



“Chemistry, Society and Science Fiction”

by

Thomas A. Holme

University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

7:30pm University of Wisconsin Stevens Point

Room A109 of the Science Building



Science fiction has long served as a vehicle by which non-scientists encounter science topics. The use of science fiction as an organizing theme has a long history for classes for non-science majors. This talk reflects on past efforts and emphasizes the methods used by the speaker in his own “Chemistry and Science Fiction” course. Current trends in science background for SF stories will be noted and ways to introduce both a scientific and literature perspective will be addressed. A discussion of how SF tends to extrapolate from sound chemical principles to more speculative fiction will provide opportunities for audience participation.

About the Speaker

Dr. Holme is Director of the Examinations Institute of the ACS and a professor of chemistry at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. He and his research group carry out computational modeling studies of physiological implications of molecules that include main group elements, particularly boron and silicon. As Director of the Exams Institute he also has a significant interest in research that focuses on how to assess learning of chemistry. The application of emerging information technologies in the assessment of student knowledge composes the main thrust of his research interests in Chemistry Education. Dr. Holme is also active in Chemical Outreach. He was the recipient of the 1999 Helen Free Award for Public Outreach from the ACS.

Prior to the meeting, a 5:45 PM mixer and dinner will be held at the Chef Chu’s, **5720 Windy Drive (on HWY 10 east of Point across the street from McDonalds).**

After dinner, the talk will be held in Room A109 of the Science Building at the U W – Stevens Point.

For reservations contact Steve Nieland at 715-258-5525 x114 or Cristina Altobelli at (715)346-2888 (email: sniland@gusmerenterprises.com or caltobel@uwsp.edu) by 5 PM on Tuesday February 6th.
