



SoFlacs



Vol. 17, No. 1

South Florida Section ACS

March 2007

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Robert (Skip) Pomeroy

We started this year off with approximately 250 people attending the Friday evening talk of Dayle Hinman as part of the forensic sciences symposium. Ms. Hinman is the star of the Court TV forensic science show "Body of Evidence: From the Case files of Dayle Hinman" http://www.courtstv.com/onair/shows/body_of_evidence/. The Friday night event included a wine and cheese reception and both graduate and undergraduate research posters were on display. On Saturday, there were talks ranging on subjects from forensic dentistry to arson investigation. The Saturday event capped the series that also included workshops open to teachers and educators on questioned documents, blood spatter, and DNA identification. You can learn more at <http://www.nova.edu/~chemist/forensic07/forindex.htm>.

On Saturday, March 5, we will hold the local section competition for the U.S. Chemistry Olympiad. The top ten qualifiers with a cap of two entrants per high school will be able to go on to compete on April 21 for a spot on the national team. Those qualifying for the national team spend two weeks at a chemistry camp held at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. From there four students will be selected to compete at the international Chemistry Olympiad, held in Moscow Russia. Good luck goes out to all those who are participating! On Friday, March 23, Barry University will host the local science olympiad for high school chemistry and physics students. For further info about this event, contact Dr. Tony Wallner (twallner@mail.barry.edu).

For this spring, we have two ACS tour speakers. Dr. Spittler will speak on "Contamination of an Aquifer by Hazardous Waste -- A Case Study". Dr Spittler is a retired chemist from the EPA and will speak on Thursday, March 15 at 7:00 pm in Room 2101 of the Health Professions Building at Nova Southeastern University. The second talk will be presented by Dr. Attila E. Pavlath, Western Regional Research Center, USDA. His presentation will be on "Edible Coatings on Food, or How to Keep Fruits and Vegetables Fresh after Light Processing". This talk is scheduled for Wednesday, April 11 at Florida Memorial University. In addition, Barry University offers two more seminar opportunities (see below).

The Spring events will culminate with the annual SoFL-ACS awards banquet on Saturday, April 21 at FIU Biscayne Bay Campus (see details and registration elsewhere in this issue and on-line at the SoFL-ACS website www.soflacs.org). We will honor 50-yr members, graduating college/university seniors, and high school chemistry olympiad winners.

I wish everyone a happy and productive start to the year. I hope to see you at any of the upcoming events.

FUTURE EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Thursday, March 15, SoFL-ACS seminar: Dr. Thomas Spittler, retired EPA chemist, will speak on "Contamination of an Aquifer by Hazardous Waste -- A Case Study" at 7:00 pm in Room 2101 of the Health Professions Building at Nova Southeastern University, 3100 S. University Dr., Davie (contact Skip Pomeroy, pomeroy@nova.edu).

Noon, Monday, March 19: seminar by Dr. Ralph Mead, University of Miami School of Marine & Atmospheric Sciences, "Organic Matter Cycling on a River Dominated Margin. Barry University Posner Hall 103, 11300 NE 2nd Ave., Miami Shores (contact Dr. George Fisher, gfisher@mail.barry.edu, 305 899-3430 for more details).

Friday, March 23: Science Olympiad for high school chemistry and physics students. Barry University, Miami Shores. Contact Dr. Tony Wallner (twallner@mail.barry.edu; 305 899-3433).

Wednesday, April 11, 5:00 PM, SoFL-ACS Seminar: Dr. Attila E. Pavlath (Past ACS President), Western Regional Research Center, USDA, Albany, CA. His presentation will be on "Edible Coatings on Food, or How to Keep Fruits and Vegetables Fresh after Light Processing" FMC-FIU Cooperative Building Auditorium Room 180 of Florida Memorial University, 15800 NW 42nd Ave., Miami Gardens. (Contact: melliott@fmuniv.edu).

Saturday, April 21, SoFL-ACS Annual Awards Banquet. Florida International University, Biscayne Bay Campus, North Miami. See registration form inside. Keynote speaker Dr. Richard Swatloski, University of Alabama (see April 23, below).

Noon, Monday, April 23, SoFL-ACS Seminar: Dr. Richard Swatloski, University of Alabama, "A Green Solution: Ionic Liquids and Their Utilization in the Processing of Cellulose". Barry University Posner Hall 103, 11300 NE 2nd Ave., Miami Shores (contact Dr. George Fisher, gfisher@mail.barry.edu, 305 899-3430 for more details).

May 10-12, FAME 2006 - Florida sections annual meeting and exposition. Renaissance Orlando Hotel - Airport. For more details at: [http://membership.acs.org/F/Florida/register\[1\].html](http://membership.acs.org/F/Florida/register[1].html).



Donald S. McCorquodale Jr. Ph.D.
Microbiology Supervisor

1460 W McNab Rd
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

ph: 954.978.6400
fax: 954.978.2233

www.flenviro.com
d.mccorquodale@flenviro.com

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C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S T O

NCW Poster Contest Winners

During National Chemistry Week 2006, we received about 100 posters from elementary school students on the theme "Your Home - It's All Built On Chemistry". George Fisher, along with Barry University art faculty Angela Curreri, judged the entries. The following first place winning posters were sent to ACS for the national competition and received a blue ribbon and congratulations from SoFL-ACS:

3rd - 4th grade category: Stacy Celestin, Central Charter School, Lauderdale Lakes.

5th - 8th grade category: Humberto Fernandez, Pines Charter West Elementary, Pembroke Pines.

Second place winners were given our congratulations and a ribbon:

3rd - 4th grade category: Jaeda Neal, Central Charter School, Lauderdale Lakes.

5th - 8th grade category: Raena Thelwell, Pines Charter West Elementary, Pembroke Pines.

Fifty-Year Members

Stanley Cear	Boynton Beach
Dr. R. E. Counsell	Bonita Springs
Dr. Sol J. Daum	Boynton Beach
Donald W. Gorman	Ft. Lauderdale
Dr. Robert S. Joslin	Ft. Lauderdale
Lorraine Dupuis Kasper	Boca Raton
Dr. C. William Kern	Fort Myers
Dr. Harvey L. List	Palm Beach
Dr. James D. Morrison	Port Saint Lucie
Erwin Rahn	Pembroke Pines
James D. Reeves	Fort Myers
Dr. James M. Ryan	Fort Myers
Dr. David Tanner	Wellington
Robert L. Yates	Pinecrest

**S O F L - A C S A W A R D S
B A N Q U E T**

Saturday, April 21

6:00 PM Reception, 6:30 PM Dinner and Awards

Wolfe Student Center, Ballroom
FIU North – Biscayne Bay Campus
3000 N.E. 151st Street, North Miami

Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Richard Swatloski
University of Alabama

Cost: \$25.00 ACS members & guests \$15.00 Students

Send reservations form with check payable to SoFL-ACS by Monday, April 16 to:

Dr. Leonard Keller
Department of Chemistry, FIU
University Park Campus
Miami, FL 33199
FAX: 305 348-3772

Name _____

Address _____

School if a student _____

Number of reservations: _____ @ \$25.00 _____ @ \$15.00

Total enclosed: \$ _____

New Elected Officers for 2007

Congratulations to the newly elected officers for 2007: Milagros (Milly) Delgado was re-elected as secretary; Zaida Morales Martinez will continue to represent South Florida as our National Councilor, and George Fisher continues as Alternate Councilor for the Section. Dr. Robert (Skip) Pomeroy assumes the chair's position. Dr. Rose Stiffin was elected to be the Chair-Elect, but for personal reason has had to step-down. In her place, a colleague from Florida Memorial University, Dr. Michael Elliott, has agreed to step in and the executive committee exercised its power to appoint a replacement, as designed by the section by-laws. Mike served previously as section secretary, treasurer and circulation manager of *SoFlacs*. We will hold elections for the 2008 officers in the fall. If you have an interested in serving the South Florida section, the following position will be open: chair (Mike will have to run for election), chair-elect, treasurer, councilor and alternate councilor. Each candidate will need to submit a brief biography and position statement.

Michael J. Elliott
Interim Chair-Elect

Mike received a B.A. in Chemistry and French and a M.A. from the University of Virginia and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Texas at Austin. He is currently Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Florida Memorial University after having been at Barry University for many years. Current teaching assignments include General Chemistry, Analytical Chemistry, and Physical Chemistry. Mike won two teaching awards while in graduate school at the University of Texas and loves teaching. In terms of community service, Mike has performed many demonstrations to third-grade students and continues his participation in Doctor Rock and the Terminal Degrees, the faculty and staff rock band at Barry University. He has been an ACS member since 1985 and has served the South Florida section as its first Secretary in 1992 and as Treasurer from 1993 to 1997. Mike also served as the Executive Treasurer of Gamma Sigma Epsilon National Chemistry Honor Society from 1993 to 1997.



Position Statement

The South Florida Section has historically supported education by providing travel money to undergraduate students, sponsoring speakers, and performing demonstrations to elementary schools students and mall patrons. All of these initiatives have been successful and we should continue to expand these programs to the extent we are able. I applaud the South Florida Section's efforts in reaching out to historically underrepresented minorities and women and will continue to support any effort to attract bright and talented students into careers in chemistry. An area in which the South Florida Section has not been as successful is in providing programs to our large number of retired chemists. As chair-elect, I would investigate ways to reach out to our retired chemists to see what the South Florida Section can offer that would interest them. I also believe that is important that all of the universities in our area continue to cooperate as we have historically done and keep each other apprised of events on our respective campuses.

PLAN TO ATTEND

Florida Annual Meeting and Exposition



Renaissance Orlando
Hotel - Airport

Features:

- ▶ nearly 20 half-day symposia representing more than 100 total oral presentations
- ▶ Commercial Exhibitors of equipment, instrumentation, software, and services
- ▶ Keynote speaker - ACS President Dr. Katie Hunt
- ▶ Florida Award address - Dr. Edith Widder
- ▶ ACS Career Services Workshop for Job Seekers
- ▶ Undergraduate research poster competition

Students presenting papers (oral or poster) are eligible for complimentary one night room stay (double occupancy) at the conference hotel provided that their advisor also registers for the meeting.

Abstract deadline April 1 to: tfischer@chemmail.chem.fsu.edu

Complete meeting program and registration information at:
[http://membership.acs.org/F/Florida/register\[1\].html](http://membership.acs.org/F/Florida/register[1].html)

ACS Committee on Chemists with Disabilities Ambassadors Program

The Committee on Chemists with Disabilities (CWD) Committee of the American Chemical Society (ACS) announces its new CWD Ambassadors Program. The CWD Ambassadors Program will act as a source for speakers and information for ACS Local Sections and Regions, community groups or schools on working as a chemist with a disability. The CWD Ambassadors Program is intended to enhance the committee's mission of promoting educational and professional opportunities in the chemical sciences and in fields requiring knowledge of chemistry for persons with disabilities and championing the capabilities of those persons to educators, employers, and peers.

If you are a chemist with a disability, or a professional in the chemical sciences with an interest in or knowledge of disability, and would like to become a CWD Ambassador, or if you would like to get more information about how the CWD Ambassadors Program could help your Section, Region or organization, please call the Department of Diversity Programs at (800) 227-5558 or E Mail: cwd@acs.org.

AAAS Seeks Role Models with Disabilities for Resource Directory

Are you a scientist, engineer, IT professional, or mathematician with a sensory, mobility, learning, or other disability? The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) invites you to participate in the Resource Directory of Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities. This Directory is used by the National Science Foundation, government agencies, universities, newspapers, and individuals to recruit advisors, speakers, mentors, and peer-reviewers. Find out more and how to participate by going to <http://ehrweb.aaas.org/resource> or email Tesa Leon at tleon@aaas.org.

CAS Indexes A Million Documents In 2006

Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) reported it has for the first time indexed and added to the CAS databases more than a million document records in a single year, reflecting the worldwide acceleration of scientific research and patents. CAS announced this signal achievement on the eve of the 100th anniversary of the organization and *Chemical Abstracts*TM, which was first published in January 1907. As the world's most authoritative scientific information resource, CAS' records reflect dynamic research and patenting activity worldwide as the United States still leads but the Asian powerhouses grow stronger. CAS database statistics for 2006 indicate the international distribution of the 1,016,669 publications indexed this year:

Languages of publication: 50	Countries of origin: 194
Top 3: English: 68.1%	Top 3: U.S.: 19.4%
Chinese 13.1%	China (PRC) 17.6%
Japanese 10.3%	Japan 16.6%

Patents from 50 issuing authorities accounted for 24.4% of the publications, but contained more than 50% of the new chemical substance information recorded by CAS. The greatest number of publications were articles from CAS' extensive journal coverage in chemistry and related science, for which CAS monitors more than 9,500 titles. Additional sources included conference proceedings, symposia and other documents.

"Throughout the lifetime of *Chemical Abstracts* and the CAS databases, our records have mirrored the progress of research in chemistry and related sciences," said Matthew J. Toussant, CAS vice president, editorial operations. "It took 30 years for CA to publish its first million abstracts, and we have now exceeded that total in a little less than one year. This achievement dramatically illustrates the rapid pace of research occurring worldwide."

To gain access to the wealth of information in CAS databases, scientists, students, and patent professionals can use a variety of CAS products and search services. "Our comprehensive database of chemistry and related scientific information is an invaluable resource," said Catharina Maulbecker, CAS vice president of marketing and sales. "The added value of the STN® and SciFinder® search tools enables the scientific community to apply the information to full advantage as they build upon this century of knowledge." More information on CAS databases and search services can found on the web at www.cas.org

ACS Scholars Program

The ACS Scholars Program is now in its twelfth year. Scholarship recipients must be majoring in or planning to major in a chemical science and intending to pursue a career in that science. The scholarship is renewable and valued at up to \$5000 per academic year. For further information, call 1-800-227-5558, ext. 6250, or send an e-mail message to scholars@acs.org, or write to us at American Chemical Society Scholars Program, 1155 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036. The following students from South Florida are current ACS Scholars:

David L. Acosta – Chemistry major – FIU-South Campus
Cynthia N. Betancourt – Biochemistry – FSU
Beatriz A. Brando – Chemistry – Harvard University
Dionne C. Dickson – Chemistry – FIU – Biscayne Bay Campus
Joseph H. Gaskins – Biochemistry – FSU
Steven A. Lopez – Biochemistry – New York University

Kristina N. Marrero – Chemical Engineering – Northwestern Univ.
Kristen T. Martinez – Chemical Engineering – MIT
Angelica A. Montoya – Chemistry – Barry University
Mary Ann E. Pertierra – Materials Science – Northwestern Univ.
Aline Thomas – Chemical Engineering – MIT
Jaamal J. Taylor – Chemistry – University of South Florida

CHEMISTS CELEBRATE EARTH DAY
"RECYCLING—CHEMISTRY CAN!"

APRIL 22, 2007

Chemists Celebrate Earth Day is an environmental awareness campaign. The event provides activities that are designed to enhance public awareness of important contributions made through chemistry in preserving our planet and improving our environment. The event is held annually on April 22. For more information visit: chemistry.org/earthday.

NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK: 20TH ANNIVERSARY
"THE MANY FACES OF CHEMISTRY" – OCTOBER 21-27, 2007
National Chemistry Week (NCW), a community-based outreach program, is designed to reach the public with positive messages about chemistry and to make a positive change in the public's impression of chemistry. Activities include chemical demonstrations, hands-on activities, lectures, open houses, displays, contests and games. NCW is celebrated annually from Sunday through Saturday during the fourth week of October. For more information about the theme and special plans to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the program, visit: chemistry.org/ncw.

Officers of the South Florida Section ACS for 2007

Chair: Robert (Skip) Pomeroy, FAR-MST, Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314, (954) 262-8321, pomeroy@nova.edu
Immediate Past Chair: K.V. (Venk) Venkatachalam, Department of Biochemistry, Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33328-2018, (954) 262-1335, venk@nova.edu
Chair-Elect: Michael J. Elliott, Florida Memorial University, Miami, FL 33054, (305) 626-3704, melliott@fmuniv.edu
Secretary: Milagros Delgado, Department of Chemistry, Florida International University Biscayne Bay Campus, AC1-382A, North Miami, FL 33181, (305) 919-5966; delgadam@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, delgadam@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, (See secretary's info).

SoFlacs, the publication of the South Florida Section, American Chemical Society, is published quarterly in the Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. Subscription rate is \$4.00 per year or \$1.00 per copy. Third class postage paid at Miami, FL.

EDITOR and BUSINESS MANAGER: George Fisher, Department of Chemistry, Barry University, 11300 N.E. 2nd Ave., Miami Shores, FL 33161, (305) 899-3430, FAX (305) 899-3479; e-mail: gfisher@mail.barry.edu.

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.

PRINTED BY: Allstate Bindery, 95 NE 166th St., Miami. (305) 945-9098.

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

NATIONAL ACS WEB SITE: <http://www.chemistry.org>

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