NETCHEM NEWS

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FALL 1999 ISSUE

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Call for Nominations!!!

Call for nominations. looking for a way to become involved in NETS? The Northeast Tennessee Section is seeking nominations for the officers for the year 2000. Offices up for election are;

Chair-elect
Treasurer
Secretary
Executive Committee Member (1)

Please send your nominations before Nov. 15 to Jeff G. Wardeska, Chair, Nominations comm. r21jeff@etsu.edu or 423-439-4453

NETS-ACS Officers

Office	Officer	Telephone	E-mail
Chairman	Lori Wilson	(423) 439-6912	wilsonl@ACCESS.ETSU.EDU
Past Chair	Jeff Wardeska	(423) 439-4453	r21jeff@ACCESS.ETSU.EDU
Chairmanelect	Gerry Rhodes	(423) 229-6446	grho@eastman.com
Secretary	Craig Lott	(540) 395-5958	craig.lott@coastalcorp.com
Treasurer	Shawn Dougherty	(423) 224-9011	shawnmd@eastman.com
Councilor	Kevin Edgar	(423) 229-4396	kjedgar@eastman.com
Alternate Councilor	Walter Crouse	(540) 328-0224	WCC8A@clinch.edu
Executive Committee	Steve Perri '99	(423) 229-0322	sperri@eastman.com
	James Duchamp '00	(540) 944-6183	jcducham@ehc.edu
	Dean Webster '00	(423) 224-0887	dwebster@eastman.com

National Chemistry Week
November 7-13

A Global Salute to Polymers

Date: Tuesday, November 9th

Reservations Due by Thursday, November 4!

Location: Hands On! Museum
315 East Main Street,
Johnson City, TN

Times: 5:00 p.m. Open House
6:00 p.m. Reception /Social in the Annex
6:30 p.m. Dinner in the Annex
7:30 p.m. Meeting and talk
8:00 p.m. Presentation of the Award
8:05 p.m. Demonstrations

Program:

Starting in November of 1998 the community of chemists worldwide began participating in the International Chemistry Celebration, a yearlong initiative that was established to enhance public appreciation of chemistry and its positive contribution to everyday life throughout the world. One of the activities related to the celebration is A Global Salute to Polymers. A Global Salute to Polymers is an international series of public events designed to recognize the positive impact of polymers, both natural and synthetic, on everyday life and to mark the sites of polymer achievements worldwide. The Northeast Tennessee Section of the American Chemical Society will recognize and honor Eastman's Spectar Copolymer with a Global Salute to Polymers. We believe that Spectar Copolymer is truly worthy of this recognition because of its strength, chemical resistance, optical clarity and its many other unique properties. We have developed an exhibit at the Hands On! Museum and invite you to tour the museum prior to the meeting. There will have a presentation by Dr. Greg O. Nelson, Vice President of Polymers Technology, Eastman Chemical Company.

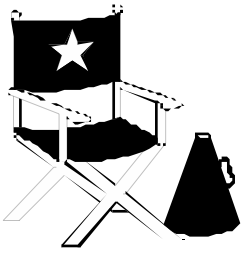
Menu: Garden Fresh Salad with Assorted Vegetables, Chicken Breast Sauteed with Onions and Sliced Mushrooms and Served in a Swiss Wine Sauce, Pecan Rice Pilaf, Vegetable Medley (Califlower, Broccoli, Carrots in a Light Cheese Sauce), Rolls, Cinnamon Apple Pie, Fresh Fruit Cups, Iced Tea, Coffee.

Reservations:

The cost of dinner is $15.00. Respond by phone, email, or letter by **11-4-99.** See info below. If you have any doubts about your reservation being received by **11-4-99** contact Mike Shelton at the phone number or e-mail address listed below. As always, there is no cost for attending the meeting only.

For reservations mail, call, or e-mail by **11-4-99.**

Address:
Mike Shelton
Eastman Chemical Company
B-150B P.O. Box 1972
Kingsport, Tennessee 37662
Phone: 423-229-3542
e-mail: mcshelton @eastman.com



From the Chair . . .

I just returned from SERMACS'99 in Knoxville, TN. The East Tennessee Section did a fantastic job in organizing the meeting. They had an excellent exhibit and selection of symposia. The question came up about when our section would be putting in a bid to host SERMACS. I responded that most of us have not recovered from the last time but we will most likely host it again in the future. If we did host the meeting in the Tricities area we have more options for the location of the meeting with the building of the Continuing Education center here in Johnson City and the Meadowview Conference center in Kingsport. It is certainly something we should all be thinking about and planning to do in the future.

This fall has brought some changes that are certain to affect our section eventually. The early retirements and layoffs at Eastman Chemical Company, our largest employer of chemists in the area, will certainly bring hard times to some of our membership. The section will do its best to respond to the needs of our members. The Department of Career Services (DCS) of the ACS offers many resources to help ACS members in seeking new employment opportunities, a change in their career, or changes within their organizations. DCS has a number of publications that will help you cope with sudden workplace changes, or provide guidance with your current job. Workforce analysis reports provide information on chemists' salaries, current trends in the chemical workforce, and international opportunities. The Career Videos series provides additional resources on changing your career, developing the right resume, and tips on a winning interview. Workshops & Presentation, which are given at the national and regional ACS meetings and provide the opportunity for you to interact with career advisors, and shape your future employment opportunities to your individual needs. (For more information, call ACS Career Services at 1-800-227-5558; Select 1, ext. 6153#; or e-mail: k_smith@acs.org). For those facing the decisions brought about by early retirement the ACS has some resources for you as well (For more information visit http://www.acs.org:80/insurance/tools.htm).

Career specialists predict that people entering the workforce in the new millennium in all professions can expect to change jobs ten times and have five different employers. I would suspect that chemists change jobs less frequently but nonetheless this is part of doing business in the new millennium. While it will bring changes to our section we are still hopeful about the future of chemistry in Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia.

See you at the meetings!

—Lori J. Wilson

Councilor's Corner

The recent ACS National Meeting in New Orleans was notable for more than just heat, humidity (who but a bunch of chemists would go to N.O. in August???), and great food. It was a very active week for me, representing you at a highly entertaining Council meeting, participating in a day and a half of meetings of the Society Committee on Education (SOCED), then chairing a subcommittee of the Chemical Safety committee as well as presenting during the full committee meeting. Given that I was also active in Cellulose Division activities as the incoming Program Chair of that division, there was quite a bit of rushing around (my shirts were soaked through all week long – but that's another story). You will have heard about the activities of Council in C&E News by now, so I'll mention them only briefly, and will fill you in on other highlights of my activities there as your representative.

It was a week for controversy, and SOCED was no exception. Previous Councilor reports have mentioned the effort within the committee to beef up ACS activity in the area of graduate education (GE). In the aftermath of a conference on GE sponsored by SOCED in February, the committee has trying to decide how to implement some very worthy initiatives that emerged from the conference. These include improving graduate curricula to better prepare students for the demands of their careers (communication, teamwork, economics, scientific ethics, etc.), sharing best practices between institutions, and measures intended to balance the extremely powerful influence that an advisor wields over a grad student's future, among others. A proposal formulated off-line to initiate a new ACS committee on graduate education was passed by SOCED (I'm still an associate and don't get to vote, but would have voted "no" because of the unwieldiness of the proposed new bureaucracy). However it did not receive Board approval and therefore new methods must be sought to implement the graduate education recommendations. The conference report makes excellent suggestions that if implemented will make a significant positive difference for grad students and their future employers. It's my belief that those recommendations can be implemented by SOCED, working with academic departments and with other interested ACS committees. If I am able to remain on SOCED next year this will be my main focus. SOCED also formulated the statement that was later issued by ACS opposing the removal by Kansas of teaching of evolution from the state education standards.

I chaired a subcommittee of the Chemical Safety committee on Saturday, and participated in the full committee meeting Monday. The statement on using cut-proof gloves (e.g. Kevlar) when handling glassware in a situation in which breakage is likely, which I prepared and presented to the committee last meeting, has been accepted. It will be incorporated into the next version of "Safety in the Academic Chemical Laboratory", which is one of the most popular ACS publications. My subcommittee continues to do the safety reviews for "Wonderscience", the series of magazines put out by ACS which contain simple chemical experiments using household items for teaching chemistry to elementary age children. By the way, this series will be complete after 2000, and a new and "more focused" series is planned to take its place. The committee decided to give assistance to a program designed to give high school teachers guidance in disposal of hazardous chemical wastes. An Ohio teacher proposed such a program; the committee has decided to explore ways to take it to national scope. The problem of disposal of hazardous wastes from secondary schools by people who are not well-trained in chemistry is viewed as one of national proportions.

Most of the Council activity has been thoroughly reported in C&E News and I'll not rehash it here. One item is worthy of further discussion. For about the last year a move has been afoot to address a perceived discrepancy between expenses and income from national meetings. Due to some changes in ACS accounting, meetings have been allocated a larger share of fixed costs for the last couple of years and it has made their finances look bad. The reallocation was an attempt to distribute fixed costs more fairly, and I really can't comment on how fair the allocation is now. The plan that the Meetings and Expositions committee of ACS came up with to fix the apparent deficit is to increase some meeting fees, particularly those for non-members, including student non-members, and teachers (member or not). As you can imagine, this generated an unbelievable amount of heat, both in committees like SOCED and in full Council. As a result, M&E agreed to phase in the changes more slowly, to make more accommodation to teachers, and to monitor any decrease in student and teacher attendance, with the intent to take action if such decrease materializes. Some of the student and teacher fees were extremely low, some student and teacher attendance is supported by grants, and it may be that the proposed increases will have little effect on attendance. I voted against the proposal, and did so for the simple reason that I could never get an answer from M&E representatives, after asking about four times in different venues, to a simple but vital question. What is the actual variable cost to the Society of a single attendee at an ACS meeting? Many meeting costs are fixed; moving equipment to the site, staff travel expenses, advertisements, bus rentals, etc. Even printing costs are only slightly variable, since most materials are printed in bulk well ahead of time and before the actual number of attendees is known. My suspicion is that the actual cost that would vary with the number of attendees is quite low, perhaps less than $10. If that's the case then anything the Society does which will decrease the number of attendees will cost the Society money; never mind all the other negative effects from discouraging attendance at one of the flagship activities of the world chemical community! In any case, the measure passed; let's hope that it does not have a major impact on attendance.

Speaker of the Year Nominations

Nominations are being solicited for the 2000 NETS-ACS Speaker of the Year. Nominees should be chosen from the Section's area and based on one or more of the following criteria;

1. Outstanding technical contributions to the field of science.

2. Impact on the chemical industry in some way other than a technical achievement.

3. Outstanding contribution to science education.

4. A positive impact on the perception of science with the public.

Nominations with supporting documentation should be submitted by late Novemeber to Jeff G. Wardeska, Department of Chemistry, Box 70695, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN 37614 or electronically r21jeff@etsu.edu

Free Publications for You

The following publications will be available on a first-come, first-served basis at the Hands On Museum "Salute to Polymers" meeting November 9th, 1999.

Science Fair Projects: A Guide for Grown-ups

Posters: City Chemistry
Suburb Chemistry
And more posters

Wonder Science Back issues: "Millimeters, Centimeters, and Beyond!" "Classification"

Apples, Bubbles, and Crystals: Your Science ABC's(includes activities, normally $12.95)

Webs, Wires, and Waves: The Science and Technology of Communication(Crack a Secret Code, Make a Radio Speaker, Build a Ping-Pong Network are just some of the 16 creative, hands-on activities)

Careers in Chemistry Video

Call for Topics for the NETS-ACS Local History Meeting, January, 2000

Submitted by Steve Perri

NETS-ACS is planning for the Local Section History Program for the January local section meeting. Last year we had a presentation on the Geologic History of Saltville, Virginia describing the deposition of minerals and the discovery of dinosaur bones in the area. So this year we are soliciting topics from the membership that would be of interest to our membership for 2000.

Membership ideas and suggestions are critical to our ability to offer this program on a continual basis. There is a great deal of chemical history in our Section that our more seasoned members are familiar with that could meet this need. Ultimately, some of these programs could be considered in a formal nomination process to a National Historic Landmark application. So if you have any ideas or know of someone who may be a good source of information, please let me know! I can be reached by phone at 423-229-1484 or email: sperri@eastman.com.

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We Need to Know About Your Personal Activities in 1999 Which Promote the Field of Chemistry.

As part of the annual report for each local section of American Chemistry Society, activities for which local section members have participated, organized, or attended can be counted. Please send photographs, caricatures, sentence or paragraph descriptions, memos, school newsletters, newspaper articles or any other documentation of activities you know about. The only stipulations are that a Northeast Tennessee Section member or affiliate was involved and that the activity in some way promoted the public awareness of chemistry or a career in chemistry. Activities can include something as simple as a Girl Scout troop tour through your company's laboratory, performing a demo or talk to a child's class about chemistry, or judging a local science fair. The activities do not have to be documented in the news, and the more activities, the better for our section. Please send all ideas or documentation to Craig Lott, P.O. Box 1578, Coeburn, VA 24230 or email craig.lott@coastalcorp.com.

Submissions welcome!!!

NETCHEM NEWS submissions are always welcome!!!

by e-mail: jcducham@ehc.edu
by regular mail : P.O. Box 78 Emory, VA 24327
by fax: Attn. James Duchamp
Chemistry Department
540 944-6934

James C. Duchamp
NETS-ACS Newsletter Editor
540 944-6183 (Office - voice-mail)
540 944-3099 (Home)

NETS-ACS Website Moves

The NETS-ACS website has moved to its new home on the national ACS membership server. The URL to reach the website is http://memership.acs.org/N/NETENN/ The site contians information about the local section including meeting information and locations (as it becomes available), data from four ears of NCW surveys, and a copy of this newsletter (in color!). We're planning to add pictures taken at local meetings soon.

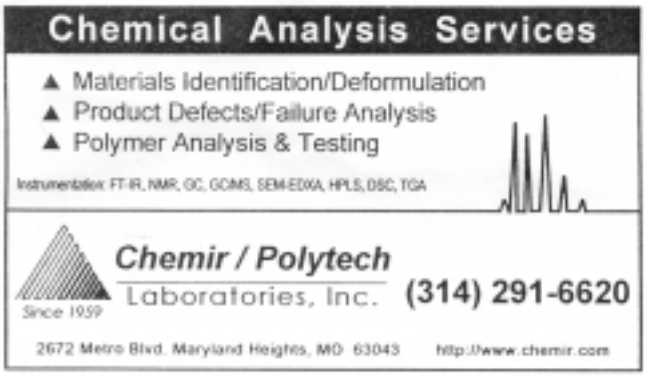
Please browse our sections website and send suggestions toJim Duchamp, NETS-ACS webmaster at jcducham@ehc.edu

The Women Chemists Committee of the American Chemical Society is pleased to Call for Applications for Travel Awards

For post-doctoral, graduate, and undergraduate women to make their first research presentation at a scientific meeting.

Sponsored by:
Eli Lilly & Company

For more information and an application form, please contact http://www.tamug.tamu.edu/acswcc or Cheryl Brown, 800/227-5558 ext. 6022
e-mail: c_brown@acs.org
American Chemical Society
1155 Sixteenth St. NW; Washington, DC



NETSACS
P.O. Box 7180
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R. Craig Lott
Spectrum Laboratories
P.O. Box 1578
Coeburn, VA 24230-1578
(W) (540)395-5958
(H) (540)628-1432
OR
Gerry Rhodes
Eastman Chemical Company
P.O. Box 1972
Kingsport, TN 37662
(423) 229-6446