

the Alembic



Chair's Corner



Greetings to all from the beautiful banks of the Chippewa River. First, allow me to extend to all members of the Section my very best wishes for the holiday season. Having just completed the Thanksgiving holiday, I am more grateful than ever for this most American of holidays, and for its survival against the onslaughts of commercialism. It is still a time for family and friends, and other countries (my own included) would do well to steal it if they could. I hope that your Thanksgiving was as good as mine.

As this last year of the twentieth century draws to a close, it is a good time to look back on the accomplishments of this Section. We are a young Section, and a small one, but we have an excellent turn-out to most of our meetings (weather permitting). Given the long drives that this entails for many of our members, we can be proud of the fact that our Section remains strong. We have an active Section in terms of public outreach: we have won two Phoenix Awards

for participation in National Chemistry Week (thanks, Ilona!), and the student affiliate chapters at Eau Claire and Stevens Point have both won Outstanding Chapter Awards more than once; with one or both appearing in the lists at Honorable Mention or above each year since I have been in the Section.

So, as we head into a new century (and a new millennium -- regardless of what the networks say), think seriously about joining me as a member of the executive committee. In last month's Alembic, the open positions were announced. Please look at them and think about how you can help keep us strong.

I'll see you on December 6 (a WEDNESDAY!) in Marshfield -- weather permitting, of course (my wife still has worries about an Australian who never saw snow until he came to the U.S. driving on the stuff).

To those whom I don't see before then, have a very Happy Holiday Season, and may the new year bring you health and prosperity.

Dave

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American Chemical Society

Central Wisconsin Section



**TOUR OF
ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL / MARSHFIELD CLINIC
JOINT VENTURE LABORATORY**

hosted by
Ron Haas, Clinical Chemist

**Wednesday, December 6, 2000, 7:30 pm
Joint Venture Laboratory Conference Room**

Abstract:

Marshfield Laboratories consists of several inter-related facilities. These include the Joint Venture Laboratory which is located in St. Joseph's Hospital and which will be the site of this tour. Other offsite Clinic facilities in Marshfield include a toxicology lab and a vet laboratory. Two additional vet labs are located in Waukesha and Cleveland, Ohio. A recent startup at Marshfield has been a food safety laboratory.

The Joint Venture Lab provides services to St. Joseph's Hospital and physicians of the Marshfield Clinic as well as esoteric testing services to Clinic Regional Centers, Ministry Corporation sites (of which St. Joseph's Hospital is a member), and other independent healthcare facilities in central and northern Wisconsin. Because of security and time restraints, the toxicology lab will not be toured but is home to automated equipment for urine drug screening by immunoassay and four GC-MS systems used for confirmation. The Marshfield campus labs have some 300+ staff including 19 pathologists (10 anatomical, 5 clinical, 4 vet), 4 PhD scientists (in chemistry, toxicology, microbiology, and food safety) and 11 B.S. level programmers.

Your Host:

Ron Haas graduated from UW-Milwaukee with a B.S. in Chemistry and received a PhD in Analytical Chemistry from UW-Madison in 1970. After a 3-year stint at a hospital laboratory in Kenosha, WI, he joined the Marshfield Clinic in 1973 and continues to serve as technical director in chemistry areas of the Joint Venture Lab and as a consultant to regional laboratories of the Clinic system.

Prior to the meeting, a 6 pm dinner will be held at the China Chef, 233 S. Central Avenue, in downtown Marshfield (located on east side of Central between 2nd and 3rd St.; parking in rear). **Reservations made be made by leaving a message with Ron Haas at:**

715-387-7207 or (haasr@mfldclin.edu) by Dec 6.

To reach the meeting site, enter at the Main Entrance of the Marshfield Clinic (see map next page). A security attendant located at the rear of the main lobby will provide a map to the Joint Venture Lab Conf. Room or follow the posted signs to the right of the main lobby..

ACS-CWS Web Page

<http://chemdept.uwsp.edu/acscws/>

or you can link there from the American Chemical Society home page - Local Sections. Contains the most up-to-date information about section activities.

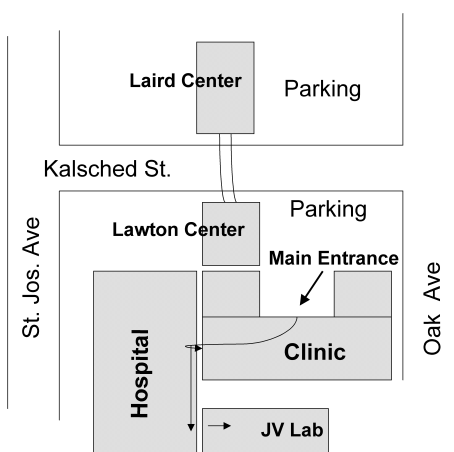
HELP!

The Central Wisconsin Section needs your help in finding people willing to carry on the work of the ACS at our local level.

We need nominations/volunteers to run for **Chair Elect** next year. We need a person to act as **Career Counselor** for the section. We need a person to act as **Media Relations Coordinator**. We need a person to act as **National Chemistry Week Coordinator** for the section. We need **nominations for section awards** for next year.

Please contact Dave Lewis or any other member of the Executive Committee.

Marshfield Clinic Map for Dec 6



2000 CHEMCENSUS: JOBS MORE PLENTIFUL AND SALARIES UP

Jobs are more plentiful and salaries are higher, according to the newly released ChemCensus of the American Chemical Society's members. The unemployment rate fell from 2.3 to 2.0. However, the gains from lower unemployment were offset by an increase in the proportion of members in part-time positions. The proportion of ACS members in postdoc positions remained relatively low at 2.0 percent.

A report on ChemCensus, released at last August's national meeting in Washington, highlights the continuing increase in the proportion of members not working and not seeking work, plus the increase in the proportion of members under 70 years who stated they were fully retired. The median age for the chemists also rose, from 44 to 45 years.

The fall in unemployment reflects a decline in unemployment for the largest employer of chemists--industry, from 2.6 in 1999 to 2.3 on March 1st this year. The declining industrial unemployment rate also reflects age-specific declines in unemployment for chemists: under age 45 from 1.8 in 1999 to 1.5 percent in 2000; ages 45 to 59 from 3.2 to 2.7 percent; and ages 60 though 69 from 6.4 percent to 2.2 percent, even though the latter grouping represents a smaller proportion of the age groups than the others.

Salaries for chemists continued to grow. The median salary for all chemists rose from \$68,000 to \$70,000, an increase of 2.9 percent. Median salaries rose over 5 percent for the BS chemists, from \$50,500 in 1999 to \$53,100. The Ph.D. chemists also fared well with again of almost 4 percent, from \$76,000 to \$79,000. Although they gained in overall

median salaries, the MS chemists slowed their growth over the past three years and only gained \$1000 from 1999 to \$62,000, a modest 1.6 percent gain. The masters were the only group to fall behind the estimated rate of inflation.

The overall median salaries are affected by the make-up of the respondents, such as the rising median age. The survey asked for base salary of individuals for both March 1, 1999 and 2000. Individual gains more clearly reflect the true gains by chemists. For those who showed individual gains over the past year, the total median raise was 4.9 percent, slightly higher than the 4.8 percent individual increases in 1999. Bachelor's maintained a 5.3 percent raise, but MS and Ph.D. chemists showed greater 2000 median individual increases for these groups of 4.8 percent, up from 4.7 in 1999. The strong showing at the MS level shows some of the weaknesses of applying general numbers to individual situations.

The ChemCensus 2000 was sent to about 94,000 members who constitute the "working" domestic membership, under age 70, not affiliate, retired, emeritus, or student.

ChemCensus will be the the basis for four special reports and an all-day symposium at the ACS national meeting in San Diego next spring. The reports are "ChemCensus 2000 Summary Report," "Industrial Chemists 2000," "Academic 2000," and "Women Chemists."

(Edited for CEPA by Mary Jordan, Sr. Research Analyst, Department of Career Services, July 2000)