

Silicon Valley Chemist

Santa Clara Valley Section

American Chemical Society

Volume 25 No. 6

Annual Wine Tasting, Family Picnic and Awards Ceremony

The Santa Clara Valley Section will hold its annual Wine Tasting, Family Picnic and Awards Ceremony on July 12th (Saturday) at the Keck chemistry building on the Stanford campus. We will taste four intriguing wines from a Santa Cruz Mountain winery. The tasting will begin at 4:30 p.m. in the foyer of the Keck building.



Just as in 2001, each adult will be able to take home a glass with the ACS logo. A self-serve buffet supper will begin at 5:30 p.m. on the patio

of the nearby Mudd building. Recognition of the ACS 50 year members and Awards for the Santa Clara Valley Section will follow dinner.

The price for the dinner and tasting will be \$16.00. Children aged 4 to 12 are only \$5.00. Dinner is free for children under the age of four. The deadline for reservations is July 7th. Payment is required in advance, as we are not allowed to accept money on campus. Registration on the web is not available. This is an informal, relaxed event. There is a large grassy area next to the Mudd building where children can play. Bring blankets for eating picnic style. If you require more proper seating, please indicate that on your reservation, and we will arrange for some tables and chairs.

Chair's Message

As the school year ends and the weather finally begins to warm up and dry out, it's time again for ACS-Santa Clara Valley's Annual Wine Tasting, Family Picnic and Awards Ceremony. This year, this event will be held on Saturday, July 12, 2003 at Stanford University. It is always one of my favorite events because of relaxed, friendly atmosphere as well as the next generation of very young chemists running about. As always, we will honor our members who have 50 years of service to ACS. If you like art collections, Stanford University has some collections within walking distance of the Chemistry Department. The Rodin Sculpture Garden and the Cantor Center for Visual Arts (Stanford Museum) are across Roth Road from the Keck

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RESERVATION FORM

Annual Wine Tasting, Family Picnic and Awards Ceremony

Stanford University – Saturday, July 12, 2003 Deadline for Reservation – Monday, July 7, 2003

Name(s): _____ Telephone No.: (_____) _____

No. of Reservations at \$16.00 _____

No. of Children (age of 4-12) at \$5.00 _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Make check payable to: Santa Clara Valley Section – ACS

Mail check and reservation form to: Ms. Shirley Radding, 2994 Cottonwood Court, Santa Clara, CA 95051

Please check if you can volunteer: I can help set-up I can help clean-up

Chair's Message, continued from front page

Building. The New Guinea Sculpture Garden, created by ten master New Guinea carvers in 1994, is located in an oak and cedar grove in front of Roble Dormitory on Santa Teresa Street, a few blocks west of the Chemistry Department. I hope you can join us for a wonderful afternoon of wine tasting, good food, and summer fun!

During the summer, the activities of the Local Section gear down for a few months until September. Dr. Ken Carter from IBM-Almaden Research Center will be our dinner speaker on September 25, 2003. Your ACS-SCV Councilors will travel to New York to attend the Fall 2003 ACS National Meeting during September.

Have a great summer!

Chemistry Olympiad Update

Fourteen of the top chemistry students from the Santa Clara Valley Chemistry Olympiad took part in the United States National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO) on April 19th, 2003, at Santa Clara University. The exam consisted of three sections: a multiple choice test (90 minutes), a free response problem solving test (105 minutes) and a laboratory practical (90 minutes). It was a difficult way to spend a Saturday!



The tests were sent to national for grading and the results have not been released yet. If you would like to test yourself on the questions, go to www.chemistry.org/portal/Chemistry?PID=acsdisplay.html&D OC=education\student\co02.html.

Thanks to all those who helped make this year's Olympiad a success! Volunteers from the Santa Clara Valley Section included Bonnie Charpentier, Mark Hasegawa, Robbie Korin, Bruce Raby, Roy Rocklin, Anton Simeonov, and Amy Takahara. Special thanks to Linda Brunauer and George Doeltz of Santa Clara University. Linda helped out extensively and facilitated the use of Santa Clara University's classrooms and labs for the national test, and George spent a great deal of time obtaining equipment and putting the lab practical sets together for the students. Also, a special thanks to Maureen Scharberg who volunteered as well as gave the students a great explanation of the lab practical problems right after they completed that section. The students really appreciated getting immediate feedback on how they did.

Also, a big thank you to the people at Roche who helped secure funding and provided a place to hold the local section test: David Austin, Eric Sjogren, and Hans Maag provided funding; Keith Sonberg, George Leontovich, and Pam Costa arranged for the snacks; and Maria Ruiz put together the goody bags.

Another bit of good news is that all five of the local section test winners are juniors and plan to compete again next year! Overall, 51 of the 74 students who took the March qualifying test were sophomores or juniors and signed up to come back next year.

The Forum (Comments requested)

The Forum in ancient Roman cities was where much debate raged about ideas and needed social changes. This column is meant to begin a continuing dialog about issues important to every member of this local section and to the ACS.

The first issue is to discuss ACS finances at the national level.

A current member of the ACS Board of Directors in a letter recently provided the following information:

"Finally, you might find it interesting to check out the web site www.guidestar.com. Click the on [Advanced Search] in the left menu bar, NOT the "Quick Search" box; search for the American Chemical Society, Washington, DC. Choose the American Chemical Society, Washington, DC, 20036. Click on form 990 in the list of the left (at this point you may need to register for free). Choose [Fiscal Year 2001], then look at pages 44-46 and 66. Note, that the data is two years old."

This is a copy of the federal IRS form for 2001 filed by the ACS as a not-for-profit corporation. It is a publicly available document and makes very interesting reading.

Also, a past ACS President provided to a member of the SCV executive committee this website: www.idontcare.com/acs/. It lists the salaries paid to the top 10 ACS staff members for the past eight to ten years. There are some surprises.

Please remember to vote (pink envelope) before June 20th on constitutional changes. If passed they may result in a surcharge of \$20 per member over the next 4 years. This special ACS election is to change the ACS by-laws and will probably cost the society's membership about \$250,000.

Your comments about these ACS expenditures are important and can be sent to the SCV, P.O. Box 395, Palo Alto, CA 94302 or e-mailed to forum@scvac.org. We reserve the right to comment on and/or publish some or none of the responses.



Patent Truths This and That

by Howard Peters

1. In 2004, the Santa Clara Valley (SCV) Section will celebrate its 50th anniversary. We need to start planning now for "THE PARTY." Before then, SCV was part of the California Section which was created in 1901, when the California section encompassed the entire state. Although many candidates have been nominated, I believe only one member of what is now the Santa Clara Valley local section has served as the ACS president and a member of the ACS Board of Directors. That member was Dr. Edward Curtis Franklin, the ammonia-as-a-solvent professor of chemistry from Stanford University, who was ACS president in 1906. Is this true?
2. The first San Francisco ACS meeting in 1910 required Eastern ACS chemists to travel by rail. There is a report that at least one train load of chemists derailed on the way and the ACS meeting started late (There were some injuries, but no fatalities). The total cost of that ACS meeting was less than \$20,000 - in 1910 dollars. Most of the services for the meeting were donated. Local companies and individuals were anxious to have Eastern Chemists see how quickly San Francisco had rebuilt after the 1906 earthquake. Not so now, our meetings are pricy.
3. There will be much discussion this summer about ACS expenses, the high ACS dues and the soon-to-be-voted-on ACS four-year full member surcharge of \$24. When I joined the ACS in 1963, the full member dues were \$32 annually. To keep these costs in perspective: Stanford tuition was \$1,200/year, minimum wage was less than \$1, bread was \$0.40/loaf, milk was \$1/gallon, gas was less than \$0.39/gallon and your total Social Security payment was a maximum of less than \$300/year (no MEDICARE). Not so now - dues for

2003 Chemistry Olympiad Finalists

Congratulations to the finalists and their teachers.

<u>Students</u>	<u>School Representing</u>	<u>Teachers</u>
Mark Stefanski	Gunn High School	Eric Ledgerwood
Shrenik Shah	Monte Vista High School	Travis Hambleton
Calvin Ting	Hillsdale High School	Steve Maskel
Jennifer Brady	The King's Academy	Jason Rose
Michael Gullans	The King's Academy	Jason Rose

2004 will be over \$120! Some say there are many hazards to being over 60 - and having a long memory is one of them!

4. From 1964 to 1966, my wife, Sally, grew tobacco at Stanford - all in the name of science that is. The present location of the Rodin Sculpture Garden next to the Stanford Museum was a field with green house for the biochemists. She worked for Professor Hubert Loring as a research associate growing tobacco, infecting, and harvesting it for tobacco mosaic virus studies. She had to dodge the jack rabbits, squirrels and quail along the way. Not so now - too much concrete.
5. Last month was the INDY 500. Sally and I spend time in Indianapolis, Indiana as the Hoosier part of our family are there, employed by Eli Lilly. Calcium carbide was a major industry in 1900. Carbide was used to produce acetylene for lights in homes, miners' caps, starting raw materials, and many of the early automobile headlights. There is an urban legend that a founder of Union Carbide (now, part of Dow Chemical) was also involved with the founding of the Indianapolis Speedway and INDY 500. Can anyone confirm or deny this?
6. Times change. My old laboratory space in the Leighton Building where I did my Ph.D. thesis work at Stanford University is now a rest-room. The building is presently the Stanford University's Swain Chemistry Library. At this time, I

believe that I am in good company. I have heard that sometime after 1950 some visiting Japanese chemists to DuPont in Wilmington, Delaware asked to see the laboratory of the famous polymer chemist, Dr. Wallace H. Carothers, the 1930's inventor of nylon (U.S. Patent 2,130,947) and neoprene (U.S. Patent 2,139,948). Both inventions were huge money-makers for DuPont. (As a side note, Carothers fell into a severe depression and committed suicide at age 41, in 1937.) After doing some checking, DuPont officials realized Carothers' pioneering polymer laboratory had been renovated and is a men's room, now.

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Important Notice:

I don't seem to be getting much feedback from the local section readership about these "folksy" trivia columns. Is anyone out there reading or following these? Is there any interest in continuing these columns? Please respond to peters4pa@aol.com - as I am planning to stop and go on to focus on some other things now on my plate.

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Regional Meetings All Over the Map!

This fall, 5 ACS regional meetings will take place from coast to coast. The Western region opens the season October 15 to 18 in beautiful Long Beach, California. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania is the setting for the Central meeting October 19 to 22, which takes place during National Chemistry Week. Southwest's meeting, October 25 to 28, will be in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and Midwest in Columbia, Missouri November 5 to 7. The season closes November 16 to 19 in Atlanta, Georgia, at the Southeast regional meeting.

For more information on the meeting, submitting an abstract, or registering, please visit the ACS Regional Meetings web page at www.acs.org/meetings/regional. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to network and share information vital to your professional growth.

Editor's Corner

Summer is here again – school is out and everyone's off on vacations. Thinking forward to the next school year, the National Chemistry Week's theme this year is "Earth's Atmosphere and Beyond". If you are interested in supporting the events this year, through volunteering or with finances please contact Asfia – our section's National Chemistry Week Coordinator. She began to prepare for this year's activities, last year! It's going to be a celebration! For more information on the activities this year, contact Asfia at asfiq@yahoo.com.

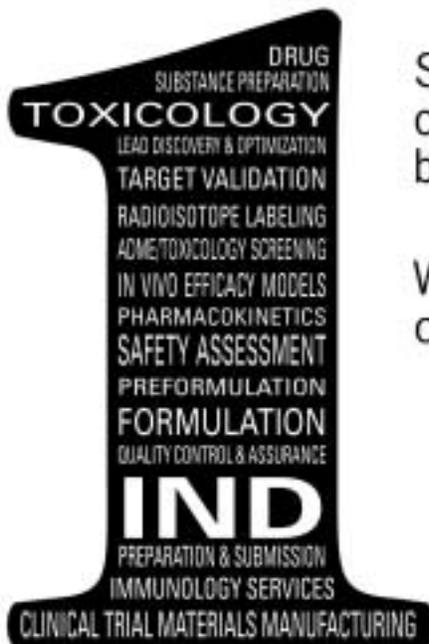
I have to apologize for not having the Technical Division columns in the newsletter more regularly. There's no extreme excuse besides traveling and looking for a house...please bear with

me and I hope to get in contact with more divisions in the coming month or so. As for another column in the newsletter, Patent Truths by Dr. Howard Peters – does this interest you? If you want to see this column in future newsletters, please contact Howard at PETERS4PA@aol.com.



Visiting the Space Shuttle Challenger's memorial in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia

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Thoughts to Ponder

If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.

– Booker T. Washington



If you wish to be a leader, you will be frustrated, for very few people wish to be led. If you aim to be a servant, you will never be frustrated.

– Frank Warren



When you have a great and difficult task, something perhaps almost impossible, if you only work a little at a time, every day a little, suddenly the work will finish itself.

– Isak Dinesen

*Happy
Father's Day*

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FUTURE MEETINGS

May 3 - Jun 8	Illustrating Nature Exhibit Santa Cruz, CA
Jul 12	Annual Wine Tasting and Awards Stanford University
Sep 7-11	National ACS Meeting New York, NY
Sep 25	SCV Dinner Meeting Dr. Ken Carter Material Science
Oct 15-18	Western Regional Meeting Long Beach, CA

For the latest information, please visit
SCV/ACS web site: www.scvacs.org



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