

Silicon Valley Chemist

Santa Clara Valley Section

American Chemical Society

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Professor James D. Morrison Will Receive the 2001 Harry and Carol Mosher Award

Professor James Morrison the emeritus Chemistry Professor and Vice President at the University of New Hampshire was selected as this year's recipient of the Harry and Carol Mosher Award. This prestigious award is presented annually by the Santa Clara Valley Section of the American Chemical Society to an individual selected for contributions to the field of chemistry and to the ACS. This award was established by the Santa Clara Valley Section in honor of the late Professor Harry Mosher of Stanford University and Dr. Carol



Mosher of SRI.

Dr. Morrison is known internationally for his contributions in the areas of asymmetric organic chemistry as well as organometallic chemistry. His career covers several areas from teaching and

administration in the academic field to industrial consulting. He published scores of papers and review articles as well as books and chapters. The book he co-authored with Professor Harry Mosher "Asymmetric Organic Reactions" summarized the understanding of this field in the seventies

and became a "must have" book for graduate student in organic chemistry in the 1970's. It also provided the basis of the current area of asymmetric synthesis.

Dr. Morrison received his Ph.D. in chemistry in 1963 from Northwestern University with Professor R. L. Letsinger. He spent the next two years as a postdoctoral researcher with Professor Mosher at Stanford. This period of professional association developed into a life-long friendship and mutual admiration. Dr. Morrison will come to receive the award during our dinner meeting of January 2002. Please watch for the abstract of his address and the details of the meeting in our January 2002 issue.



Chair's Message

Here it is August already! The 222nd national meeting will be held in Chicago in just a few weeks. Chicago is a great, or not so great, city in which to hold our meetings, depending on your criteria. All of the technical sessions are held in the convention center, so you do not have to run around between buildings trying to attend closely scheduled papers. But McCormick Convention Center is 2 miles from downtown, so you must ride the shuttle bus Chicago is a family friendly town with Lincoln Park, the Field Science Museum, Aquarium, etc., and great art museums within walking distance of the hotels. August in Chicago can be a bit warm! The food is varied, delicious, and plentiful. There are no California sprouts on

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2001 Shirley B. Radding Award Recipient Announced

The recipient of the 2001 Shirley B. Radding Award is Dr. Norman A. LeBel of Wayne State University. As Dr. LeBel is unable to attend this month's picnic and awards presentation, the Award will be presented during the forthcoming National ACS Meeting in Chicago next month. Norman LeBel was born in Augusta, ME on March 22, 1931. He matriculated at Bowdoin College, receiving the A.B. degree in 1952. The next two years were spent in the research laboratories of Merck & Co., Inc. in Rahway, New Jersey. He returned to New England for graduate study at MIT with Professor Arthur C. Cope and was awarded the Ph.D. in 1957. In August of that year



he joined the faculty of Wayne State University as Assistant Professor, advancing through the ranks to Professor in 1964. Included among his administrative assignments were Department Chair (1971-78), and Interim Dean of the College

of Liberal Arts (1983-84). He became Professor Emeritus in 1996.

Professor LeBel was an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Fellow (1961-65) and a Robert A. Welch Lecturer in Chemistry in 1973. He received the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1981 and the Distinguished Bowdoin Educator Award in 1991. In 1996 the ACS Division of Organic Chemistry honored him with the Dr. Paul G.

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Shirley Radding Award, continued from front page
Gassman Distinguished Service Award.

He joined the ACS in 1950 and his involvement in national ACS activities began when he was Secretary-Treasurer of the Division of Organic Chemistry (1965-69). He was Division Councilor during 1970-90 and served on the Committees on Publications, Nominations & Elections, Divisional Activities and Committees. His continuing interest in national and international scientific meetings resulted in appointments as Program Coordination Conference Advisor from 1974 until its dissolution in 1998, consultant to the Committee on Meetings & Expositions, 1991-1999, and member of the organizing committees of the Second, 1980 (Technical Program Coordinator), and Fourth Chemical Congress of North America, 1991 (General Chairman), PAC Chem '84 (Executive Secretary and Chair of the Program Subcommittee), Pacificchem '89, Pacificchem '95, and Pacificchem 2000 (General Chairman).

He was a two-term member of the ACS Petroleum Research Fund Advisory Board during 1981-86, and a member of the U.S. Army Basic Research Committee – Chemistry for 1982-87. Dr. LeBel has had numerous assignments on ACS task forces for a variety of topics and issues. In addition he has been and continues to serve as a consultant to industry. His memberships also include AAAS (since 1967, elected Fellow 1988), the Royal Society of Chemistry and Sigma Xi.

Points to Ponder

No problem can withstand the assault of sustained thinking.

– **Voltaire** (1694-1778)

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Worry not that no one know of you; seek to be worth knowing.

– **Confucius**

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You don't lead by pointing and telling people someplace to go.

You lead by going to that place and making a case.

– **Ken Kesey**, Writer

Chair's Message, continued from front page

every menu item! In my opinion (as a member of the committee that plans and organizes the meetings) Chicago is a great ACS meeting city. If you are going, and are a first time attendee, check out

<http://www.acs.org/meetings/chicago2001/firsttime.html> for some tips. Also use the Personal Scheduler found on the Chicago meeting page to help schedule your time efficiently.

The National Inventors Hall of Fame was founded in 1973 by a group of lawyers from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to celebrate and honor the creative and entrepreneurial spirit of inventors. Included are such well known inventors as Thomas A. Edison and Henry Ford, as well as some not so well known in chemistry: Klaus Schmiegel (Prozac), Gertrude B. Elion (leukemia drugs), and Wallace H. Carothers (nylon). Last year Helen (former ACS president) and Alfred Free were included in this innovative group.

The 2001 inductees include some names that are familiar to most of us in Santa Clara Valley. They have all taken numerous courses in chemistry in their student days and gone on to use it in their careers. Thomas J. Fogarty, invented the “embolectomy catheter” used in balloon angioplasties today. But perhaps here he is better known as the vintner of Thomas Fogarty Winery! Drs. Stanley Cohen and Herbert Boyer are known for creating the biotech tool - recombinant DNA-that launched genetic engineering and biotechnology, as

we know it. There are several other chemists among the 2001 inductees, including the inventors of Scotchgard.

Go to <http://www.invent.org> to learn more about chemists who have also been recognized and honored as famous inventors.

The Annual Wine Tasting and Awards dinner was held so late in July that we were not able to include pictures and announcements in the August newsletter. Watch for pictures of smiling faces and raised wine glasses in the September newsletter. The section still has wine glasses with our logo left, so plan on attending in 2002 and receiving yours!

I wandered down memory lane again this week and found some interesting items from our section's past. This brief advertisement appeared in the summer 1951 issue of the Vortex: “Research Chemist, Ph.D. Insecticides, Must have experience. \$420 to start.” News briefs in 1976 were a little closer to home: “Coal Chemistry Workshop, August 26-27, 1976, Stanford Research Institute. For details contact: Howard M. Peters, Chairman”

How many of you remember those lovely evening wine tastings the section use to sponsor at Paul Masson's Mountain Winery? In 1976 it began at 6 p.m. with wine tasting, a dinner of rib eye steak followed, and we carefully departed down the windy road by 9:30. \$7.00!

Sally Peters



Help Wanted: An Author's Inspired Aspiration

The Other Oppenheimer A Search for Those Who Knew Frank

Best-selling author K.C. Cole (The Universe and the Teacup) is now writing a book about J. Robert Oppenheimer's somewhat less-famous younger brother, Frank, a distinguished and controversial physicist in his own right, who founded the Exploratorium in San Francisco. The Exploratorium changed forever our image of what a science museum should be. Cole, a long-time science writer for the Los Angeles Times, was collaborating with Frank on a book at the time of his death. She is now looking for people who knew or were inspired by Frank Oppenheimer <kc.cole@latimes.com>.

From: “What's New” by Robert Park <http://www.aps.org/WN/toc.html>

Calling All Runners

So you missed the opportunity to run the Bay to Breakers with other chemists. If you still want to meet other chemists with an interest in running, you are encouraged to contact us. Are you minimally serious, moderately serious, seriously serious or just severely serious? Tell us who you are and we'll try to find a match who can challenge your strengths. Who knows? This might be the start of a beautiful relationship with your shoes and your fellow Chemists. For more information, contact: Ean Warren (ewarren@scvacs.org, 650-329-4554) or send an email to SCVACS-runners-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to subscribe to an email distribution list for SCV ACS runners.

Here are other organized opportunities to run with SCV chemists:

- Race Thru the Redwoods, a 10K race in the Santa Cruz Mountains near Felton, Sunday, August 19.
- Run to the Far Side, November 25, through Golden Gate Park, San Francisco

Let us know if you're interested in meeting up with other chemists for these runs.



Early Newsletter Notification Service Now Offered

The Santa Clara Valley Section has always had a problem with getting newsletters to our members in time for you to join us for our dinner meetings. In an effort to deliver more timely material, we place all our newsletters on the web site well in advance of their mailing. If you want to view the newsletter before receiving the hard copy, go to www.scvacs.org/newsletter/index.html around the first of the month. We have also created a list server to notify our members when new newsletters are placed on our web site. In order to keep the size of the email small, you will receive only a link to the location of the newsletter. Your email address will not be passed on to any other organization. To join, send an email to scvacs-newsletter-request@lists.best.com with "subscribe [email address]" in the body, replacing "[email address]" with your own email address. You will receive a confirmation email which you must respond to. If you have any problems or questions, contact Ean Warren (ewarren@scvacs.org,

650-329-4554) or see Best Internet's help page (<http://www.best.com/faq/bestserv/bestserv1.html>).



September Dinner Meeting

For the September 20th Dinner meeting, Dr. Jack J. Lissauer will be speaking on the Hubble Space Telescope. Look for more details on Dr. Lissauer and his talk in the next month's newsletter!

For Your Funny Bone

A few things to remember while playing with unknown chemicals:

- Hydrochloric and sulfuric acid may look like water but they sure don't taste like it.
- Tasting is not a scientifically correct practice of determining unknowns.
- Red hot metals really are HOT!
- Putting all the "left overs" in a tub is not a healthy practice.
- Yes, some things do explode when put in an open flame.
- Aquanet (the hairspray) IS the most flammable product known to man.

* From Web site: <http://angelfire.com/mi/fuzznstuff/>
The Periodic Table of Rejected Elements (PDF)

Editor's Corner

Upon Steve Colby's decision to attend law school, I kindly accepted to assume the responsibilities as newsletter editor. As a short introduction, I joined the ACS in 1996 holding the

vice-president (1999-2000) and treasurer (1998-1999) positions in the ACS Student Affiliate chapter at Point Loma Nazarene University in

San Diego. Upon my graduation in May 2000, I returned to my hometown, San Jose, and entered the workforce.

Currently, I am working as a Chemist at SRI International in Menlo Park. Beyond my professional activities, my many other interests include Chinese martial arts, Toastmasters, cooking, music (performance and appreciation), and other team and individual athletics. I am open to any comments, suggestions, or submittals that you might have regarding the newsletter. Feel free to contact me as the occasion arises.



Laura Rasay

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AUGUST 2001 NEWSLETTER TOPICS:

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CHEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACTS



<http://www.scvacs.org>

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FUTURE MEETINGS

Aug 26-30	222nd National ACS Meeting Chicago, IL
Sep 6	Biodegradation of MTBE under Methanogenic Conditions <i>N. Calif. MTBE Committee</i>
Sep 12	Executive Committee Meeting
Sep 20	SCV Dinner Meeting Santa Clara, CA
Oct 7-10	Proteomics Chemistry Leesburg, VA
Oct 18	SCV Dinner Meeting Dr. Richard Zare
Oct 28-31	Western Regional Meeting Santa Barbara, CA
Nov 4-10	National Chemistry Week

CHEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACTS

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