



American Chemical Society

Central Wisconsin Section



## "Dave and the Dead Russians"

by

Dr. David E. Lewis

University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

7:30 PM Phillips Hall, Room 413

UW – Eau Claire

5:30 Cocktails; 6:00 Dinner, Sweetwaters Restaurant

### Abstract:

Most organic chemists are aware of the contributions of German chemists to the development of the science, but relatively few are aware that many of the reactions first learned during the first course in organic chemistry are the work of Russian organic chemists. This view has been exacerbated by the fact that many of these Russian chemists published their work in the German journals (*Ann. Chem. Pharm.*, *J. prakt. Chem.*, or *Ber. Deut. chem. Ges.*), with the result that their names were transliterated from the cyrillic by Germans, not Englishmen. As a result, many of these names are unrecognizable in terms of their national origin (e.g. Saytzeff, Markownikoff). In this talk, the legacy of these Russian organic chemists will be explored.

### The Speaker:

David E. Lewis was born and educated in Australia, taking his Ph.D. in natural products chemistry at the University of Adelaide under R.A. Massy-Westropp. In 1980, following post-doctoral work at the University of Arkansas and temporary faculty positions at Arkansas and Illinois, he took a position as Assistant Professor at Baylor University, where he earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. In 1989 he moved to South Dakota State University as Associate Professor, becoming Professor in 1993. In 1997, he moved to UW-Eau Claire, where he is currently Professor of Chemistry. Lewis' interests are in synthetic organic chemistry, the applications of organic chemistry in medicine and engineering, and in the history of organic chemistry. He is currently Chair-Elect of the ACS Division of the History of Chemistry.

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The social mixer at 5:30 and dinner at 6:00pm will be at Sweetwaters Restaurant, 1104 W. Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire (near the intersection of Clairemont (US 12) and State Highway 37). Dinner reservations should be made by contacting **Jack Pladziejewicz** at 715-836-4855 or email [pladzijr@uwec.edu](mailto:pladzijr@uwec.edu) **before 5 P.M. on Tuesday, March 19.**