Chair's Corner

The September meeting was well attended – there were 15 people at dinner and 23 at the seminar. Dr. Liu’s talk was very interesting and informative about the chemistry of vision. It always amazes me to see examples of the way nature does chemistry. As chemists, we try to understand the chemistry of nature and then improve upon it.

I was recently reading about the amount of methane gas emitted into the atmosphere. Methane is a greenhouse gas and may contribute to climate change. The sources of methane in the atmosphere include emission from natural sources such as wetlands, as well as human sources including agriculture, mining and fossil fuel use. Researchers have used computer simulations to determine the pathways of methane in the atmosphere and from that, infer where the methane arose from. In this manner, it was determined that the cause of the stabilization of the amount of methane emissions during the 1990’s was a reduction in methane emissions from human sources. It is fascinating to me to see the ways that computers can help answer our questions about chemistry. Of course, I can remember the days when it took longer to use a computer to perform a task then doing it manually. Wait, sometimes that is still true!

We have an exciting meeting planned for October and I hope that you can join us in Marshfield. Our elections are coming up in November, so if you are interested in becoming the Chair-Elect of our section please let me know. The duties are not strenuous, they are actually quite fun.

Enjoy the return of fall – cool weather and beautiful color of leaves.

Laura
"Analytical Plasma Source Mass Spectrometric Analysis for Nutrition and Toxicology"

by

Ramon M. Barnes
University of Massachusetts
University Research Institute for Analytical Chem.
Amherst, MA

Wednesday, October 18, 2006
7:30 PM Marshfield Clinic
Laird Center, Room 50

Inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) has been applied with increasing frequency in the biomedical studies of nutrition, drug metabolism, and toxicology. ICP-MS provides reliable isotope ratio determinations and superior metal concentration sensitivity. When combined with compound separation technology as part of the sample introduction phase, ICP-MS enriches the tools available for studies of human metabolism and heavy metal poisoning. Stable isotope analysis methods for biological materials are well established with conventional approaches. These methods, an extensive literature database, and valuable applications with conventional isotope techniques can be extended by ICP-MS. Nutritional, pharmacological, and toxicological models of animals and humans can be expanded with the data throughput of ICP-MS. Examples will be described to illustrate the role of ICP-MS in nutrition, toxicology, and biomedical research.

***About the Speaker***

Ramon Barnes is director of the University Research Institute for Analytical Chemistry, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at the University of Massachusetts, editor of the ICP Information Newsletter (1975-), and chairman of the Winter Conference on Plasma Spectrochemistry (1980-). He received a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from the University of Illinois, Champaign/Urbana, in 1966, an A.M. in chemistry from Columbia University, New York, in 1963, and was a post-doctoral research fellow at Iowa State University, Ames, in 1968 and 1969. He served as an Army Captain at NASA Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, from 1966 to 1968. From 1969 to 2000 he taught analytical chemistry and maintained an international research program at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

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Prior to the meeting, a 5:45 PM mixer and dinner will be held at the China Chef, 233 S. Central Ave.. After dinner, the talk will be in Room 50 of the Laird Center at the Marshfield Clinic (map on the next page.)
For reservations contact Carmen Wiley at 715-387-7904 or (email: wiley.carmen@marshfieldclinic.org)
by 5 PM on Tuesday October 17.
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Showalter Honored

At the 232nd National Meeting of the American Chemical Society held recently in San Francisco, California, UW-SP Chemistry Professor Emeritus Donald L. Showalter was given the Helen M. Free Award for Public Outreach. Mentioned at the award ceremony were his numerous presentations of chemistry demonstration programs to a wide variety of audiences over nearly three decades as well as his participation in the 26 World of Chemistry videotape programs. The World of Chemistry has been presented on public television, educational television and classroom across the Nation and in 35 foreign countries for over 15 years. Don Showalter’s contribution to the public’s understanding and appreciation chemistry will be recognized for many, many years to come.

Left to Right: Cheryl Martin, Chair, Committee on Public Relations and Communication; Don Showalter; Katie Hunt, 2006 ACS President-Elect; Helen M. Free, ACS Past-President and individual for whom the award is named
232nd National Meeting
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
San Francisco, California
September 10-14, 2006
C. Marvin Lang, Councilor

The first national ACS meeting of this millennium was held in San Francisco in March of 2000 and I attended it as your Councilor. It was the largest ACS meeting, ever! Attendance was over 18,300 with an excess of 8200 papers submitted. Last month, the ACS returned to San Francisco and once again, I attended the meeting as your Councilor. As of September 12, 2006, the meeting had attracted 15,603 registrants who presented 3 papers short of 10,000. The Committee on Meetings and Expositions (M&E) reported that national meeting financial targets continue to be met, and therefore recommended to the Board of Directors that there be no increase in national meeting registration fees for 2007.

The following summary reports what I consider to be key actions of the ACS Council and Board of Directors at the 2006 Fall National Meeting.

Elections
• You probably have received balloting information concerning the fall national ACS elections. There are four (4) candidates vying for the position as President-Elect (2007): Bruce E. Bursten, University of Tennessee, Knoxville - Yorke E. Rhodes, Retired from New York University, New York - Bassam Z. Shakhashiri, University of Wisconsin, Madison - James A. Walsh, Retired from John Carroll University, Florida. Your vote must be received by November 3, 2006 – either electronically or by mail. If no single candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, a “run-off” election will be held between the top two candidates shortly after November 3rd. Please vote …
• The Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E) is also conducting an election for a three year term to the Board of Directors from District V (2007-2009): candidates are John E. Adams, University of Missouri, Columbia - and incumbent Judith L. Benham, Retired from 3M Company, Minnesota. The Central Wisconsin Section is part of District V. Your ballot will give you a choice between these two candidates. Please vote …

Petitions for Consideration
• The Council received three petitions for “Consideration:” 1) Petition on Election Procedures 2006; 2) Petition on Multi-Year Dues; and a 3) Petition on Rules for Nominating Members of Nominations and Elections for National Offices. A brief discussion ensued on the Petition on Rules for Nominating. “Action” is expected on these petitions at the 2007 spring national meeting in Chicago.

The Society’s Membership
• The Committee on Membership Affairs reported that through August 2006, a record 12,137 new applicants have been added to the Society’s membership, and that the “Member-Get-A-Member” campaign is well on its way to the goal of 1,000 new members in this year. Current membership hovers just under 160,000.

Committee Review and Committee Change in Status
• As part of a regular review, the Council VOTED to continue the Committee on Public Relations and Communication (CPRC), the Committee on Environmental Improvement (CEI), and the Committee on International Activities subject to concurrence by the Board of Directors. The Council also VOTED to support the request of the Committee on Community Activities (CCA) that its status be changed from an “other committee” of the Board to a joint Board-Council Committee. The purpose of the Committee on Community Activities is to improve the public perception of chemistry by providing programs to connect chemists with their communities. I have the pleasure of currently serving on CPRC and CCA.

Governance Review
• The Council received a report from the Council Policy Committee (CPC) on activities related to Governance Review. The Board-CPC Governance Review Task Force generated 23 ideas following initial interaction with the Board, Council,
Committees and other interested members. A joint meeting of the Board of Directors and CPC was held at this meeting to prioritize the 23 ideas into three categories: to advance the idea as worthy of further consideration by the cognizant committee and/or interested groups; to refine the idea which will be sent back to the Governance Review Task Force for further consideration; or to place the idea in a “stop” category as an idea that will receive no further consideration as part of the governance review. Councilors received a listing of the 23 ideas organized into the three categories as prioritized jointly by the Board and CPC.

Special Discussion Item
- In recent years, it has become customary for the President to put a special discussion item on the Council’s agenda. San Francisco’s discussion focused on ensuring the American Chemical Society’s future by engaging younger members throughout the Society’s volunteer leadership. ACS President E. Ann Nalley framed the discussion by presenting the results of a councilor survey on the topic and many councilors offered useful comments and suggestions.

Review of the Chemical Professional’s Code of Conduct
- The Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA) submitted its latest version of the Chemical Professional’s Code of Conduct for Council review. This document offers guidance for Society members in various professional dealings, especially those involving conflicts of interest.

The Society’s Mission
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Planning, the Board voted to adopt a revised ACS mission statement: “To advance the broader chemistry enterprise and its practitioners for the benefit of Earth and its people.”

The Society’s Finances
- The Board, through the Committee on Budget and Finance (B&F), voted to approve funding requests for the Society’s Green Chemistry Institute and for workshops with Hispanic and Native American-serving institutions and to include these funding amounts in the Society’s 2007 proposed operating budget.

The Board also received a report from the Program Review Advisory Group (PRAG). PRAG is charged with reviewing programs of the Society (with some exceptions) on a periodic and regular basis.

Concluding Remarks
As mentioned in previous Councilor’s Reports, I have been on the floor of the Council 63 times - either as your Councilor or as a member of the Board of Directors. It truly is a pleasure to represent you and the American Chemical Society and I thank you for electing me to another term (2006-2008) as Councilor. In recent years, I have served the Council’s Committee on Community Activities, Meetings & Expositions, and the joint Board/Council Committee on Public Relations & Communications and I have continued with these assignments in 2006. At the San Francisco meeting, Councilors from District V elected me to serve a two year term as Caucus Chair and so more committee work looms on the horizon. And it is always a pleasure to “bump” into Al Denio (former CWS member) who sends greetings back to his many Section friends. He continues to be in good health and is active in his local Delaware Section. And now fanfare and horns a-blowing: The most exciting event of the 2006 San Francisco meeting was the special recognition received by our own Don Showalter … he was named recipient of the Helen M. Free Award For Public Outreach. At the gala ChemLuminary event, he received his trophy, award and recognition in front of a ballroom filled with chemists, engineers and adoring fans. So, at the next Section meeting give him thumbs-up, a congratulatory salute or a pat on the back!

Marv Lang