

Silicon Valley Chemist

Santa Clara Valley Section

American Chemical Society

Volume 26 No. 4

Annual Summer Picnic and Wine Tasting

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 26th! This is the date for our annual summer wine tasting picnic! We will be recognizing the 50-year

ACS members, several hardworking board members, and students. Of course, we'll eat a wonderful meal on the campus of Stanford.

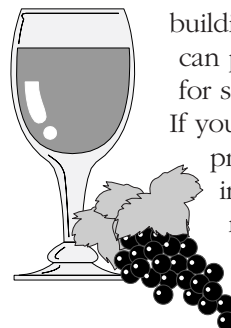
April Dinner Meeting Reminder

On April 22nd, Dr. Michael Baldwin of the University of California at San Francisco, School of Pharmacy will be presenting a talk on "Mad Cow Disease and the Chemistry of Rogue Proteins." We will be at the Palo Alto Elks Lodge on El Camino between San Antonio and Charleston Roads (4249 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, 650-493-4249). Social Hour will begin the evening at 6:00 PM, followed by dinner at 7:00 PM, then the presentation at 8:00 PM. For \$15.00, dinner will be a Club Buffet - including main course, salads, vegetables, coffee and dessert. A no host bar will be available. If you are unable to make dinner, you are welcomed to join us for the presentation at 8:00 PM.

Reservations should be made by April 19th, stating your name, address, company affiliation, and number in party. Visit our website and fill out the online reservation form (www.scvacs.org) or contact Shirley Radding (408-246-2564, 408-296-8625 Fax)

If you are unable to honor your reservation and do not cancel by April 20th, you will be invoiced following the dinner meeting.

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 June 21st. 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 seating picnic style. If you require more proper seating, please indicate that on your reservation, and we will arrange for some tables and chairs.



RESERVATION FORM

Annual Wine Tasting, Family Picnic and Awards Ceremony

Stanford University – Saturday, June 26, 2004 Deadline for Reservation – Monday, June 21, 2004

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

Our joint meeting in March at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco came with a great showing of members from all four associations: our own Santa Clara Valley Section, the California Section, AIChE and American Nuclear Society. George Scangos presented an interesting view of survival in the world of biotechnology to a broad cross section of our memberships.

Don't forget to attend our April dinner meeting held again at the Palo Alto Elks Lodge. See the reminder in this newsletter. We will find out about how "rogue" proteins affect us, what prions are, and the gravity of neurodegenerative diseases, like mad cow disease. Go to our website, www.scvacs.org, to reserve your dinner place. If you cannot make the dinner, come to the talk and hear what Mike Baldwin has to say.

There are a few items worthy of your support. First is the Section's response to the recent disastrous fire at Buchser Middle School in Santa Clara. The Executive Committee approved a cash donation of \$250 and a membership challenge to raise additional money to help the science teachers and students to recover and continue learning science. See the article by Maureen Scharberg, our Section Past-Chair, in this newsletter for more details. Second is a program I recently became aware of. It is called Tech Trek and is sponsored by the Los Gatos/Saratoga branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Tech Trek is a math and science camp designed to develop interests, excitement and self-confidence in young women who will enter the eighth grade in the fall. Girls selected for the program go to Stanford for a week to learn more about mathematics and science in the university setting. Here comes the pitch...the AAUW is looking for financial support for this program and volunteers to help teach and make the program work. I would ask our members to consider supporting this valuable program and help our young women succeed. For details, contact

Nancy Hobbs at 408-395-4045 or email her at hobbsnf@earthlink.net. And third, many of our fellow members are seeking positions to get out of the unemployment lines. As I said last month, our ChemPloyment ads in

the newsletter and on our website continue to list available local jobs. There are additional job resources available through C&EN and the ACS website: www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/acdisplay.html?DOC=careers%5Cact_more.html.



CALL for NOMINATIONS 2004 Shirley B. Radding Award

The Santa Clara Valley Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) announces the call for nominations for the 2004 Shirley B. Radding Award.

First awarded in 1994 to its namesake, the Shirley B. Radding Award annually honors someone who has been a member of the ACS for at least 20 years. Nominees must have demonstrated dedicated, unselfish leadership, service and significant contributions over a sustained period of time to industrial, applied or academic chemistry and to the ACS through elected or appointed positions at local, district and national levels.

Award Criteria

- Member of the American Chemical Society for more than twenty (20) years.
- Demonstrated dedicated and unselfish service to ACS and its members over a sustained period of time.
- Provided leadership through elected and appointed ACS positions at local, district and national levels.
- Made significant contributions to industrial, applied or academic chemistry.

Previous Award Recipients

1994 Shirley B. Radding
1995 Agnes Ann Green (deceased)
1996 John F. "Jack" Riley
1997 Howard M. Peters
1998 Alan C. Nixon (deceased)
1999 Valerie J. Kuck
2000 Halley A. Merrell
2001 Norman A. LeBel (deceased)
2002 Paul H. L. Walter
2003 Jean'ne M. Shreeve

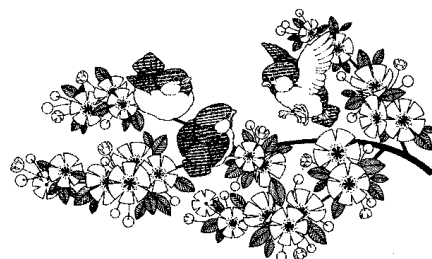
The award consists of an honorarium of \$1,000 and a suitably inscribed memento. Nominations must consist of at least one letter of nomination stating how the nominee's work relates to all aspects of the award. It is strongly recommended that seconding letters accompany the nomination.

Nominations are due on or before May 1, 2004, and must be mailed to:

Radding Award Committee
Santa Clara Valley Section ACS
P. O. Box 395
Palo Alto, CA 94302

Calling all Running Chemists!

Are you running in the 2004 Bay to Breakers? Thinking about running? Do you want to run in the company of other chemists? We're getting together a group of chemists to run. This year's Bay to Breakers will be held on May 16th. See www.baytobreakers.com for more information. If you're interested, email Ean Warren at ewarren@scvacs.org.



Death by Chocolate More Patent Truths

After our chocolate talk in February, some attendees asked for some more chocolate tidbits, trivia, truths, etc. Have you heard these??

1. "DEATH BY CHOCOLATE" is the name of (1) a good mystery novel; (2) many chocolate filled desserts in any number of restaurants; (3) a chain of made-to-order chocolate dessert shops in New Zealand, Australia, Canada, UK, etc; and (4) a colorful chocolate cookbook written by Marcel DeSaltenis, a co-owner of the Trellis Restaurant in Merchants Square adjacent to Colonial Williamsburg, VA. Does anyone else out there have an autographed copy?

2. What candy product did the 1981 Steven Spielberg film, E.T., of the same name follow to the shed in the back yard? Give up? "Reese's Pieces". Mars had originally agreed to participate using M&M's. But, someone high up in the company finally took a hard look at this new venture - and saw a film by an unknown director about a "friendly alien"!!! Mars backed out at the last minute and Hershey stepped into the breach. The movie E.T. was wildly successful and the sales of the new Reese's Pieces quadrupled in four weeks!

3. The chocolate chip cookie wars occurred in the 1980's Duncan Hines (a part of Proctor and Gamble) had issued patents to a desirable specialty chewy chocolate chip cookie. Keebler (of the elves fame) had a competing product - much too close and much too profitable. P&G sued Keebler and Dr. Rose Ann Dabek, a patent attorney at P&G (an ACS member and former chair of the ACS Division of Chemistry and The Law and the ACS Patent Committee), was the P&G inside counsel. Jim Gould, a Penn State chemical engineer and University Penn law graduate with Morgan & Finnigan of NYC, was the lead litigation attorney. After much maneuvering, Keebler finally settled and paid P&G \$129,000,000.00 for their infringement and ceased producing their cookies -until the patent rights ran out. Gould was recently

written up in the magazine IP Today as having won patent lawsuit judgments for his clients during his career of over \$300,000,000.00. Not too shabby. I do love stories with happy endings.

Side note: Jim and I had worked together in the Chicago federal courts for 2+ years on a soft contact lens case Syntex Ophthalmics v. Novicky in the early 1980's.

4. Russell Stover in the 1920's bought the rights to the Eskimo Pie from Christian K. Nelson of Ovarra, Iowa as found in US Patent 1,404,539, issued Jan. 24, 1922. Within months there were many imitators and infringers. Within a year, Stover had to give up trying to enforce the legal patent rights in the courts. There were too many. The legal costs were just too high - \$4,000.00 a day in 1923 dollars. There were just too many "Eskimo Pi-rates." - that is not original with me. In 1923, the courts declared the U.S. patent invalid.

FYI- Russell Stover Candies is still the country's largest maker of boxed chocolates.

5. Chocolate has been extolled for years as having aphrodisiac qualities. Montazuma was reported to drink his

chocolate daily before he visited his harem. Writings about Don Juan in Spain describe his frequent use of chocolate. The Austrian Princess Maria Theresa who married Louis XIV (the Sun King) of France brought her chocolate and own chocolatier with her. She was addicted and is reported to have said, "Chocolate and the king are my only passions." Notice, which came first! At our February talk, I said that my wife Sally had her own comments about chocolate as an aphrodisiac and handed her the microphone. The silence was deafening. I thought she was going to say, "Candy is dandy, but liquor is quicker." Is that line original with Ogden Nash or W. C. Fields?

6. With my chocolate addiction, it can be said that, "When I am faced with a choice between two evils, I always try the one I haven't tried before." Is that line original with Mae West? I do show my age.

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Update on Buscher Middle School Science Classroom Fire

On February 22, 2004, the science classrooms at Buchser Middle School in Santa Clara were completely destroyed by fire. The science teachers lost many years of curricular materials to teach hands-on and inquiry-based science. Although the community has responded with donations of equipment and supplies, cash donations are still requested so teachers can purchase additional middle school science materials and reassemble their lesson plans. SCV-ACS has given an initial \$250 to Buchser Middle School. We will also match individual SCV-ACS members' donations up to an additional \$250. If you are interested in assisting the Buchser Middle School Science Program, please send a check donation (tax deductible), payable to Buscher Middle School, to: Buchser Fire Relief Fund, c/o Judy Sanchez, Buchser Middle School, 1111 Bellomy St., Santa Clara, CA 95050. Please write "ACS" in the memo line of your check. Thanks, in advance, for your assistance and support.

2004 Call for Nominations Ottenberg Service Award

It is again time to nominate candidates for the Abraham Ottenberg Service Award of the Santa Clara Valley Section.

This Award was established in 1973 by the Santa Clara Valley Section to recognize members who have rendered outstanding service to the Section. It is named after Abraham Ottenberg, a former member who devoted much of himself to service to the Section. The award consists of an engraved plaque and a check for two hundred dollars. The award recipient is selected from candidates nominated by members of the Section. Nominees must be members or affiliates of the Santa Clara Valley Section.

Previous recipients are: Shirley B. Radding (1974), Oliver F. Senn

(1975), Floyd M. Hobbs (1976), Frank R. Mayo (1977), Harry S. Mosher (1978), Lois J. Durham (1979), Richard W. Gaver (1980), Alan C. Ling (1982), Ludwig A. Mayer (1983), John F. Riley (1983), Howard M. Peters (1984), June G. Jones (1986), Robert L. Montoya (1986), Malcolm Dole (1987), Donald E. Green (1991), Hubert E. Dubb (1992), Karl Marhenke (1993), Stephen N. Senzer (1994), Carol W. Mosher (1995), Bonnie Charpentier (1998), Linda Brunauer (1999), Herbert B. Silber (2000), Sally Peters (2001), Jamil Talhouk (2002) and Ean Warren (2003).

The nominating letter should include a brief biography of the candidate and a description or evaluation of the service(s) to be recog-

Help Out with the 2004 Chemistry Olympiad

Kiel, Germany will be the site of the International Chemistry Olympiad in July. The ACS will be sending a team of four high school students to participate in the challenge. Those four students will be selected from a pool of 20 excellent students from across the United States. The selection process begins right here in our local section! The top 16 students from the Santa Clara Valley will participate in written exams and a lab exercise to determine their placement at the national level.

Our students will be chosen from their results after taking an ACS standardized test at their high school. The local section encourages the high schools to participate and provides the testing materials.

Would you like to help in this process? Encourage your local chemistry teachers to have their advanced placement and honors classes participate in the testing process. We will be sending out hardcopy letters to over 400 high schools in the section's area giving the teachers the Olympiad information and encouraging them to participate.

We will need a few local section members to be test proctors on April 24th at Los Positas Community College in Livermore, where we will join with the California section and administer the regional tests. This is a good chance to volunteer if you live in the southeast section of the Bay Area and have a Saturday to devote to a good cause! We even provide lunch!

Each student participant receives an ACS certificate. If you have access to a good color printer and/or have access to a scanner/printer and could help with the final printing would be very useful! There should be about 75 to 100 certificates that will need personalized.

So, here is your chance to help with the 2004 International Chemistry Olympiad – encourage the teachers to participate (maybe offer to help them grade the exams!) and volunteer to be a proctor or help print certificates. If you need more information, please contact me.

Sally Peters

Chair, ChemOlympiad Committee

nized by the award. Seconding nominations are not required but will be accepted.

Nominations should be sent to: Chairman, Ottenberg Award Committee, Santa Clara Valley Section, ACS, P. O. Box 395, Palo Alto, CA 94302. Nominations must be received by May 31, 2004, to be considered for the 2004 award.

Thoughts to Ponder

The best way to have a good idea is to have a lot of ideas.

–Linus Pauling



...being a leader means playing off people's strengths instead of reprimanding them about their weaknesses.

–Gerald Chamales



Courage is a special kind of knowledge: the knowledge of how to fear what ought to be feared and how not to fear what ought not to be feared.

–David Ben-Gurion
former Prime Minister of Israel



...clear out that which is clogging up you life in order to create the space for the better stuff to show up.

–Keith Rosen



If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant...

–Charlotte Bronte



Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.

–Special Olympics Oath



As my grandfather used to say, "You can't catch one hog if you're chasing two."

–Robert Crittendon

New Career Management Tools Online

Need to give your job search a shot in the arm? Visit the website: **chemistry.org/careers** and explore Advanced Career Tools (ACT), a new Department of Career Services program that offers a range of ways to help you manage your career.

For example, if you are considering changes in your career, planning the next steps in your career, or just feeling stuck in your current role, take advantage of the Behavioral Style Inventory and get a one-paragraph summary analysis at no charge. This assessment takes just 10 minutes to complete. Understanding your strengths provides you with greater confidence in interviews and enhances your ability to communicate in the workplace.

The fee-based tools are discounted for members. They include personal career coaching that can provide one-on-one assistance in areas such as: learning to succeed in performance reviews, developing skills in negotiating salary, and obtaining a detailed, online analysis of how you typically react to problems and challenges at work.

These career tools include career

frequently asked questions (FAQs), a free searchable database of nearly 300 articles on job search and career development. Explore the database to inquire about resume writing, interviewing, legal issues, stock options, salary negotiations, and more.

Other benefits to members are e-mail access to a career expert for

prompt answers to career issues. ACT also provides automatic e-mail alerts on topics of specific interest to the member.

Whether you're facing a career transition, interview, performance review, relocation, pending retirement or other life-changing career challenge, ACT will help you understand the issues involved.



Employment Help in Other Areas of California

The following are names and addresses of contacts in other California Sections. You may write to them or call to find out how to receive their job listings or how to place a job listing with them. Do not send self-addressed envelopes unless requested to do so.

California Section: Mrs. Nancy Gephart, American Chemical Society, California Section 49 Quail Court, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 925-287-8055 e-mail: office@calacs.org

California Los Padres Section: Dr. Sandra Lamb, Chemistry Dept., UC Santa Barbara Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9510 e-mail: lamb@chem.ucsb.edu

Mojave Desert Section: Dr. Peter Zarras, NAWCWD, Code 4T4220D 760-939-1396 1 Administration Circle, China Lake, CA 93555 e-mail: zarrasp@navair.navy.mil

Orange County Section: Ron Denedour, 23731 Coronel Drive, Mission Viejo, CA 92691, Geoff Anderson, Hycor Biomedical, 78272 Chapman Avenue, Garden Grove, CA 92641 714-895-9558

Sacramento Section: John R. Bingham, 809 W. Stadium Lane, Sacramento, CA 95209 916-927-7088 916-927-7006 FAX

San Diego Section: Renate Valois 619-260-4513 619-260-2211 FAX e-mail: pascal@acusd.edu

Southern California Section: Send a self-addressed, 55-cent-stamped, business envelope to: ACS job listing, 14934 South Figueroa Street, Gardena, CA 90248 310-327-1216 e-mail: office@scalacs.org www.scalacs.org/employ.html

CHEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACTS APRIL 2004

CHEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACT 3731

Position Title: Sr. IT Specialist: Validation, Pharmaceutical and Chemical Analysis BF4-126

Job Description: Perform business analysis of the scientific user community to develop user and functional requirements for software selection, configuration and validation. Develop and document validation plans; functional and design specifications; installation, operational and performance qualification test scripts; acceptance criteria; SOPs, user manuals and validation reports.

QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED

Required Skills: Exp. in server maintenance, software application management, validation life cycle change and risk management required. Exp. in Part 11 compliance implementation is desired.

Education: BS or advanced degree in Life Sciences/Computer Science or equiv.

Experience: 2+ years' exp. in a quality control lab & 4+ years' exp. in information tech. and/or computer system validation.

LOCATION, SALARY, MAIL ADDRESS

Location: Foster City, CA

Description of Employer: Gilead Sciences is a biopharmaceutical company that discovers, develops & commercializes therapeutics to advance the care of patients suffering from life-threatening diseases worldwide.

Application Instructions:
We're an equal opportunity employer. Apply online today at www.gilead.com

CHEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACT 3732

Position Title: Laboratory Assistant

Job Description: Responsible for day to day management and safe operation of laboratory; setting up experiments and associated instrumentation; recording data and observations; scheduling of work; reporting of results in writing and verbally; installation, calibration, and operation of equipment and instrumentation; provide support to others.

QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED

Education: B.S. Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Materials Engineering or closely related field

Experience: Prior lab experience is desirable; working knowledge of electrochemistry is necessary; knowledge of or willingness to adopt laboratory safety rules and procedures is a must; familiarity with electrochemical instrumentation and analytic techniques is a big plus.

LOCATION, SALARY, MAIL ADDRESS

Location: Santa Clara

Salary: 31K to 36K depending on experience

Employer Description: EXTi is in the ground and industrial water decontamination business.

Patented technol provides a unique method for contamination removal. Performing studies for some of the most contaminated sites in the US.

Application Instructions:
Email resume Lee@EXTi.Biz
Fax resume 408-971-4357

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CHEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACTS

To receive emails when newsletters are published on our web site, send an email to SCVACS-newsletters-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

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Secretary: **Karl Marhenke** 831-479-6263 karlmar@armory.com
Treasurer: **Hong Gao** 650-564-5197 hong.gao@alza.com
Past-Chair: **Maureen Scharberg** 408-924-4966 scharbrg@pacbell.net

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Newsletter

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Director: **Shirley B. Radding** 408-246-2564 sradding@att.net

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Apr 17** Regional ChemOlympiad
- Apr 22** SCV Dinner Meeting
Chemistry of Prions and Prion Diseases
Mike Baldwin, UCSF
- Apr 25-27** ACS Prospectus
Pharmaceutical Authentication and Forensic Analysis
Tampa, FL
- May 10-12** Intel International Science and Engineering Fair
Portland, OR
- May 16-19** ACS ProSpectives
Santa Fe, NM
- Jun 26** BIO 2004
San Francisco, CA
- Jun 26** Annual Picnic and Wine Tasting
Stanford University

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



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