

Silicon Valley Chemist

Santa Clara Valley Section

American Chemical Society

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Crimes and Clues From the Santa Clara County Crime Laboratory

Benny Del Re, Laboratory Director

Abstract

Whenever Sherlock Holmes attempted to solve a crime, everything was a potential clue. Forensic evidence includes such clues as fingerprints, blood and bloodstains, semen stains, drugs, alcohol, hairs and fibers, and firearms and toolmarks. Although to Holmes this was elementary, Watson was always amazed. Forensic Science has come a long way since Sir Arthur Conan Doyle published the 1st Sherlock Holmes story in 1887. Modern clues are commonly related to chemistry, biology, and medicine. Experts include Forensic Toxicologists and Serologists, Arson and Explosive experts, Ink and Document examiners, Fingerprint and Firearms examiners, and those examining Fibers, Dust, Glass Fragments, Paint Chips and Drugs.

Biography

Mr. Del Re received a B.S. in Forensic Science with a minor in Chemistry from Sacramento State University and a M.P.A. from the College

of Notre Dame. He has served extensively in the San Mateo and Santa Clara county forensics and crime labs for more than 20 years in many areas of analysis and management.

Call for Judges

Intel International Science & Engineering Fair 2001
San Jose, CA May 6-12, 2001

In May 2001, over 1,200 students representing nearly 50 countries will be in San Jose to compete in the "Olympics of Science Fairs" - the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF). These high school students are the top winners of their affiliated regional or national science fairs, and represent the best of the best of science and engineering projects worldwide. The level of projects is unusually advanced for high school students, and typically, nearly 10% of student finalists in Intel ISEF have patents pending on their projects!

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February Dinner Meeting

Date: February 15, 2001

Time: Social hour: 6:00 pm

Dinner: 7:00 pm

Presentation: 8:00 pm

Location: Biltmore Hotel & Suites
2151 Laurelwood Road
Santa Clara, CA
North of 101 off the
Montague Expressway
(408) 988-8411

Speaker: Supervising Criminalist,
Santa Clara County Crime
Lab

Reservations: Shirley Radding
(408) 246-2564
(408) 296-8625 FAX

Reservations should be made by February 12 stating name, company affiliation, number of people in the party and the meal preference. People may also register using our web site: www.scvacs.org/Local_Folder/din_mtg_feb.html

Cost: \$25.00 with choice of London Broil, Chicken Saltimbocca or Pasta Primavera

Carver Science Fair Kidvention and Recognition Day

Many ACS local sections have not yet created a formal Committee on Minority Affairs to further the work started in 1993 by ACS national. The Santa Clara Valley Section has had a Committee since 1997, with Dr. Howard Peters, a Palo Alto chemical patent attorney, as the first chair. Earlier work resulted in a resolution in 1997 from the ACS Board and

Council endorsing the creation of an official State Day of Recognition in all states to recognize the contributions of the renowned agricultural chemist, Dr. George Washington Carver. By cooperating and partnering with the local African American directed Healing Institute, the ACS Santa Clara Valley Section provided some documents that were helpful in making

California the tenth state to create a State Day of Recognition to honor Dr. George Washington Carver. Halim Mustafa, the community entrepreneur, Founder and Director of the Healing Institute is a former policeman from East Palo Alto, California.

After much planning and many volunteer hours, the Healing Institute, in partnership with Intel Corporation, Applied BioSciences, Cypress Semiconductor, Microsoft, the Santa Clara

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Carver Science Fair, continued from front page

Alliance of Black School Educators, the Santa Clara Valley Section of the ACS, and others created the Carver Scholars with about 150 African American grade-and high school students in the Silicon Valley. This program won for the Healing Institute a special award in 1999 from the U.S. Congress for the best public or private program to encourage minority students in science and engineering.

On January 5, 2001, the Healing Institute and its partners cooperated to hold the second Carver Science Fair primarily for African American students of the Silicon Valley at the Santa Clara Convention Center in the Silicon Valley. Some 120 students participated. About half of the science fair judges were local ACS volunteers. It is anticipated that many of these first time exhibitors will now exhibit their science project in the local mainstream science fairs.

Ten Santa Clara Valley local section members also organized a Carver KidVention, a program to focus children (in this case 40 K-5th grade students) what inventions were all about, and that you did not need to be a rocket scientist to be an inventor.

The Carver Recognition Day and Carver Science Fair Award dinner in the evening included a special videotaped address by President Bill Clinton. The President praised the many contributions of Dr. Carver, often in the face of adversity, and congratulated the Healing Institute and its partners in Santa Clara for their pioneering volunteer efforts to encourage minority students in science and engineering. Mr. Bill Jackson, the Superintendent of the George Washington Carver National Monument in Diamond Grove, MO gave the keynote address. This is the first national park to honor an African American (or a scientist or a teacher). Julian Richardson (1916-2000), the founder of Marcus Bookstore in San Francisco (and a former student of Dr. Carver) and his family received the Healing Institute's Global Humanitarian Award. Ms. Robinson (the Julian's widow and also a Tuskegee University graduate) had

once been a cook for Dr. Carver. She kept the audience laughing as she recounted how peaceable Dr. Carver had once thrown a can of muffins at her because she had baked them too quickly and they were not to his liking.

Dr. Attila Pavlath, the 2001 president of the national American Chemical Society, attended and presented a luncheon talk to the Carver Scholars "Why Study Science and Engineering?" This was his first official presentation as ACS President. Dr. Pavlath knows something about opportunity in America. Dr. Pavlath and his wife Koti came to the U.S. in 1956 as political refugees after the Hungarian Revolution that year.

Dr. Pavlath and his wife attended the Carver Recognition Dinner and he spoke to over 1,000 attendees about the ACS ongoing diversity programs and specifically the ACS Minority Scholarships.

Howard Peters (newly reelected ACS Councilor for the Division of Chemistry and the Law) and the local section's Chair of the Minority Affairs Committee received a special award from the Healing Institute for his commitment and ongoing support of the local programs in the Silicon Valley.

During 2000 the Healing Institute (with some assistance by the partners) was instrumental in having January 5 added to the Congressional calendar to honor Dr. Carver. This means that each January 5 federal buildings across the country will display their flags at half mast to honor Dr. Carver.

Future cooperative projects for the partners include having each of the 50 states declare a Carver Recognition Day each January 5, having many Carver recognition events each January 5 around the nation, expanding the Carver Scholars and Carver Science Fair Programs throughout California and the nation, and encouraging the U.S. Treasury to recognize the important contributions of African American chemist Dr. George Washington Carver by issuing a new U.S. coin or U.S. currency for general circulation honoring Dr. Carver. It will be a powerful statement for a minority to be able to go to

the local store to buy the paper and bread and milk using newly minted Carver coins and currency.



Call for Judges, continued from front page

We need to locally recruit nearly 1,000 colleagues in 14 subject categories to help judge these outstanding projects. Judges must have either a Ph.D., M.D. or at least 6 years professional experience in the category they wish to judge (high school teachers and science fair officials are ineligible to be judges). The dates you will be needed are both May 8 (afternoon and evening) and 9 (all day), 2001. In addition to Chemistry and Biochemistry, we have especially large needs in Environmental Science, and encourage you to consider judging in this category.

Applications for judges for Intel ISEF 2001 are now being accepted! You can apply in either one of two ways:

Apply online at www.intelisef2001.org/judges/index.html look for the "online application" link at the bottom of the page (you might want to check the "FAQ" link for details on judging first)

Request a form by mail, fax, or email: Dr. Roy K. Okuda, Judging Chair, Intel ISEF 2001, Department of Chemistry, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA 95192-0101, Phone 408-924-2525, Fax 408-924-4945, email: judges@intelisef2001.org

Additional information may be seen on the Intel ISEF 2001 website: www.intelisef2001.org



Thermal Analysis at the New Millennium Golden Gate Polymer Forum 2001 Spring Symposium

Date: Monday, March 19, 2001

Time: 8:30 - 6:00 PM

Place: Michael's at Shoreline
Mountain View

See www.ggpf.org for more information and notices about monthly dinner meetings.

Chair's Message

Nationally, February is when we observe Black History Month, but California celebrates George Washington Carver's accomplishments on January 5th. Several members of the Santa Clara Valley section of the ACS assisted with a very successful Carver recognition and celebration at the Santa Clara Convention Center. In the morning, Howard Peters led us in a Carver KidVention for elementary age scholars while Cam Ainsworth worked with the judges in deciding winners in the K-12 science fair.

National ACS, along with several local companies, made a large donation to the Carver Scholars Program. This program is a direct response to the national K-12 educational initiatives to increase the involvement in math, science and technology as a method of bridging the digital divide in Santa Clara Valley. Dr. Attila Pavlath presented the luncheon talk to over 150 Carver Scholars as his first official presentation as ACS President.

In the evening, 1000 attendees of the recognition and awards dinner applauded as winners of the science fair received microscopes and checks that were donated by local industrial partners. The award presenters stressed that all of the scholars were winners for participating in the Carver Scholar Program. The other program organizers recognized Howard Peters, our minority affairs chair, for his commitment and ongoing support of their local programs. Dr. Pavlath spoke briefly about the ACS's ongoing diversity programs and minority scholarships.

A special thanks goes to Howard Peters, Cam Ainsworth, Chuck Allman, Fariba Aria, Bonnie Charpentier, Steven Colby, Hugh Dubb, Barry Elledge, Dennis Owen, Shirley Radding, Bruce Raby, Jack Riley, Maureen Scharberg, Carl Shoemaker, and Thelma White for volunteering their time.

The February dinner meeting is a week early this month and will be held on the 15th at the Biltmore Hotel in Santa

Clara. Benny Del Re, Director of the Santa Clara County Crime Lab, will be talking about innovations in fighting crime forensically. Plan on attending; it should be a very interesting presentation.

This spring our section is not involved in organizing the national meeting in San Diego, April 1-5, but there will be a special luncheon event commemorating the history of ACS in California. This year is national's 125th anniversary and the California section's 100th. One hundred years ago there was only one section in the state, now there are eleven. Shirley Radding will be joining speakers from the other sections in presenting an oral history of Chemistry in California. Plan on going if you are attending the meeting.

❖ ❖ ❖ The ACS College Chemistry Consultants Service (C3S)

The ACS College Chemistry Consultants Service (C3S) is a think tank of educators and professionals who are committed to promoting positive change in chemistry education within the United States and its territories. Through C3S visits, schools have realized many benefits including safer laboratories, preparation for ACS/CPT approval, revised curricula, and successful grant proposals. Chemistry departments or institutional administrators can initiate visits. For additional information please contact: Marc Connelly, American Chemical Society, 1155 Sixteenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036 or C3S@acs.org.

Proteomics Seminar

February 19, 2001

Dr. Ron Beavis a leader in the field of bioinformatics will be speaking at a seminar sponsored by the Bay Area Mass Spectrometry Group. For further information see www.bams.org.



SANTA CLARA VALLEY SECTION
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
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FEBRUARY 2001 NEWSLETTER TOPICS:

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CHEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACTS



<http://www.scvacs.org>

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2001-03	Jon Touster	650-723-4340

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FUTURE MEETINGS

Feb 15	SCV Dinner Meeting
Apr 1-5	National ACS Meeting
May 24	Nanotchnology Dr. Ralph Merke

CHEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACTS

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