

the Alembic



Chair's Corner



Greetings from the banks of the Chippewa River!

As I start the new academic year, my thoughts turn to the fresh beginning that each Fall semester brings, and I suspect that I am not alone. For those of us in academia, the start of the Fall semester is much like New Year's day -- a time for resolutions to be made (and -- very occasionally -- kept). It is a time to look back on the last year and see what we can do better this year. In terms of my success rate with these "New Year's resolutions," I am batting somewhere around 150 -- definitely minor league status.

And yet, I continue the ritual every year of picking something that I want to improve in my teaching or research and for a few months, at least, I am successful at achieving it. So why do it, if five out of six times I end up failing? The answer, my friends, lies in the satisfaction of making the attempt. It truly is better to have tried and failed than never to have tried at all.

So now we enter what will be the last semester of my service as Chair of this Section. That I will actually serve out a full term is itself a victory -- this has not happened recently. My term has not been a particularly illustrious one, but we have managed to keep our program moving through some

hard times thanks to an excellent Executive Committee whose support has been of inestimable value to me. I have no doubt at all that they will, likewise, be of great value to my successor.

By the end of this semester, you will have received a ballot with candidates for the various offices of our local section on it. Before that time, many of you will be contacted to see if you are willing to run for one of the offices that are open. Please consider doing so -- our Section needs you. And remember, you don't have to be a raging success to be of help to the Section -- just look at me!

We have just learned that we will be losing Ilona Lin, our Secretary-Treasurer, who has done yeoman's work for the Section for many years, to a change in employment. Please thank her for her many contributions to the Section when you see her -- it will be hard for us who have served with her to see her go.

We have an excellent slate of four speakers for this year, and I hope to see many of you at our meetings (weather permitting!).

Have an excellent year!

Dave

ACS - CWS Mini-Directory

Chair

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Chair-Elect

Vacant

Secretary - Treasurer

Vacant

Councilor

C. Marvin Lang

Alternate Councilor

Don Showalter

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American Chemical Society

Central Wisconsin Section



From Loch Ness Monster to the Killer Lake of Cameroon: Mysteries in Science

by

Prof. Ronald DeLorenzo
Middle Georgia College

Wednesday, September 19, 2001
7:30 PM Science Building A121
UW – Stevens Point

5:30 - 7:00 Dinner, Holiday Inn

Abstract:

Enjoy applying scientific principles to obtain new and unusual insights like deducing the temperature of hell and determining the proper way to open a beer can. Hundreds of Dr. DeLorenzo's answers have appeared in such as the Atlanta Constitution, professional journals, and several textbooks. Answered questions include the following: How can you burn thousands of calories by drinking water? Why do women get drunk faster than men? How can water cure any medical problem? Why do teeth, underwear, and ice cream explode? Why do fingerprints of attacked children disappear? Why do humans kiss? Why does smoke go to the ground if rain is due? Why do extramarital affairs rarely last more than a year? Why is electricity free in the winter? How can sand restore eyesight and hearing? Why are commercial thirst quenchers ineffective? Why won't faded red underwear un-fade in the dark? How are AIDS and unwanted pregnancies affected by hand creams? Why aren't sex and breathing fatal activities? What's the real reason why hot water pipes freeze first? How can a gasoline fire cool a can of beer? What's the real reason water is not applied to oil fires? How is it possible to boil water incorrectly? Why do humans have underarm hair? Why does oatmeal stick to your ribs? How did Coke beat in the cola space war? Why do fizz keepers appear to work when they really don't? Can real gold jewelry turn green? Why do intelligent people join cults?

The Speaker:

Education: Post Doctorate, Duke University (1971) Ph.D., University of Massachusetts Lowell (1970) M.S., University of Massachusetts Lowell (1967) B.S., St. John's University, New York City (1963). Selected professional activities: American Chemical Society National Touring Speaker; author and contributing author for nine college chemistry textbook titles published by D. C. Heath (Massachusetts), Wm. C. Brown (Iowa), West (California), Prentice Hall (New Jersey), and Saunders (Philadelphia); feature editor, Journal of Chemical Education, Applications and Analogies column, published by the Division of Chemical Education of the American Chemical Society; American Chemical Society National Meeting Symposia Organizer and Presider; Video, taped by Atlanta TV station WPBA (Public Broadcasting, Atlanta) with sale proceeds to support Georgia Education; consultant to federal, state, and local Governments. Selected honors: Visiting Scientist Award, American Chemical Society Western Connecticut Section, given to outstanding chemical educators at the university level (1997); Catalyst Award, one of a total of six given for excellence in college chemistry teaching in the U.S. and Canada by the Chemical Manufacturers Association, Washington, DC (1991).

The social mixer and dinner at 5:30pm will be at the Holiday Inn. Dinner reservations should be made by contacting **Marv Lang** at 715-346-3609 or email cmlang@uwsp.edu, or chemistry program assistant Debbie Somers 715-346-2888, **before noon on Wednesday, September 19.**

ACS - Central Wisconsin Section 2001-2002 Meeting Schedule

DATE	LOCATION	SPEAKER	TOPIC	HOST
September 19	Stevens Point	Ronald DeLorenzo	Mysteries in Science	Marv Lang
October 17	Eau Claire	Thomas Holme	Boron	Dave Lewis
December	Marshfield		Tour of Marshfield Clinic Labs	Ron Haas
January 23	Marshfield		"Meeting in Miniature"	Tom Marty
Feb. 11-15	Wausau	C. Alton Hassell	Nuclear Chemistry	
March 20	Eau Claire	David Lewis	"Dave and the Dead Russians"	Jack Pladziejewicz
April 15 - 19	Stevens Point	Joe E. Vinson	Analysis of Cannabinoids	Kevin Czerwinski
May 3	Eau Claire		Awards and Spouses Night	Dave Lewis
Sep. 9 - 13	Stevens Point	Stanley Manahan	Environmental Science	Tom Zamis
Oct. 7 - 11	Eau Claire	J. Ernest Simpson	"Chemistry of Wine"	Dave Lewis

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! Do You Want a Local Section? Join the Fun!

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 and Secretary Treasurer** next year. Please contact Dave Lewis or any other member of the Executive Committee.

Councilor's Report 222nd National ACS Meeting, Chicago, Illinois C. M. Lang; UW-Stevens Point

The second half of the 125th Anniversary Meeting of the ACS was held in Chicago, Illinois on August 25-30, 2001. Once again, I attended the meeting as your Councilor. All told, there were 15,290 attendees/registrants, nearly 6100 technical papers and posters presented, 543 booths sold to 328 exhibitors located in McCormack Place, and all was conducted during a 4-1/2 day time period! Coupled with the fantastic numbers from the spring San Diego meeting, 2001 will go down as the largest ACS meeting year in its 125 year history. Moreover, the National ClearingHouse (NCH) had nearly 1400 employment opportunities posted by 169 employers 1490 interviews had been conducted by Wednesday morning, August 29th. As Councilor from the Central Wisconsin Section, I represented the local membership at the Council meeting. Further, I continued my service on the Council Committee on Constitution & Bylaws, which met all day Sunday (8/26) before the official start of the meeting and

C&B held a 2 hour session immediately following the close of the Wednesday Council meeting. I continue to serve on the National Chemistry Week Task Force which held its meeting on Saturday afternoon (8/25). With Don Showalter, I also conducted an hour long program for "High School Day." Entitled "*The Elements of Leadership: Chemical Demonstrations With A Theme*" the audience was primarily Chicago area high school teacher.

As has been my custom, let me now take a few moments to share some "random thoughts and miscellaneous items" I've noted regarding the Council meeting and other sessions I attended. Hopefully you'll find them of interest. You may also refer to forthcoming issues of *C&EN* for further details.

President-Elect (2002): Later in the fall you will be asked to participate in the ACS national elections. You will be asked to choose between two candidates for the position of President-Elect in the year 2002. The individual elected will also serve as President in 2003 and Immediate-Past President in 2004. The candidates are: *Elsa Reichmanis* from Bell

Laboratories – Lucent Technologies, Murray Hill, NJ and William Carroll, Jr. of Occidental Chemical Corp, Dallas, TX. Read their position statements in *C&EN* along with the information supplied with your ballot. Above all, **VOTE!**

ACS Web-Presence: At the Chicago meeting, several new web-based products were “rolled-out.” Specifically, the new ACS web-site “www.chemistry.org” was reported as being highly successful in reaching both chemists and non-chemists with information about chemistry and society. All indicators point to “big kudos” in all markets. Also, “www.JobSpectrum.org” is a new online career resource and recruiting web-site which recently went operational. It claims that “*the percentage of chemists working full time is at highest level since 1990, and salary increases exceed rate of inflation. But as the economy declines, what lies ahead?*” As of August 27, 2001 the site further claims 2,968 registered users, 2,573 searchable resumes, 821 registered companies and 1,333 active jobs. You might wish to check out this site.

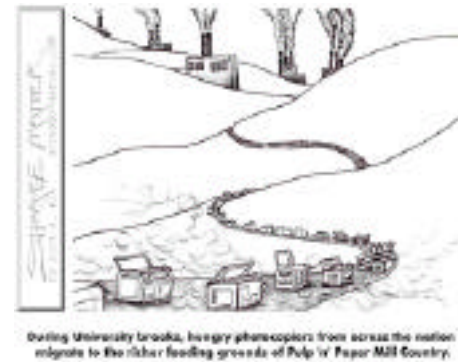
Local Sections and Divisions: It has come to the attention of Council and the Board of Directors that several local sections and technical divisions of the Society are in deep financial trouble. Clearly, some of these units are operating in the red and have done so for several years. The Board of Directors upon advice from the Committee on Budget and Finance established an emergency fund wherein \$100,000 has been set aside for divisions in 2001 and \$50,000 for local sections. The Divisional Activities Committee (DAC) and the Local Section Activities Committee (LSAC) have been charged with devising an appropriate allocation plan. The same dollar amount has been committed for fiscal year 2002. As you may predict, looming on the horizon is a Task Force charged with devising a new allocation plan

of our dues dollar back to local sections and divisions. And, such changes will require alteration of our Society’s Constitution and Bylaws!

New Division: The Council approved the establishment of a new (the 40th) technical division; viz. the Division of Laboratory Automation. Its mission will be to provide a forum both real and virtual for users interested in a wide variety of laboratory automation issues and applications among such diverse areas as drug discovery, combinatorial chemistry, functional genomics, analytical chemistry, and agrochemical discovery. The new probationary division has as its objective “to openly exchange and disseminate technical information about the use of computers, robotics, automation tool, and other related enabling technologies as applied to the study and practice of automation and the chemical sciences.” Further, Council approved a divisional name change ... henceforth the Division of Cellulose, Paper & Textile shall be known as the Division of Cellulose & Renewable Materials.

There really was more to report but I’ve run out of space. Call me [(715)346-3609] or “quiz” me at the next Section meeting. I will be happy to chat about the meeting and its many different facets. And again thank you for choosing me to represent the Central Wisconsin Section as your National ACS Councillor.

Marv



During University breaks, hungry photochemists from across the nation migrate to the lush feeding grounds of Pulp & Paper Mill Country.

Stress Survival Strategies

1. Accept what you cannot change.
2. Create psychological distance.
3. Know your "buttons" and how you act when they are pushed.
4. Avoid replaying unpleasant interactions.
5. Monitor and adjust tension levels.
6. Create a transition between work and home.
7. Take regular joy breaks.
8. Develop positive support systems.
9. Always have something to anticipate.
- 10 Remember the importance of what you do.

Phil Record and David Welsh
