ACS, to society. He is working on themes for 2012 and beyond. The two main themes are "Advancing Chemistry" and "Communicating Chemistry." In the realm of advancing chemistry, he advocates living up to the ACS Charter. This means advancing knowledge of the beautiful chemical world that we live in, *i.e.*, basic research, and bringing forward innovation from the basic research results, *i.e.*, technology transfer. One part of this is focusing on education from grade school to graduate school and beyond. It will be hard to do all this, and Bassam's bottom line is on being effective. Therefore, he wants to be judged on the quality of the ideas he proposes and the quality of the work he does with the ACS Board of Directors. He expects to have in place programs and other activities in areas that reflect national needs in undergraduate, graduate, and pre-college education. He will start out with a focus

on high school education and graduate education.

Another initiative he will undertake is to help the public understand the science of climate change, realizing that "the public" is a simplification, as there are all kinds of "publics" out there. Of course, we need to make sure that we understand it ourselves. He finds insufficient understanding even among scientists about what reactions go on to heat up the atmosphere. For example, a lot of people don't realize that any triatomic molecule in the gaseous phase is a greenhouse gas. The science of climate change has been known for over 100 years going back to Arrhenius. He has a dual goal. He wants scientists to truly understand the science of climate change, and then help educate their neighbor, the people in service clubs, people in religious organizations, etc. about the science of climate change. However, there are political issues, economic issues, scientific issues, societal issues that all relate to climate change. His focus is on the science of climate change. In science we make progress because we collaborate with each other and because we are skeptical. Skepticism is an essential part of what we do in science, but denying is different! Denying that the data are there; denying that the trend is there; that's different. The industrial revolution has transformed society primarily through science and technology, but through science and technology we learn more about the consequences of using fossil fuels. We in the scientific community have

major responsibilities toward advancing our science and communicating our science to the public at large. An analogy comes from sports. We have both professional athletes and sports fans. Sports need those fans to function. We need both scientists and science fans who follow and appreciate what is happening on the scientific playing field. Science and technology are the engines that drive our economy. It is vitally important for the scientific professionals to communicate with the rest of the population.

At this point I asked how ACS enters into this effort. Bassam responded that ACS is the leading scientific organization in the world when it comes to chemical sciences. ACS does a good job, but we need to develop and build on what we have done so far. ACS should

consider elevating the level of discourse with all stakeholders---not only from those involved in educational activities but those not so involved. All of us learn most of what we learn in life outside of school. In school we learn how to learn. We need to reach those in the formal education structure and those in the informal education structure. We have media capability that we didn't have before to share information, specifically the web. Bassam states that the Internet will transform our society in the same way that the printing press transformed its society. ACS should be the ones to provide

valid scientific content in a communicative way so it's received and appreciated. Next year is the sesquicentennial of the Land Grant Act. He intends to have ACS highlight its mission and showcase its programs and activities in a series of celebrations marking the sesquicentennial of the Land Grant Act. The Land Grant Act not only transformed education and agriculture but society. ACS in its Vision Statement says we want to transform people's lives for the better. Their similar transforming power thus connects ACS and the Land Grant Act.

He had touched on much of this earlier, but I then asked Bassam what he hoped to accomplish in his three years in the ACS presidential succession.

He replied that he had been an ACS member for 6000 months, had 36

months in the presidential succession, and three of those months were already gone. He said he would be sharing specific activities fairly soon, but he was not ready to announce them yet. They will relate to the themes he had already mentioned.

I followed up with my usual question to ACS Presidents-Elect. Is there a need for more students in the Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics (STEM) disciplines? Do we need more, less, or is the number about right? He replied that science is a human endeavor. We would like to provide opportunities



ACS President Elect Shakishiri  
Photo Credit: Peter Cutts Photography

for people who desire to pursue careers in the chemical sciences. As to what the right number is in STEM areas, nobody knows the right number; and that number is changing. We do need to build national capacity. Chemists are very versatile, and they can help address societal issues not only from the technical point of view but from the human point of view. I then brought up Norman Hackerman's opinion that the number of scientists is exactly what it needs to be right now, because the effect of advances in instrumentation made every scientist much more productive. Bassam went on to say that it would be a catastrophe if the federal budget for science were cut by 15-20%. We need to clarify for ourselves the purposes for which we have graduate education programs. He thinks that human talent is not replaceable by instrumentation. There are still major societal problems that can be treated by chemists---the development of new drugs and procedures for cleaning water and making it available. We need to build the capacity for advancing chemistry and communicating chemistry.

By then my time was up. ACS Presidents and Presidents-Elect are highly scheduled during ACS meetings, so I count myself fortunate to have obtained this interview. Returning to the question of why Bassam became a chemist, he told me that, when he was a kid growing up in Lebanon, his mother once knitted a yellow sweater for him. He wanted to know what yellow is. He was fascinated by colors. He proceeded to ask

questions of his parents, and they were very encouraging. He was curious about natural phenomena. His teachers also encouraged him to ask questions. He had good teachers in both high school and college. He was a freshman at the American University in Beirut when his father, a physician, took a sabbatical leave to Harvard and brought his family. They never returned. In college at Boston University he was interested in science, religion, philosophy, and political science. He decided if he studied chemistry he would have a chance to answer some of those questions he had been asking when he was very young. Bassam went on to get his Ph.D. at the University of Maryland in inorganic chemistry working with Gilbert Gordon, and he eventually wound up on the faculty at the University of Wisconsin. Except for his six years at NSF, that's where he's been since, developing a nationwide reputation in chemical education with an important focus on demonstrations.

Bassam's wife Jane is an active volunteer with the American Red Cross, working in the disaster relief area. Their daughter Elizabeth is an attorney. Bassam enjoys water sports, and in Lebanon he was the junior champion in the backstroke. He also played varsity soccer. He enjoys going to concerts, and he likes both classical music and hard rock.

Certainly Bassam's themes of "Advancing Chemistry" and "Communicating Chemistry" are valuable, although they have much in common with previous ACS presidents' pro-



grams. It's hard for any one ACS president to turn the tide of public ignorance of the role of chemistry in improving society, but, when several ACS presidents in a row keep pushing, perhaps that tide can finally be turned.

## ***DIGITIZING AND ARCHIVING THE SOUTHWEST RETORT***

by Jim Marshall

On May 19, 2011, a special tribute to **Tom Strom**, Editor of *The Southwest Retort*, took place at the monthly D-FW ACS Section meeting at UT-Arlington. Tom was given a special engraved plaque celebrating his 27+ years as editor. At that meeting Tom presented an informative talk on the history of the magazine.

What became *The Southwest Retort* originated in 1944 as a local D-FW magazine called *The Activator*. Four years later it underwent a name change to *The Southwest Retort*, and the magazine was distributed to a number of local ACS sections in the Southwest.

After the May issue, the magazine will go electronic after 63 years in a hard copy format. At the meeting the question was raised as to whether past issues could be made available to the general public. **Jim and Jenny Marshall** (Jim is a past Managing Editor of the magazine) volunteered to undertake the task. This *Retort* Library Project will entail scanning and delivering into searchable format all earlier issues. Present plans are for the final product to become available internationally on the celebrated

University of North Texas Digital Library, and a copy will also be sent to the Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia. The project will be underwritten by the Marshall Educational Fund. This work is targeted for completion by 2013.

## **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

### **Dear Editor:**

Only after returning to Texas Tech after an absence of ten weeks in a warmer climate was I able to read the January issue to learn that you are giving up the Editorship. You have done so very much and so splendidly for us regional chemists with an extraordinary term as Editor. And now you will continue to serve the fellowship of chemistry as Chair of the Division of the History of Chemistry. I admire you and take off my hat to you. --- Henry Shine

### **Dear Editor:**

We have not met but have communicated a couple of times re an article you wrote some time back re Jim Melrose. This note is to convey my thanks to you for editing and contributing to the *Southwest Retort* so effectively over these many years. I inevitably look first to the 50 years ago column. I was at UT-Austin in this period, so many of the names and activities are familiar ones. For example, most of the people you mentioned in the March, 2011 *Retort* I knew well. My office in the graduate school was just across the hall from Dr. Hackerman's lab, so I got to know him and his students well---

quite an extraordinary person. Thank you again. I very much appreciate all the time and effort you have expended on our (your readers') behalf.

--- Stan Speed

**Dear Editor:**

The March issue came in a couple of days back. I was quite interested to read your lead article on "Reflections on Being a Book Editor." You were (as you are with *The Southwest Retort*) quite a sympathetic editor for the symposium book. May I solicit your indulgence in my sharing with the six volumes I edited for Wiley-Interscience over a period of only three years? In the spring of 1966 Wiley-Interscience approached me and asked if I would undertake editing a multi-author series. I was told "The selection of the subject and contributing authors would be entirely up to you." I said I would do it and within minutes outlined to him the subject matter and contributing authors. And promptly they signed a contract with me in three days. This was the beginning of the series *Mechanisms of Molecular Migrations* (four volumes) and the second series *Selective Organic Transformations* (two volumes). I started the work in June, 1966, and completed the entire six volume series before the end of July, 1969. During the same time period I had also written books of my own, *The Chemistry of Cyanogen Halides* and *Unusual Aromatic Hydrocarbons*. Well, that is the story of a small part of my claim to Editorship.

--- B. S. Thyagarajan

*Editor's Response. Six multiauthor books in three years plus two individual books! I am impressed.*

## **UTA LICENSES GAS TO FUEL PROCESS TO 1<sup>ST</sup> RESOURCE GROUP**

Chemists both inside and outside academia have heard rumblings of discontent this year about the time spent by faculty on research as compared to teaching. Those familiar with the role of chemical research in academic institutions know that research is a development tool for graduate students to teach them up-to-date research methods and, more important, teach them how to initiate and carry out a research project. While such subtleties may be lost on the public at large (although we chemists need to do a better job of getting this information across), the public can certainly appreciate when a piece of research has practical results. The UTA research I'm going to cite appeared in the June 3, 2011, issue of *The Dallas Morning News* in the business section, but I'll bet that UTD, UNT, TCU, SMU, and UT-Southwestern have similar examples of their own.

Rather than my depending on a press release, the information I'm going to discuss came from UTA Professor **Fred MacDonnell**. The UTA-1<sup>st</sup> Resources partnership developed out of an initial inquiry several years ago by the company (then DFW Genesis) about converting natural gas to synfuels (gas-to-liquids, GTL) technology on a small

scale, given the large amount of natural gas reserves and the disparate price in crude oil relative to natural gas. The company contracted with UTA to develop a small bench top unit with the understanding that UTA would retain any intellectual property (IP) developed and that 1<sup>st</sup> Resources would retain the initial right to license. A research team consisting of MacDonnell and Professors **Brian Dennis, Rick Billo, John Priest, Krishnan Rajeshwar, and Dr. Norma Tacconi**---all members of the UTA Center for Renewable Energy, Science, and Technology (CREST)---were charged with developing the process. They studied several routes to miniaturize the well known Fischer-Tropsch (FT) for converting syngas (CO and H<sub>2</sub> mixtures) to hydrocarbons. A steam methane reformer would be used to convert natural gas, predominantly methane, to syngas, so they focused on the back-end FT process. They discovered that they could control the process to produce a synfuel that is predominantly a mixture of jet and diesel fuels with little of the heavier hydrocarbons and waxes. This selectivity makes back-end refining into useable fuels much simpler and adds a premium to the products' value. 1<sup>st</sup> Resources has contracted with an

engineering firm to develop plans for an initial unit with a production capacity of around 500 bbls of synfuel/day.

1<sup>st</sup> Resources is continuing to fund GTL research at UTA, using the university in essence as its research unit. In return the university has received a licensing fee and will get royalties from the process once operational. MacDonnell notes that some academicians would not like the R&D model, but it is apparent that many universities are moving toward such arrangements. There are many such examples in the pharmaceutical/medicinal chemistry realm. It is also the only realistic way a small company like 1<sup>st</sup> Resources could ever develop such technology, so in this sense it spurs innovation. 1<sup>st</sup> Resources could just as likely have gotten nothing for their investment, so it involved substantial risk for them. Finally, to quote MacDonnell exactly, "I would like to add that, as a researcher, simply bringing in these extra funds and people to work on the FT project have a positive effect on the other, more traditionally funded research projects. More people mean more crosstalk, more momentum, and more new ideas. I'm happy to be a part of it."

## ***CHEM GEMS & JEWELS***

**National Chemistry Olympiad Results.** **Dr. Kathleen Holley** has reported results for D-FW student performances in the Olympiad. **Alan Zhao** from the Texas Academy of Math and Science (teacher **Dr.**

**Martin Schwartz**) finished in the High Honors group---one of the top 50 students nationally! We also had two students finish in the Honors group, which is the next 100. They were **Eric Nguyen** from Paschal

High School in Fort Worth (teacher **Mr. Andrew Brinker**) and **Sagar Parikh** from Plano Sr. High School (teacher **Mrs. Robyn Shipley-Gerko**). Greater Houston had one student in the top 50 and Central Texas had two students in the top 150, so you can see that D-FW matched well against the other Texas population centers.

Congratulations to all these students and their teachers. We hope those students who were juniors and participated will try again next year.

**ChemEd 2011.** The chemical education conference, ChemEd 2011, will be held July 24-28 at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. At this conference chemistry educators share their teaching experiences, classroom innovations, and laboratory experiments. We are past the early registration date, so registration will cost \$350. Register now for this important conference.

## **O'BRIEN, TRULSON WIN DOHERTY AND SCHULZ AWARDS**

Dr. Paul Sood, Chair of the D-FW Awards Committee, has announced that the winner of the 2011 Wilfred T. Doherty Recognition of the Dallas-Fort Worth ACS Section is **Dr. Sean O'Brien** of Texas Instruments. Sean has had a sterling career at TI and has served our section as Chair, but he is undoubtedly best known for being a co-discoverer of buckminsterfullerene along with Nobel Laureates Richard Smalley, Robert Curl and Harry Kroto as well

as fellow graduate student James Heath. Sean will receive his \$1500 award and engraved plaque at a fall meeting of the section. His picture will then hang in the Gallery of Doherty Award Winners in Berkner Hall at UT-Dallas.

Sood also announced that **Dr. Michael E. Trulson** of the Highlands School in Irving is the 2011 winner of the Werner Schulz Award for High School Chemistry Teaching. Dr. Trulson has an unusual background for a high school chemistry teacher, coming from a career in neurochemistry and psychology. He currently teaches regular chemistry and AP chemistry at the Highlands School. He will receive his \$1000 award and engraved plaque also at a fall meeting of the section. His picture will then hang in the Gallery of Schulz Award Winners in the Science Building at Tarleton State University. Profiles of both award winners will appear in future *Southwest Retorts*.

## **TEETERS IS OKLAHOMA CHEMIST**

The 2011 choice as the Oklahoma Chemistry of the year is **Dr. Dale Teeters**, Chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Tulsa. He received his \$1000 award for his work on a nanobattery at the recent pentasectional meeting. A profile of Dr. Teeters will appear in a future issue of *The Southwest Retort*.

# Around-the-Area

## University of Arkansas

Honors College student and chem major **Spencer Shinabery** is one of 14 students to receive a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship from the ACS Division of Organic Chemistry. Assistant Professor **Jingyi Chen** is one of 30 faculty to win the Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement Awards from the Oak Ridge Affiliated Universities. U of A will match this \$5000 award. **Charles Wilkins** is co-editor of his ninth book, *Ion Mobility Spectrometry- Mass Spectrometry: Theory and Application*, published by CRC Press. His co-editor is Sarah Trimpin from Wayne State University. A symposium to honor the late U of A alumnus **Dr. Ves Childs** will take place during the meeting of the Electrochemical Society May 1-6 in Montreal. **Ingrid Fritsch** will present a talk at this symposium. Also attending will be **Holly Childs** and **Lisa Childs**.

Student Undergraduate Research Fellowships are given by the state of Arkansas to undergraduates with at least a 3.25 GPA. The undergraduates given these awards are **Courtney Cagle**, **Nicholas Tingquist**, **Ashlee Bell-Cohn**, **Iris Celeste Kon Njewel**, **Shannon Mumma**, and **Ashley Rosenberg**.

**Roger Koeppe** presented a seminar Mar. 3 at Texas Tech, and **Julie Stenken** gave a talk at a workshop at the Experimental Biology 2011

meeting in Washington, D.C. on April 9.

The following individuals gave either poster or oral presentations April 6-9 at the Nanotechnology and Health Care Conference at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute: **Ryan Tian**, **Jingyi Chen**, **Colin Heyes**, **Jose Aldana**, **Samir Jenkins**, **Hiroko Takeuchi**, and **Daniel Fologea**.

## Dallas-Fort Worth

**D-FW ACS Outstanding Chemistry Student Awards.** A number of years ago **Dr. Andrew Armstrong** of Armstrong Forensic Laboratories funded awards to the outstanding chemistry student at each D-FW area university. Over the years the D-FW ACS Section eventually took over the funding of these awards. Students had to be enrolled in the ACS approved curriculum, be a chemistry or biochemistry major, be at least a junior, have one semester of P-chem completed plus enrolled in the second semester, have at least a 3.0 GPA, and be a member of a Chemistry Club or be an ACS student member, or have presented a paper at a scientific meeting. Here is the list of the 2011 awardees: University of Dallas, **Chelsea R. Vandergrift**; TAMU-Commerce, **Jeremiah Secrest**; Abilene Christian University, **Yoon Joo "Jade" Jung**; Austin College, **Aaron Clubb**; SMU, **Michelle Clinton**; TCU, **Kara Brusoski**; UNT, **Sarah Aitkens**;

UT-Arlington, **Michael Wey**; UTD, **Alex Sheardy**; Texas Wesleyan University, **Jerad Beall**; Tarleton State University, **Alexis Rochester**.

**In Memorium: Former D-FW Chair Robert Lyle, Robert E. Lyle, Jr.** died Mar. 20 after a long illness. After a long career at the University of New Hampshire, Bob Lyle came to UNT as Chair in 1976. Not long thereafter, he was elected Chair of the D-FW ACS Section. Before he could finish out his term, he left UNT and the area in 1979 to become Vice President of the Division of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering at the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio. While he was there, he provided *The Southwest Retort* with a couple of feature articles on the chemistry carried out at that institution. He retired from his position there in 1991.

**UT-Arlington. Pomerantz, Schelly Retire.** Professors **Zoltan Schelly** and **Martin Pomerantz** have retired from the chemistry department as of May 31. Zoltan had a well-funded program in experimental physical chemistry, while Marty's work in organic chemistry had been funded for many years by the Welch Foundation. Both faculty were previous winners of the D-FW Section's Doherty Award. We will say more about these two fine researchers in next month's issue.

**UTA Students Awards.** A number of student awards were given out on April 19 at the College of Science Awards Ceremony. As you read above, **Michael Wey** was selected as the outstanding chemist-

ry/biochemistry major. Following is the rest of the list of award winners: *R. L. Hoyle Award for Outstanding Junior*, **Beatriz Garcia-Barboza**; *John T. Murchison Award for Outstanding Senior*, **Duncan Sloan**; *Outstanding Chemistry Clinic Tutor Award*, **Andy Seal**; *Chemistry and Biochemistry Society Outstanding Member Award*, **Chris Parikh**; *Undergraduate Teaching Award*, **Cynthia Griffith**; *ACS 2010 Undergraduate Award in Analytical Chemistry*, **Lauren Tedmon**; *Undergraduate Research Award*, **Steven Poteet**; *Sharon and Donald Jernigan Scholarship*, **Jonathan Yang**; *Dennis S. Marynick Scholarship*, **Pinaki Bose**; *Daniel and Linda Armstrong Award*, **Nam Tran**; *John T. Murchison Scholarship*, **Catrina Campbell**, **Tijani Osumah**; *Graduate Teaching Award*, **Charles Phillip Shelor**; *Graduate Research Award*, **Yongjing "Lillian" Chen**; *Charles K. Baker Character Fellowship*, **Doug Carlton**, **Joe Aslan**.

## **URGENT! UPDATE THOSE ACS E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

With the upcoming move to an online *Southwest Retort*, it is absolutely necessary that our members with e-mail addresses make sure that they work. When the D-FW section's e-mail blasts are sent out, a disturbing number of them bounce back to D-FW Chair Patty Wisian-Neilson. How do you know that your address isn't working? If you haven't received any e-mails from the D-FW sec-

tion this year, your address isn't working, because several have been sent out. Your problem may be as simple as a misplaced period.

So, what is the urgency? We are working on e-mail procedures to inform our members immediately when the newest *Retort* issue is available online and also give them a direct link to the new issue. Furthermore, if the section goes to electronic voting to decrease costs and increase the percentage of members who vote, a correct e-mail address is a must. Consequently, you can see how important it is for both ACS national and your local section to have an accurate e-mail address for you. Please make every effort to see that this is done.

For our five other member sections, the need for accurate e-mail addresses at ACS national headquarters still holds. While we wouldn't be sending you e-mail blasts about D-FW local section meetings, we still to need to inform you of the availability of the most recent *Retort* issue, while providing you an e-mail link to access it. Therefore, ACS members in Heart o' Texas, South Plains, East Texas, University of Arkansas, and Wichita Falls-Duncan, please see that your e-mail addresses are correct.

## **Members Needed to Run for Local Section Offices**

Regrettably there is once again a need for members to run for D-FW offices. We need two candidates each for Chair-Elect and Alternate Councilor and one each for Secretary and Councilor. This is a great opportunity for members who want to take part in local section activities to do so. It is VITAL for the health of the section to get new people in our various offices. If you are available and willing, please contact the Chair of our Nominations Committee, Trish Smith, at [trishsmithtx@gmail.com](mailto:trishsmithtx@gmail.com).