American Chemical Society

Central Wisconsin Section

# "Challenges for Chemists"

by
Dr. Charles P. Casey
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University of Wisconsin - Madison
and
President, American Chemical Society

7:30 PM Wednesday, November 17, 2004
UW - Stevens Point Room A121 *Trytten Lecture Hall*

6:00 Dinner, Michele's Restaurant

**Abstract**

As the 2004 President of the American Chemical Society, I am trying to focus attention on the challenges that chemists and chemistry face. Some of these challenges were outlined in the National Research Council report "Beyond the Molecular Frontier: Challenges for Chemistry and Chemical Engineering". I hope to catalyze discussion of the key problems that chemistry faces. I urge all chemists to make a list of five major societal problems that will require advances in basic chemistry and of five advances in basic chemistry that will enable new opportunities for chemists. This is kind of information that chemists need when presenting the case for support of chemistry to the public, to Congress, and to non-chemist leaders of government science agencies.

Another challenge faced by chemistry is to rethink graduate education in chemistry. The Carnegie Initiative on the Doctorate has helped to bring together 12 universities to share their ideas on retooling the PhD in chemistry. At Wisconsin, we are reexamining the PhD program because we recognize the growing interdisciplinary nature of research and the increased emphasis on teamwork. We are also questioning whether the traditional research divisions still make sense. We have begun the process by considering the characteristics our successful graduates should possess and whether current requirements are the best way to achieve these outcomes.

**Biographical Sketch**

Dr. Charles P. Casey is Homer B. Adkins Professor of Chemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research focuses on mechanistic organometallic chemistry. Current studies include synthesis of zirconium-alkyl-alkene complexes as models for intermediates in metallocene catalyzed alkene polymerization; mechanistic studies of hydrogenation catalysts involving simultaneous transfer of an acidic hydrogen and a metal hydride; and synthesis and reactions of □-propargyl metal complexes. He is author of more than 250 papers in organometallic chemistry. He has served as Chairman of the Organometallic Subdivision of the ACS and as Chairman of the Inorganic Chemistry Division of the ACS, and is a member of the editorial advisory board of the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*. He is currently President-Elect of the ACS. In 1993, he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences and to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He received the A.C. Cope Scholar Award of the ACS in 1988, and ACS Award in Organometallic Chemistry in 1991.

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Prior to the meeting, a 6:00 PM dinner will be held at Michele's Restaurant, 513 Division Street, Stevens Point. Reservations may be made by calling Cristina Altobelli (Chem. Dept. office) at 715-346-2888 (or email caltobel@uwsp.edu) by noon on Tuesday November 16.