



SoFlacs



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South Florida Section ACS

Summer 2007

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

George Fisher

A major change has occurred for the South Florida ACS section executive officers. SoFL-ACS chairman Skip Pomeroy has accepted a faculty position at University of California at San Diego and has left Nova Southeastern University. Consequently, Chair-Elect Michael (Mike) Elliott (Florida Memorial University) has assumed the chairmanship. You might recall that Mike was appointed Chair-Elect in January to replace Rose Stiffin who was unable to assume the Chair-Elect position due to family health obligations. In the fall elections Mike will stand for re-election as Chair and we will elect a new Chair-Elect. We have also received confirmation from National ACS that our section will qualify for a third Councilor and Alternate Councilor. Thus, in the fall elections we will also have these two positions open. If you are interested in running for any of these offices, please let us know.

During his office, our past chair K.V. (Venk) Venkatachalam applied for and received a grant from National ACS for a "Science Café" program. The purpose of the grant is to provide a program open to and of interest to the general public on some science topic. Venk and Mike have organized such a program for Friday, September 14, 7:00 - 9:00 pm at Borders Bookstore at the Galleria Ft. Lauderdale (2240 E. Sunrise Blvd.). The presenter will be Dr. Joseph Dwyer, Professor of Physics at Florida Institute of Technology, who will speak on "The Mysteries of Lightning." The Science Café program is open to the public.

We will also host two ACS tour speakers this fall. Wednesday, September 26, Dr. Peter Reilly, Iowa State University, will speak on "The Wonderful Enzyme Zoo" and on Wednesday, November 7, Dr. Ernest Simpson, California State Polytechnic University, will give a presentation on the "Chemistry of Wine". Times and locations of these meetings are given below and final details will be put on the SoFL-ACS web: www.soflacs.org.

October 21 - 27 is National Chemistry Week's 20th anniversary. How SoFL-ACS will celebrate NCW is still in planning stages. This year's theme is "The Many Faces of Chemistry". We encourage you, as representatives of various "faces" of chemists, to volunteer at local schools, museums, etc. to show the "Many Faces" of chemists. We will also host a NCW poster contest for K - 12 schools (see details elsewhere in this issue) and the annual family "Science Day at the Mall" on Saturday, Oct. 27.

On Saturday, November 10, SoFL-ACS will hold the third annual **Chemical Sciences Symposium** on the theme "*Elements of Life*." Invited speakers will present talks on the role elements such as Co, Ca, Zn, Mg in biologically active molecules. Graduate and undergraduate students are encouraged to present posters of their research (see abstract submission info below).

We hope to see you at any of these upcoming events.

cut and save

FUTURE EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

cut and save

Friday, September 14, 7:00 - 9:00 PM, Science Café: at Borders Bookstore at the Galleria Ft. Lauderdale, 2240 E. Sunrise Blvd. Dr. Joseph Dwyer, Professor of Physics and Space Sciences, Florida Institute of Technology will present an electrifying talk on "The Mysteries of Lightning".

Wednesday, September 26, ACS Tour Speaker: Dr. Peter Reilly, Iowa State University, will present a seminar on "The Wonderful Enzyme Zoo" at two venues:

Noon, Posner Hall 103, Barry University, 11300 NE 2nd Ave., Miami Shores (contact gfisher@mail.barry.edu, 305 899-3430) and **6:30 PM,** Jonas Auditorium, Health Professions Division, Nova Southeastern University, 3200 University Dr., Davie (contact venk@nova.edu, 954 262-1335).

October 21-27, National Chemistry Week, 20th Anniversary "The Many Faces of Chemistry." See elsewhere in which issues and for final details, visit: www.soflacs.org.

October 24-27, Southeastern Regional ACS Meeting: Hyatt, Greenville, SC. Step out of the Hyatt onto the city's charming Main Street with its outdoor cafes, a city park with a rushing river, and restored buildings that are now unique restaurants and shops. The program includes a talk on "Chemistry's Essential Tensions: A Different Look at Science" by the well-known Roald Hoffman.

SERMACS' theme, "Chemistry in Motion", encompasses many diverse topics. Additionally, the meeting offers a number of unique events and workshops. Register early, view the program, and reserve your room at their website, www.sermacs2007.org/.

Wednesday, November 7, 6:30 - 9:00 PM, ACS Tour Speaker: Dr. Ernest Simpson, California State Polytechnic University, on the "Chemistry of Wine." FIU School of Hospitality, Southern Wine and Spirits Center, Biscayne Bay Campus, Biscayne Blvd. at 151st St., North Miami. 6:30 PM pre-talk reception, 7:00 PM lecture with wine tasting. \$5.00 per person for wine tasting. RSVP to SoFL-ACS treasurer Len Keller, 305 348-3081 or kellerl@fiu.edu. Check www.soflacs.org web for further details.

Saturday, November 10, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Chemical Sciences Symposium "Elements of Life: Roles of Metal Elements in Biological Functioning of Proteins/Enzymes". Resnick Auditorium, Nova Southeastern University, Health Professions Division, 3200 S. University Dr., Ft. Lauderdale. Invited symposium speakers and student posters. Submit poster abstracts by October 15 to Dr. K.V. Venkatachalam, 954-262-1335, venk@nova.edu, Department of Biochemistry, Nova Southeastern University, Health Professions Division, 3200 S. University Dr., Ft. Lauderdale, 33328-2018.

National Chemistry Week

"The Many Faces of Chemistry"

October 21 - 27, 2007

2007 is the 20th anniversary of the community-based outreach program designed to give the public positive messages about chemistry and change in the public's impression of chemists. This year's theme is "The Many Faces of Chemistry" as well as to highlight the many faces of chemists in their local areas who make outstanding contributions to chemistry or chemical sciences. NCW is celebrated annually from Sunday through Saturday during the fourth week of October.



anniversary of NCW based outreach give the public about chemistry and change in the of chemistry. All encouraged to use celebrate 20 community outreach highlight the many their local areas who

SoFL-ACS chemists are encouraged to volunteer at career fairs at local elementary, middle and high schools to present aspects of chemistry/chemical principles of the different areas of chemistry. Copies of the NCW *Celebrating Chemistry* newspaper will be available for distribution to elementary school students and copies of *ChemMatters* will be distributed to high school students (send requests to NCW coordinator: gfisher@mail.barry.edu).

SoFL-ACS will also sponsor a K-12 NCW poster contest. K-12 students are invited to create a poster that celebrates the theme "The Many Faces of Chemistry". The poster should be fun, motivational, and inspire students to pursue science/chemistry-related careers. A local school may submit up to **four (4)** entries per grade category: K-2, 3-4, 5-8, 9-12. Posters should be sent by **Oct. 19** to Dr. George Fisher, Chemistry, Barry University, 11300 NE 2nd Ave., Miami Shores, FL 33161. One winner from each category will then be entered in the national ACS contest for \$250 first place and \$150 second place prizes in each category. Contest rules and judging criteria can be found at www.chemistry.org/ncw.

The annual SoFL-ACS family "Science Day at the Mall" will be held on Saturday, Oct. 27 - time and place yet to be determined. Other SoFL-ACS NCW events are still being planned. Check the section's web: www.soflacs.org in early October for final details of events.

2007 U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad Winners

Last April thousands of high school chemistry students throughout the U.S. participated in the qualifying exam and laboratory practical for the National Chemistry Olympiad. About 120 South Florida high school students took the exam and lab practical at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale. Two of those students achieved the high rank of **Honors**: Mervin Zhao from Miami Palmetto Senior High and Sean Singh from Pinecrest School, Ft. Lauderdale. They will receive plaques from SoFL-ACS and recognition certificates from national ACS. Congratulations to these outstanding young chemists and their teachers!

Although none of the South Florida students made the U.S. team for the 39th International Chemistry Olympiad competition in Moscow in July, the U.S. team did win three silver and one bronze medals: Brian Lee - Silver (North Jersey LS), Justin Koh - Silver (Southern California LS), Kenneth Brewer - Silver (Central Utah LS), Sofia Izmailov - Bronze (Trenton LS). China took top honors with all four team members winning gold medals. The teams from Russia and Poland also each received four gold medals. More than 200 students from 66 countries participated in this year's Chemistry Olympiad. The 2008 International Olympiad will be held in Budapest.

Science Café: "The Mysteries of Lightning"

Friday, Sept. 14, 7:00-9:00 PM, Borders Bookstore at the Galleria, East Sunrise Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale

Lightning strikes our planet more than 3 million times each day. It kills more Americans than hurricanes or tornados and causes billions of dollars of losses and damages in the United States every year. Despite its familiarity, exactly how lightning works has remained a great mystery to scientists. During this Science Café Dr. Joseph R. Dwyer, Professor of Physics and Space Sciences at the Florida Institute of Technology, will discuss what is and is not known about lightning. Dr. Dwyer's lightning research has appeared in such places as *Nova Science Now*, the *Discovery Channel*, *National Geographic Channel* and *Scientific American Magazine*. The Science Café program is open to the public; please invite your family, friends, neighbors, non-chemistry colleagues, etc. For further details, contact Dr. K. V. (Venk) Venkatachalam at NSU, venk@nova.edu, 954 262-1335, or Dr. Michael Elliott, melliott@funiv.edu, 305 626-3704.

Barry Professor Co-Edits First Ever Text on D-Amino Acid Research

By: Julianna M. Pietak - barry-news@mail.barry.edu

Barry University chemistry professor Dr. George Fisher recently contributed to the publication of a pioneering new text in the field of D-amino acid research. Fisher was the only American editor of "*D-Amino Acids: A New Frontier in Amino Acid and Protein Research*." In this role, he coauthored three chapters, while editing and compiling 12 others. Fisher and a select group of six international researchers were contacted two years ago to help develop the text, the first of its kind in this field.

The book is targeted at new researchers in the field, and brings together expertise from top researchers in D-amino acids, a relatively new area of study. "It's meant for helping out new researchers to develop their own techniques based on the research of more seasoned researchers," Fisher said.

Although much research has been done on L-amino acids, less is known about their counterparts, D-amino acids. These substances weren't discovered in nature until the 1970s and since then, Fisher and other researchers have found them naturally occurring even in humans, where they contribute to the nervous and endocrine systems.

Fisher has been researching D-amino acids at Barry since the early 1980s, supported by a grant from NIH. Several Barry undergraduate students and Fisher's research associate, Mara Tsesarskaia, assisted in both this research and authoring the three chapters for this text.

Book Description: D-amino acids have been considered as unnatural amino acids and it has been the common belief that D-amino acids are not present in eukaryotes. However, improvements and developments of analytic methods have shown the D-amino acids are present in a considerable amount of eukaryotes and even in humans. Some of them have been shown to have physiological functions. In this book, all aspects of D-amino acid research are described: analytic methods for D-amino acids, the presence of various D-amino acids in a wide variety of organisms, nutritional aspects of D-amino acids, anabolic and catabolic enzymes for D-amino acids, physiological significance of D-amino acids, pathology of D-amino acids, industrial aspect of D-amino acids etc. The book is available from Nova Science publishers, www.novapublishers.com.

TAKE AN ACS WEBCAST SHORT COURSE THIS FALL

ACS offers a wide variety of webcast short courses and our fall schedule is open for registration now. ACS Webcast Short Courses provide the same quality training that ACS has long been known for, but, because the courses are presented over the Internet, they offer added convenience and flexibility.

Small Class Sizes and In-Depth Personal Attention – The average class has 10 participants, and our instructors are available by email in-between sessions so you will have ALL your questions answered.

Interactive – We've chosen a great technology that allows you to participate just as in a live class; you can even write on the whiteboard.

Ready when you are – Scheduled class sessions are the best way to get the most out of your experience. But if you miss a session, it's okay. All class sessions are recorded and ready for viewing when you're available.

More Application Time – Instead of getting all the information in a few days, you have time between sessions to apply what you've learned and come back to class with your burning questions. Overall, an extended learning schedule means more impact for you. There are expanded course offerings in analytical, organic, pharmacology, engineering, toxicology, and other areas. For the full list of Webcast Short Courses and more information, visit <http://chemistry.org/elearning>.



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NEW ACS PODCAST DEBUTS WITH SCIENCE NEWS FOR BROAD GENERAL AUDIENCE

The American Chemical Society (ACS) Office of Communications has launched a podcast that will make cutting-edge scientific discoveries from ACS journals available to a broad public audience at no charge.

The podcast, *Science Elements*, (http://chemistry.org/science_elements.html) describes research reported in ACS's prestigious suite of 35 peer-reviewed scientific journals and Chemical & Engineering News, ACS's weekly news magazine. Those journals, published by the world's largest scientific society, contain about 30,000 scientific reports from scientists around the world each year. The reports include discoveries in medicine, health, nutrition, energy, the environment and other fields that span science's horizons from astronomy to zoology.

Those discoveries improve peoples' lives, and *Science Elements* will make that information more widely available. The podcast draws on an Office of Communications product, PressPac, which initially was developed to assist science journalists in researching and reporting news.

The podcaster for *Science Elements* is Steve Showalter, Ph.D., a chemist at the U. S. Department of Energy's Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Showalter's work at Sandia focuses on the design and development of new batteries. "As an active member of the ACS since 1987, I view these podcasts as part of a broader commitment to improving public understanding of chemistry," Showalter said. He also works toward that goal as a member of the ACS Committee on Public Relations and Communications and as a councilor for the Central NM Section, ACS. Podcasting is an increasingly popular way of accessing news, information, and entertainment content from the Internet. The term was derived from Apple's "iPod," a portable digital audio and video player, and "broadcasting." Podcasts allow users to subscribe to a "feed" and receive new files automatically whenever posted to the Internet. New installments of *Science Elements* will be posted weekly and available without charge.

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ACS Members: What You Can Do With Your IRA

There's good news for individuals aged 70½ or older with individual retirement accounts (IRAs). Thanks to the Pension Protection Act of 2006, you now have a new option that may be a more effective way of making a charitable gift. Now you can easily make a gift to ACS while you are living and able to witness the benefits of your generosity on chemistry. Longtime ACS member Sue Fahrenholtz and her husband Ken have made contributions to Project SEED from their IRAs in 2006 and plan to do so again in 2007. As Sue says, "If you're going to give the money anyway, why not take advantage of an opportunity to make a lifetime gift using funds from your IRA without the undesirable tax effects?" Under the new law, you can now make an outright gift using IRA funds without the tax consequences. Though you will not pay income tax on the amount, you also cannot claim a charitable deduction. This is equivalent to having the full amount treated as ordinary income while receiving a deduction for the full amount. Be sure to contact tax professionals and your IRA custodian if you are considering a gift under this new law. Also feel free to contact American Chemical Society at (202) 872-6210 with any questions.

Officers of the South Florida Section ACS for 2007

Chair: Michael J. Elliott, Florida Memorial University, Miami, FL 33054, (305) 626-3704, melliott@fmuniv.edu.

Immediate Past Chairs: Robert (Skip) Pomeroy and K.V. (Venk) Venkatchalam, Department of Biochemistry, Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33328-2018, (954) 262-1335, venk@nova.edu.

Chair-Elect: Vacant

Secretary: Milagros Delgado, Department of Chemistry, Florida International University Biscayne Bay Campus, AC1-382A, North Miami, FL 33181, (305) 919-5966; delgadom@fiu.edu.

Treasurer: Leonard Keller, Department of Chemistry, Florida International University, Miami, FL 33199, (305) 348-3081; kellerl@fiu.edu.

National Councilors: Zaida Morales-Martinez (2009), FIU, 305 386-3206, moralesz@fiu.edu; Milagros Delgado (2007), FIU, 305 919-5966, delgadom@fiu.edu.

Alternate Councilors: George Fisher (2009), Barry University, 305-899-3430, gfisher@mail.barry.edu; George Duncan (2007), Broward County Sheriff's Crime Lab, 954 831-6147, george_duncan@sheriff.org

Membership Applications: available from the secretary, Dr. Milagros Delgado.

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CIRCULATION: Send post office form 3579 to Circulation Dept. *SoFlacs*, c/o George Fisher, Department of Chemistry, Barry University, 11300 N.E. 2nd Ave., Miami Shores, FL 33161, (305) 899-3430, FAX (305) 899-3479.

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SoFL-ACS WEB SITE: <http://www.soflacs.org>

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