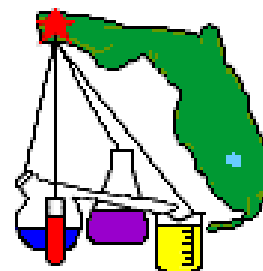




Pensacola Section of the American Chemical Society



THE ANCHIMERIC ASSISTANT

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Pensacola, FL
Section Chair: Alan Nitzman

Cliff Chang (1938-2007)

With regret, we must inform you that Professor Emeritus Clifford Chang died on Monday, October 15th, 2007 in Hawaii. After living in Pensacola for 40 years, Cliff had returned to Honolulu in December 2006. Following heart surgery in the late spring of 2007, complications arose and he was unable to leave the hospital.

Cliff was a member of the Chemistry Department from 1968 until his retirement in 2003. Dr. Chang came to the mainland from Hawaii and received his BS from the University of Southern California in 1960. He returned to Hawaii and earned the Ph. D. Degree which was awarded in 1964 by the University of Hawaii. From 1964 through 1968, he was a post-doctoral research fellow at the University of Georgia. He came to UWF in 1968 as an assistant professor and worked his way through the ranks to full professor. During his UWF tenure, he conducted research in organic chemistry, particularly marine natural products chemistry, and worked with scientists at Monsanto (now Solutia) during many summers. He spent a sabbatical leave at the University of Oklahoma, and a number of summers associated with the University of Hawaii. He authored five book chapters, 29 journal articles and seven technical reports at Monsanto (Solutia). Over the years, he served on many departmental, college and university-level committees. And his teaching was recognized with a TIP (Teaching Incentive Program) Award.



Throughout his career, Cliff worked with the Pensacola Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) in a variety of positions including the Chairmanship. Perhaps most significant is that he served as a representative of the local section at national meetings of the ACS as Alternate Councilor and then Councilor for almost 30 years. In addition, Cliff was very active with the American Chemical Society as member of numerous national committees.

He is survived by his mother and his siblings, two sisters and three brothers along with their families. Funeral services were held in Honolulu on November 23rd. Condolences may be sent to the family (Dennis Chang, 2132 Mahalo Street, Honolulu, HI 96817). In lieu of flowers, the family has suggested that memorial donations be directed to the Chemistry Department Scholarship Fund through the UWF Foundation.

Pensacola Section Receives ACS Local Section Award

by Alan Nitzman

The Pensacola section was awarded the best small local section at the ACS national convention in Boston last month. I was a last minute substitute to represent us due to the state of Florida budget crunch and travel restrictions at UWF. The selection process had already whittled the competing sections down to three, and so the worst we could have done was second runner-up. This award was for 2006 and so kudos to the 2006 team under the leadership of Glenda Marshman. We got this award with a solid performance in all areas, and new activities such as a joint meeting with the Mobile section and participation in Earth Day activities. We put together a poster session which was easy since we had many activities to show and diligent photographers who provided visual documentation. I was proud of our accomplishments but other sections had much to

show also. The Richland section, Washington State, had helped nearly 200 hundred young women to



consider chemistry as a career. The Baton Rouge section had filled the LSU field house with school age kids to perform chemistry related experiments. It was inspiring to see so many good activities the ACS sections contribute to their communities. You can see our award trophy at our dinner meetings and we will also pass it around to show at UWF and local industries.

Boston National Meeting Councilor's Report

By Allan Ford

The Boston meeting was well attended with a total of 15344 people showing up. Numbers can be deceptive as this number includes 3518 students, 748 for exhibits only, 1676 exhibitors and 574 guests.



ACS President Dr. Catherine T. Hunt discussed policy development and advocacy within ACS. She posed three questions: How can ACS gain more member involvement in public policy development, public policy advocacy and be a leader in involving the broader scientific community in public policy advocacy? She is leading a major effort in this direction.

The most contentious issue brought before the council was a proposal on petition candidates.

Currently, candidates for the ACS Presidency come from a committee that proposes four candidates to the council and the council selects two for the ballot. There is an alternate route to running for the presidency called petition candidacy. If a candidate can get enough signatures on a petition for candidacy he or she can be placed directly on the ballot. These "grass roots" candidates are usually supported by a local section or a group of local sections. Some notable ACS presidents have come from this process. The new process would have the petition candidate approved by the Council prior to being placed on the ballot. This partially disenfranchises local sections from the election process as the petition no longer places a name on the ballot but only recommends to council that the name be on the ballot. If this passes there will be few, if any petition candidates. I will vote against this initiative.





“From the Chair” Alan Nitzman on Global Warming

If you read widely, you will find this topic discussed often. I do not think any serious person now doubts global warming exists, but some people still prevaricate. It was two hundred years ago that a chemist first predicted global warming would occur. So, let’s look at this from the viewpoint of chemists. On earth heat is transferred by convection, conduction and radiation, but from and to space heat is transferred only by radiation. The equation to calculate heat transfer by radiation is well known. We get heat from the sun during the day, and lose heat to the

sky at night. Space is at near absolute zero, and so a lot of heat is lost at night. Back radiation from the sky reduces heat lost. On a clear night in the desert, it can feel very cold. CO₂ is a green house gas because it increases back radiation at night and lessens heat lost to the night sky. This can be calculated, and so the fundamental question concerning global warming can be restated as: Is the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere increasing? Since the answer to this question is much easier to determine, we can be sure global warming exists. Politicians who do not understand science need to listen to those of us who do understand science.



National Chemistry Week Event at IHMC

NCW Coordinator: Michael Huggins



On Saturday Oct 27th, the Pensacola Section conducted an educational outreach activity as part of the National Chemistry Week Celebrations at the Institute for Human and Machine Cognition (IHMC) as part of the Science Saturday program. The theme of national chemistry week was “The Many Faces of Chemistry”, and the theme of our program was chemical reactions. The format included a brief introduction to chemical reactions followed by ~90 minutes of hands-one activities for the ~45 children in attendance during the two sessions. The students performed reactions ranging from acid/base reactions using Universal Indicator to examples of endothermic and exothermic reactions. A **HUGE** thanks goes out to Helmuth Hinderer, Alan Nitzman, Pam Vaughan, Pamela

Tanner, Jason Goins, Jane Parkin, Robin Klempa, John Chambers and UWF students Amanda Miller, Natasha Dunaway and Tyler Butler, Lindsey Schneider, and Scott Shaw for giving up their Saturday morning to make this event such a wonderful success. As a side note, Jason, Jane, Robin and John work with Ropella & Associated in Milton – Thanks for strong support! I think it is safe to say that a great time was had by all. One of the parents told me that our session was by far the best session that his daughter had attended in the Science Saturday program.



Summary of Recent Local Section Meetings

Pensacola – Mobile Joint Meeting September 17, 2007



The second annual joint meeting of the Pensacola and Mobile ACS Sections took place at Russo's Restaurant at the Eastern Shore Shopping Center on Interstate 10 near Mobile. About 30 chemists and significant others listened to Dr. Frank A. Settle of Washington and Lee University (right in picture) discuss the early development of the atomic bomb.

Most chemists know that the development of the atomic bomb was primarily the development of the physical chemistry necessary to produce pure enough uranium for use in the bomb. A number of configurations have been used. Some have been more efficient than others but only the N. Koreans have failed to get one to go off. At least one of the early bombs operated like a canon shooting one piece of uranium into another.

Dr. Settle talked about the many scientists and engineers who developed the technology and about the many universities that were involved in developing the separations that led to the giant gaseous diffusion plant that eventually provided the materials for the first test at Alamogordo, New Mexico and later bombs.

October Meeting Dr. Russ Baxter

The former manager of the Taminco plant, formerly Air Products, in Pace spoke at the October 11 meeting. Russ Baxter described the chemistry, products and environmental health of the local chemical plant. The plant began in 1955 as the Escambia Chemical Corporation and then

became Air Products. Taminco is a Belgian company with plants in the U.S., China and Europe.

The plant is a major manufacturer of methyl amine and homologs. It is the largest methyl amine plant in the world. Methyl amine manufacture is based upon natural gas which has become quite expensive in the U.S. Currently natural gas is converted to methanol in Trinidad and shipped to the Pace plant for about half the cost of production in the U.S. Downstream products not manufactured in Pace include glyphosate, atrazine shampoos soft soap, Lipitor and Tagament.

Methyl amines have odor thresholds in the sub part per billion range so environmental issues are important to the plant. The plant has an extensive odor control program and currently has in use the area's only zero effluent program.



November Meeting Dr. Maria Auad

The November lecture, New Frontiers in Polymer Science: Polymer Nanocomposite,



was attended by about 20 members at Dharma Blue Café in downtown Pensacola. Auburn University professor Maria Auad (center in picture) discussed the growing field of polymer composite chemistry.

Her work focuses on the use of nanotubes, carbon nanofibers, microcrystalline cellulose and nanoclays in polyurethanes and epoxies. The new combinations of properties provide opportunities to circumvent traditional trade-offs associated with conventional reinforced plastics.

2007-08 Meeting Schedule

Date	Speaker	Topic	Location
Dec 8th	UWF Alumni Symposium	See Below	UWF Main Campus
Jan 24	Wade Jeffrey UWF	Global Warming	TBA
Feb	Joaquin Lubkowitz, Separation Systems	TBA	TBA
Mar 12	Ramon Barnes UMass, Amherst	Environmental Forensics and Analytical Atomic Spectrochemistry	TBA
Apr	TBA	TBA	TBA
May	Awards Banquet	TBA	Angus Steakhouse

See the website for more details (<http://uwf.edu/acs/pnsacs/>)



Department of Chemistry Alumni Symposium

Drs. Peter Tanner and Jerry Gurst will be retiring from the Department of Chemistry at UWF in December after having completed 40+ years at the University of West Florida. As part of the celebration, the Department is putting together a chemistry symposium with presentations from various alumni. The symposium is scheduled for 12:30-4:45 PM and will be on the UWF main campus (Building 58A, Room 105). Our list of speakers includes:

Dr. Chris Culburtson, Kansas State
Dr. Ben Harrison, Wake Forest University
Dr. Alan Schrock, Dow Chemicals

Dr. Cosette Serabjit-Singh, GSK
Dr. Mike Summers, Univ. of Maryland, Balt. Cnty
Dr. Mike Reily, Bristol-Myers Squibb

All members of the Pensacola Section are invited to join us in celebrating Peter and Jerry's retirement by attending the symposium. Both Peter and Jerry have been active in the local section over the years in various capacities including Section Chair, Chemathon Coordinator, and more. Please see the Department of Chemistry website for additional information on the symposium (<http://uwf.edu/chemistry>).