

The Chemical Bulletin

<http://chicagoacs.org>

NOVEMBER • 2009

CHICAGO SECTION AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Zhivago Restaurant & Banquets
9925 Gross Point Road
Skokie, IL
847-982-1400

DIRECTIONS TO THE RESTAURANT:

From the city: Take Lake Shore Drive North to Sheridan Road into Evanston. Continue north on Sheridan Road and turn left on Central St. Turn left on Gross Point Rd. and proceed to the restaurant.

From the west: Take I-88 east to I-294 north to Dempster east. Take Dempster to Gross Point Rd. Turn left on Gross Point Rd. and proceed to the restaurant.

From Edens Expressway: Exit onto Dempster east to Gross Point Rd. Turn left on Gross Point Rd. and proceed to the restaurant.

From the Tech Institute in Evanston: Go North on Sheridan Rd. and turn left on Central St. Turn left on Gross Point Rd. and proceed to the restaurant.

(FOR DETAILS, SEE SECTION'S WEBSITE)

PARKING: Free in the lot. Parking is also available at Keeler Avenue and Gross Point Road.

JOB CLUB 5:30 p.m.

SOCIAL HOUR 5:30 p.m.

DINNER 6:30 P.M.
Dinner reservations are required and should be received in the Section Office via phone (847-391-9091), email (chicagoacs@ameritech.net) or website (<http://chicagoacs.org>) by noon on Monday November 16. PLEASE HONOR

YOUR RESERVATIONS. The Section must pay for all dinner orders. No-shows will be billed.

The dinner cost is \$35 to Section members who have paid their local section dues, members' families, and visiting ACS members. The cost to members who have NOT paid their local section dues and to non-Section members is \$37. The cost to students and unemployed members is \$20. PLEASE HONOR YOUR RESERVATIONS. The Section must pay for all dinner orders. No-shows will be billed.

APPETIZER COURSE - SERVED FAMILY STYLE: Fresh tomato and mozzarella salad, breads, fire cracker meat rolls with Asian sauce, calamari and fresh vegetables

SOUP COURSE: Cream of Mushroom

DINNER COURSE: Choice of entrée: Beef Brochette (skewered beef tenderloin filet marinated in house marinade and grilled with an array of vegetables), Salmon (broiled on a bed of spinach with Sonoma Curtier Russian River Sauce), or Vegetarian Pasta

DESSERT COURSE - SERVED FAMILY STYLE: Assorted pastries and fresh fruit

BEVERAGE: Coffee, Tea, Soft Drinks

General Meeting 7:45 p.m.



Dr. Mitch Jacoby, Senior Editor, *Chemical and Engineering News*

Title: "A Behind-the-Scenes Look at the Weekly News Magazine of the World of Chemistry"

Abstract: Week in and week out the staff of the American Chemical Society's flagship magazine, *Chemical & Engineering News*, puts together a timely, authoritative, and lively collection of stories on the science, business, governance, and human-interest side of key developments in the worldwide chemical enterprise. Ever wonder how they manage to pull it all off?

Join *C&EN* senior editor Mitch Jacoby

(continued on page 2)

NOTICE TO ILLINOIS TEACHERS

The Chicago Section ACS is an ISBE provider for professional development units for Illinois teachers. Teachers who register for this month's meeting will have the opportunity to earn up to 3 CPDU's.

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for a fascinating inside look at the weekly rhythms that drive news story proposals, story selection and assignment, writing, editing, and more editing. The talk will address what makes chemistry news and why – and – the essentials of good science journalism.

Biography: Mitch Jacoby was an undergraduate at Cleveland State University and a graduate student at Northwestern University. In 1993, he completed his Ph.D. studies in physical chemistry under the direction of Peter C. Stair. His thesis work focused on electron-surface interactions and the application of surface analytical techniques to probe those phenomena. Upon graduating, Jacoby managed a Chicago-area environmental laboratory specializing in analysis of hazardous gases. Since 1997, he has served as a science writer for *Chemical & Engineering News*, where he covers developments in catalysis, materials, alternative energy issues, and other topics.

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JOB CLUB

The next meeting of the **Chicago Section ACS Job Club** will be held on Wednesday, **November 18 at 5:30 p.m. at Zhivago Restaurant**. The meeting will include a review and discussion of some of the tools that a chemist can use to conduct a job search.

The Job Club provides a continuing opportunity for unemployed members of the Section to meet with one another, share their experiences and develop a network that may help in identifying employment opportunities. Bring plenty of resumes and business cards to distribute to your colleagues. Be prepared to talk about the kind of job you are seeking.

Several participants have received outsource help with resume preparation and marketing strategies to present their best attributes to prospective employers. The group has critiqued some individual resumes and made suggestions for improvements in a positive way!

The Job Club is also for employers seeking chemists. Employers need to be prepared to describe the positions to be filled and requirements for these positions.

Should you wish to attend the Section's dinner meeting following the Job Club, the cost is \$20 and you can continue your networking activities. Please call the Section office for reservations and indicate that you are eligible for a discount.

Also, the Chicago Section's website has a link to the Job Club's yahoo job forum group. If you can't attend the Job Club, you can still find out about job openings and other information.

2010 SECTION DINNER MEETING DATES

January 21	- Jointly with AIChE
February 19	- Jointly with IIT-Kilpatrick Lecture
March 12	- Public Affairs Meeting
April 20	-
May 21	- Gibbs Award Banquet
June 24	- Distinguished Service Award; 50 & 60-year members
September 24	- Education Night at Loyola
October 22	- Basolo Award Dinner with Northwestern
November 18	- Stieglitz Lecture with University of Chicago
December 10	- Holiday Party - Jointly with Chemists' Club & Iota Sigma Pi

WCC ARTICLE AUTHORS NEEDED

The Chicago Section's Women Chemists Committee has a project to highlight women, both current and historical, and topics of interest to women. The project is called the "WCC Column" in the *Chemical Bulletin* and the project has been very successful.

We invite anyone, women or men, to join us in this endeavor of writing an article for the column. The article needs to be about 500 words long and will also be put on the Chicago Section website. The author also needs to design a poster for the corresponding monthly meeting. Our office manager, Gail Wilkening, will help with the poster, which can be primarily a large font version of what you wrote, if you wish. We welcome new authors and those who have already discovered what a pleasure this project is. Whether you interview a current chemist or research an historical chemist on the web, please join us in this stimulating activity.

CO-CHAIRS MARGY LEVENBERG
AND SUSAN SHIH

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"CHEM SHORTS" For Kids

The Elementary Education Committee of the Chicago Section ACS presents this column. They hope that it will reach young children and help increase their science literacy. Please print it out and pass it on to your children, grandchildren, or elementary school teachers. It is hoped that teachers will incorporate some of the projects in this column into their lesson plans.

Graphene 101

Kids, every time someone writes a line with a pencil, the resulting mark includes bits of the hottest new material in chemistry and nanotechnology: graphene. You may already be acquainted with graphite, diamond, and fullerene (aka buckyball). What do they have in common? They are all made of pure carbon! In chemistry terms, they are called "allotropes". And now the latest addition to the family is graphene. Graphene is a carbon sheet that is one atom thick where the carbon atoms are bonded to each other in a network of repeating hexagons to form a honeycomb array. Believe it or not, the film is stronger than diamond. And it conducts electricity about 100 times better than silicon. These properties make graphene the thinnest material out there, in addition to the strongest.

Graphene can be made from graphite, the "lead" in a pencil: a kind of pure carbon formed from flat, stacked layers of atoms. The layered structure of graphite has been known for many years. Graphene is the name given to one sheet of graphite.

Researchers can split graphite crystals into progressively thinner wafers by scraping or rubbing them against another surface. This is called "micromechanical cleavage". They simply stick a flake of graphite onto plastic adhesive tape, fold the sticky side of the tape over the flake and then pull the tape apart, cleaving the flake in two. As the process is repeated, the resulting fragments grow thinner and thinner until they are only one atom thick. They have high crystal quality and are chemically stable.

We encourage you to watch a YouTube video, "Making Graphene 101, Ozyilmaz' Group" at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rphiCdR68TE> and try this yourself with an adult partner. As a less involved experiment, just use the side of a pencil tip to fill in an area about 2" square on a sheet of paper, then apply

adhesive tape to the markings. Use another piece of tape to peel off more from the tape, repeat, and observe what is lifted up.

Commercial applications may soon be invented, now that newer methods have been developed that involve etching the carbon away from a silicon, copper, or nickel base. Potential uses include cell phones, touch screens, solar cells, and other energy storage and electronic applications.

Acknowledgements:

<http://chemistry.about.com/b/2009/07/12/have-you-heard-about-graphene.htm>

and

April 2008 *Scientific American Magazine*, "Carbon Wonderland" by Andre K. Geim and Philip Kim

Submitted by DR. KATHLEEN CARRADO

All past "ChemShorts for Kids":
<http://membership.acs.org/C/Chicago/ChmShort/kidindex.html>

ACS Now More Than Ever

Check out <http://acsnow.org/> now, a new innovative and paperless electronic online experience for ACS members and potential members. Called ACS Now More than Ever, it's the next generation ACS e-Annual Report plus an overview of ACS member benefits.

The site not only offers access to the ACS e-Annual Report, it also showcases many of the ACS resources that can help you further your research, jumpstart your career and plan your professional future. From career advice to educational opportunities to networking possibilities and beyond, this online overview will lead you in the right direction. It's also a great recruiting tool if people ask you why they should join ACS.

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ACS SCHOLARS TO CELEBRATE 15TH ANNIVERSARY

The American Chemical Society Scholars Program will mark its 15th anniversary in 2010 with events at both the spring national meeting in San Francisco and the fall national meeting in Boston, with the greater number of programs taking place in Boston. More details will come as the time approaches; nonetheless members can look forward to a symposium in San Francisco featuring both current and graduate ACS Scholars. For additional information about the ACS Scholars Program visit www.acs.org/scholars, send an email to scholars@acs.org, call 202-872-6250 directly or 1-800-227-5558 ext. 6250 toll-free. Anyone interested in investing in the program's future should contact the ACS Development Office at 202-872-6210 or visit www.acs.org/giving.

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NOVEMBER HISTORICAL EVENTS IN CHEMISTRY

November 1, 1909 Hooker Electro-Chemical Company was founded.

November 2, 1841 C. H. C. Willgerodt, who researched the conversion of internal ketones to terminal thioamides, which is known as the Willgerodt reaction, was born.

November 5, 1854 Paul Sabatier, who researched catalysis in organic chemistry and discovered the process for hydrogenation of oils to solid fats with Senderens, was born. In 1912, he shared the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his method of hydrogenating organic compounds in the presence of finely disintegrated metals whereby the progress of organic chemistry was greatly advanced in later years by F. Victor Grignard with the discovery of the so-called Grignard reagent.

November 7, 1929 Eric Kandel, who discovered how the efficiency of synapses can be modified and did research in molecular mechanism of memory, was born. In 2000, he shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with Arvid Carlsson and Paul Greengard for their discoveries concerning signal transduction in the nervous system.

November 11, 1884 Jean-Baptiste A. Dumas, who isolated methanol in 1834 and anthracene with Peligot from coal tar in 1831, died. He also did research on the composition of water, vapor density and made accurate measurement of nitrogen in compounds (Dumas method).

November 14, 1863 Leo Baekeland, who patented Velox paper and plastic Bakelite, was born. He was known as the "father of the plastic industry".

November 15, 1280 St. Albertus Magnus, who discovered arsenic in 1250 and was the first to use affinity in the sense of chemical reactions, died.

November 18, 1918 Lawrence E. Glendenin, who discovered promethium in 1945, with J. A. Marinsky and C. D. Coryell, was born.

November 20, 1886 Karl von Frisch, who discovered how bees orient and communicate, was born. In 1973, he shared the Nobel Prize in Medicine with Konrad Lorenz and Nikolaas Tinbergen for their discoveries concerning organization and elicitation of individual and

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(continued from page 4)

social behaviour patterns.

November 24, 1859 The Origin of Species by Charles Darwin was published by Oxford University Press

November 26, 1934 Beckman Instruments, Inc. was incorporated.

LEOPOLD MAY

Professor Emeritus of Chemistry
The Catholic University of America
Washington, DC

Additional historical events can be found at Dr. May's website, <http://faculty.cua.edu/may/Chemistrycalendar.htm> or the *This Week in Chemical History* at the ACS website: <http://www.acs.org/whatischemistry>.

REGISTER ONLINE for
Chicago Section
monthly meetings
www.ChicagoACS.org

THE UN-COMFORT ZONE with Robert Wilson

Will You Freak-Out or Hunker Down?

Sometimes motivation is forced upon us. We are thrust into the Un-comfort Zone. And, whether we sink or swim depends on how we respond to the situation. How do you react during a crisis?

Here are the stories of two men who faced a crisis late in life and how they dealt with it. One was a restaurant owner; the other a janitor. The former went into bankruptcy at an age when most people retire, and the latter was fired from a job he'd had for nearly 20 years.

The **restaurant owner** enjoyed a successful business in a small town at the edge of the Appalachian Mountains. It was a great location along busy U.S. Route 25. And, because he offered the best food and service around, his eatery was jammed from sunup to sundown. But it wasn't to last.

The **janitor** started his job at St. Peter's Church in London as a teenager. Over the years he married and raised a family and enjoyed a perfectly predictable profession with solid job security. That is until the new vicar came along.

Over the course of 26 years, the **restaurant owner** was honored by the state governor for his recipes; and was praised by famous restaurant critic,

CONTACT THE CHAIR

Do you have any questions, suggestions, ideas, gripes, or complaints relating to the Chicago Section? Do you want to volunteer, help out, or lend a hand with Section programs or activities? Then contact your Chair. Simply log onto the Section's Web Page at <http://chicagoacs.org>, click on the "Contact Us" tab, look for "Contact the Chair" a little way down the page, click on it, and send me an e-mail. If I can answer your query I will respond personally. If I can't I will forward your e-mail to someone who can, or try to provide you with a contact -- all in a timely manner. The Section belongs to you and the other 4,600 ACS members who reside in the Chicago area (north-east Illinois and northwest Indiana). Only you can make it work for you by being involved. But you can also make it fail by not being involved. I look forward to hearing from you.

AMBER ARZADON
CHICAGO SECTION CHAIR

Duncan Hines, in his column *Adventures in Good Eating*. Then in 1956, the new super highway by-passed the little town. It's amazing the difference just a few miles can make. Two years later the restaurant was closed and the property auctioned off to pay creditors. At 64 years old, the restaurant owner was broke.

It was around the turn of the twentieth century when the new vicar, a stickler for decorum, took over St. Peter's Church. When he learned that **the janitor** could not read, he gave him three months in which to learn. Quite depressed by the news, the man thought it might make him feel better if he smoked a cigarette.

Unable to afford the cost of opening another restaurant closer to the highway, **the restaurant owner** reviewed his assets. All he had left was his knowledge and the delicious recipes that made his food so popular. So, he got into his car.

As he walked home, **the janitor** searched for a tobacco shop. There was usually one on every block, but there were none near the church. He walked block after block without finding one. By the time he reached his house he knew exactly what he was going to do.

Town by town, **the restaurant owner** drove, stopping at every restaurant along the way. He told the owners they would be more successful if they served his secret recipes under his brand name and paid him a royalty. Two years later, in 1960, he had 400 restaurants serving

WASHINGTON NATIONAL MEETING PRESENTATIONS ONLINE

If you missed the recent 238th ACS National Meeting in Washington, DC, we've got great news for you: You can now view 150 of the top oral presentations from the Washington national meeting online! These high-quality presentations feature PowerPoint slides synched with audio; you can also jump directly to a particular slide in a presentation.

After you try this great new free service from ACS, please take a moment to complete the One Minute Survey on the site hosting the content; your feedback will help us continue to improve the content of future ACS national meetings.

To access the Washington national meeting presentations online, point your browser to www.softconference.com/ACSchem/am.asp

his food. By 1963 he was making a profit of \$300,000 per year. And, in 1964, Colonel Harlan Sanders sold Kentucky Fried Chicken to investors for \$2 million, plus a lifetime salary of \$75,000 per year.

With his meager savings, **the janitor** opened a tobacco shop near the church. It was an immediate success. His profits went to open a second, then a third and before long he thriving tobacco shops all over London. Ten years later, he met with his banker about investing his earnings. The banker gave him some papers to sign. The man asked the banker to read the papers to him, explaining that he didn't know how. Shocked, the banker exclaimed, "You are so successful, just think where you'd be today if you could read!" Albert Edward Foreman smiled and sighed, "I'd be the janitor at St. Peter's Church." (Based on a true story by Somerset Maugham)

Did you know that in Chinese, the symbol for the word "crisis" is the same symbol used for the word "opportunity?" Two sides of the same coin. In other words, it's all in our perspective. Will you find the opportunity in your next crisis?

--

Robert Evans Wilson, Jr. is a motivational speaker and humorist. He works with companies that want to be more competitive and with people who want to think like innovators. For more information on Robert's programs please visit www.jumpstartyourmeeting.com.

RECOGNITION OF CHEMISTS AS NATIONAL MEDALISTS OF SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY

Recently, when the National Medal of Science honorees - along with the National Medalists of Technology and Innovation - were announced for this year, I checked out the list as I usually do, to see if I recognized any of the awardees in terms of their work, and perhaps also, personally. Often there are one or two whom I have met over the years and several whose work I am aware of and have followed. What struck me in the stories I saw was that although many of them were chemical scientists, or at least had backgrounds in chemistry, they were not recognized or identified as such.

Some had, of course, broadened their work into fields that are not necessarily definitely chemical, or specifically chemically related, and certainly we respect and applaud the fact that they have been successful in using and applying their science into other areas. After all, we recognize and realize that we live in and are part of a "chemical world."

Anyway, for your interest, I have listed below the recipients of the National Medal of Science, as well as the National Medal of Technology and their fields of interest. The Chicago Section honored **Dr. Joanna Fowler** with the Stieglitz Award in 2000.

JIM SHOFFNER

National Medal of Science

Dr. Berni Alder, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, CA, PhD work in Molecular Dynamics, **Chemical Physics**

Dr. Francis Collins, National Institutes of Health, MD, **B.S. and PhD in Chemistry**, MD

Dr. Joanna Fowler, Brookhaven National Laboratory, NY; B.S. and PhD in Chemistry, Stieglitz Award

Dr. Elaine Fuchs, The Rockefeller University, NY; **B.S. and PhD in Chemistry**

Dr. James Gunn, Princeton University, NJ; B.S.; PhD., Astronomy and Physics

Dr. Rudolf Kalman, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich; PhD in Elec. Eng

Dr. Michael Posner, University of Oregon, OR; PhD in Psychology

Dr. JoAnne Stubbe, Massachusetts

Institute of Technology, MA; **B.S. and PhD in Chemistry**

Dr. J. Craig Venter, J. Craig Venter Institute, MD & CA., **B.S. Biochemistry**, PhD in Physiology

National Medal of Technology and Innovation

Dr. Forrest M. Bird, Percussionaire Corp., ID; MD, PhD

Dr. Esther Sans Takeuchi, University at Buffalo, SUNY, NY; **B.S. and Ph.D., Chemistry**

Team: Dr. John E. Warnock and Dr. Charles M. Geschke, (Cofounders and Co-chairs of Adobe Systems Inc.); IBM Corporation, NY

WANT TO IMPROVE PUBLIC APPRECIATION FOR CHEMISTRY? BECOME A CHEMISTRY AMBASSADOR!

If you could improve public awareness for chemistry in your community, in a way that fit your schedule and your interests, no matter how little time, or how much, you could afford to spend, would you do it? Chemistry Ambassadors is a new ACS program with all the tools to make a difference. You'll find sample 'scripts' for casual conversation, letters to elected officials, grade-appropriate materials for teachers and students, and much more at www.acs.org/chemistryambassadors.

NEXT ISSUE is
for the
December 4
Chicago Section ACS Holiday Party and Meeting

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CALENDAR

October 24: Chemistry Day at DePaul University, 2250 N. Sheffield Ave., Chicago.

November 12: Chicago Section Board meeting, 1400 Renaissance Dr., Suite 312, Park Ridge, IL 60068; 847-391-9091.

November 18: Chicago Section ACS Dinner Meeting at Zhivago Restaurant, Skokie, IL. The speaker is Mitch Jacoby, *Chemical & Engineering News* correspondent. This is a Wednesday meeting. **See this issue for details.**

December 3: Chicago Section Board meeting, 1400 Renaissance Dr., Suite 312, Park Ridge, IL 60068; 847-391-9091.

December 4: Chicago Section ACS Holiday Party and Meeting at the Willowbrook Holiday Inn. The speaker is Wendy Wolbach of DePaul University.

January 21, 2010: Chicago Section ACS Dinner Meeting held jointly with AIChE. This is a Thursday meeting.

February 12-16: Annual meeting of The American Association for the Advancement of Science, Chicago. For more information, go to website www.aaas.org.

February 19: Chicago Section ACS Dinner Meeting held jointly with IIT. This is the Kilpatrick Lecture.

February : Northwestern University Department of Chemistry's annual Charles D. Hurd Lecture Series. Stay tuned for further details.

February 28-March 5: PittCon 2010 Conference and Expo, Orlando, FL. Visit www.pittcon.org for more information.

FOOD, CLOTHING AND TOY DRIVE

We will be collecting nonperishable food items (no glass containers) for charity at the December Holiday Party again. The food is donated to the local Loaves & Fishes Community Pantry for distribution. Loaves & Fishes Community Pantry is a community-based, non-profit organization established to provide food and personal care essentials to residents in need.

This year we would like to again increase our generosity to another good cause. Ada S. McKinley Community Services, Inc. is a social agency in Chicago and Oak Park serving individuals with disabilities or other limiting conditions that need help in finding and pursuing paths leading to healthy, productive and fulfilling lives. They need our help in two programs: a collection of adult and children's clothing and a collection of new children's toys.

The collection of adult men and women's clothing is for their clients to use for job interviews. The collection of children's clothing is for their emergency foster care program serving children who have been removed from their homes because of neglect or abuse or from a foster home that was disrupted. Most of these children will be coming from their homes after being taken from their family; often with nothing but the clothes they are wearing. They are requesting boys' and girls' clothing for the age range from infant to 17 years old.

Please open your heart to both of these programs and bring a nonperishable food item and a piece of gently used or new clothing or a new toy to the holiday party.

YOUNG WOMEN IN SCIENCE BOOKLET

Science/AAS in collaboration with the L'Oreal Corporate Foundation has put together a *Young Women in Science* booklet. Following last year's very successful *Women in Science* booklet, the new one has more exciting and inspirational stories. These new profiles, from interviews with young women at the start of their science career, tell their stories of passion and persistence and what drives and excites them about their work in the sciences. Young girls (and boys), as well as their educators, will find fun and inspiration in these pages and learn a little about what life as a scientist is all about.

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