

SLA Chemistry Division E-Newsletter

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

LURAY M. MINKIEWICZ

❖ Colleagues and Friends,

The 2009 SLA Annual Conference celebrating the 100th Anniversary of SLA is now history. I hope those of you who had the opportunity to attend the conference found the sessions, the venue, the exhibits, the receptions, and the whole experience exhilarating and something to blog, tweet or "write home about."

A big "Thank You" to all who helped with the Division programs – CE instructors, planners, moderators, speakers, panelists, poster presenters, the Division Board members, and all who gave of their time and talent, those who attended our Division sessions and the SLA staff who guided us through this process. What I learned is that it takes an incredible amount of teamwork and coordination to bring the annual conferences to fruition – and I now have a much better appreciation for all those who plan and work/present in some way at these conferences. Give yourselves a big applause for a job well done!

Thank you to our 2009 conference sponsors who helped to make the Chemistry Division programs possible:

- ACS (American Chemical Society) Publications
- ASM International
- CRC Press (part of Taylor & Francis)
- GLTaC, Inc (Global Language Translations)
- Nature Publishing Group
- RSC (Royal Society of Chemistry)
- Springer
- SRI Consulting
- Thomson Reuters
- We-Buy-Books
- Wiley Interscience

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The contents of articles and editorials should not be construed as being or representing the official position of the Division. Portions of the Newsletter may be printed without permission as long as the source is clearly acknowledged. Special Libraries Association (SLA) assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions advanced by the contributors to the Association's publications. Editorial views do not necessarily represent the official positions of SLA.

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The Editor welcomes readers' contributions. Items wanted include: Articles of interest to the community of chemistry information specialists, book reviews for new reference materials, citations for new journals, accomplishments & accolades for the Members' Corner and website recommendations for "Beyond the Chemistry Web..." If you have something you would like to contribute, please contact the Editor or send it via e-mail as a text file or Word document.

Let us also congratulate the 2009 Division award winners:
Li Zhang, 2009 Sparks Award winner
Paulina Borrego, 2009 ACS New Professional Award winner (thank you to ACS Publications for their sponsorship of this award again this year!)
Norah Xiao -- SLA Rising Star Award (one of five from all of SLA!)
We wish them well in their careers and look forward to their contributions to SLA, the Chemistry Division and our profession.

Thank you to all who took the time to fill out the feedback forms after each session – the results generally showed that our 2009 programs were well received, but all suggestions are reviewed and taken into account for future planning purposes.

Some of the Division's presentations are up on the SLA web site: <http://www.sla.org/content/Events/conference/ac2009/Conference/handouts/index.cfm>
And will be put on the Division web site also.

I hope you found time at the conference to network and have fun, too, whether at one of the more popular venues, such as the International Spy Museum (just call me "Greta"), the fabulous Great Hall at the Library of Congress, or just at a local restaurant or "watering hole".

It was our pleasure at the Chemistry Division's Annual Business Meeting to announce the initiation of the newest award from the Chemistry Division – the **Wiggins-Roth Award for Outstanding Service**, named after our two distinguished Division members, Gary Wiggins and Dana Roth, who have recently been inducted into the SLA Hall of Fame. Stay tuned for the call for nominations coming soon.

Also at the Annual Business Meeting, we announced that we will be looking at our Financial Strategy. We want to formulate a strategy to keep on track for sustained financial health so that the Division can continue to provide the programs, activities and opportunities that our members want. This strategy will be meshed into the Division's Strategic Plan, which we hope to update by year's end after the results of our member survey are analyzed. Both the Board meeting minutes and the Annual Business meeting minutes will be up on the Division web site so you can review the other items discussed at these two meetings.

Finally, at the conference we heard a lot about "Align in '09" – what is this all about anyway? Here is my "take" on it -- basically it means that our value proposition as information professionals/librarians should be intimately tied into (or "aligned" with) the strategic goals and objectives of the organizations for which we work. Extrapolate this to membership in SLA, our professional society which advocates for our whole profession, and you can see that this advocacy will work best when it is "aligned" with the value propositions that resonate the most not only with our internal stakeholders but also with external groups such as potential members, potential partners, etc.

❖ MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR (CONT.)

See the SLA web site (<http://www.sla.org/content/SLA/alignment/index.cfm>) for more background and information on this association project.

As you can see, SLA and the Chemistry Division do not stand still – we continually work to bring the best value to our members via programming, CE courses, after-conference tours, newsletters, awards, networking opportunities, etc. If you want to add your talent and time to this endeavor, just drop me a line at luray.m.minkiewicz@usa.dupont.com and let me know what your interests are.

Luray M. Minkiewicz
Chair, SLA Chemistry Division

From The Editors' Desktop:

ALIGNMENT PROJECT!

Just another quick note to let you know that the SLA Alignment Portal is now available. Feel free to visit this site and educate yourselves about this very important initiative.

<http://www.sla.org/content/SLA/alignment/portal/index.html>.

You'll also find a link to it in the upper left hand corner of the SLA homepage <http://www.sla.org>, under Inside SLA click on *SLA Alignment Project*.

❖ Kiem-Dung Ta and Kevin Lindstrom



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR ELECT TERY VOGEL

It was good to see so many of you braving the heat and humidity of DC.

Planning for 2010 kicked into high gear last month at the conference. On that Saturday, Jack and I met with other division planners to talk about the program ideas we had and to hear what the other planners were considering to see where there was interest in partnering up with other divisions. I also got some feedback from some of you at the conference, and I have also looked over the comments on the evaluation forms. We also have a new member on the planning team. Cory Craig, our Awards chair and one of the co-chairs of the Information Literacy ad hoc committee that wrote *Information Competencies for Chemistry Undergraduates*, has agreed to serve as our program planner.

Our first draft of the Chemistry Division programs is due on August 7, and here are some of the programs we're considering:

- Saturday and Sunday CE courses
- Academic and Corporate breakfast roundtables
- All-Sciences Poster Session and reception
- Programs on collection intelligence, polymer resources, data curation, and green chemistry and the rebuilding of New Orleans.
- Vendor update – back by popular request
- Possibly something on chemical information on mobile devices

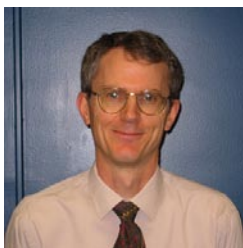
As we put together the program this summer and fall, there will be plenty of opportunities for Chemistry Division members to get involved in next year's conference: from moderating sessions and roundtables, to helping with sponsorship, to serving as reporters during the conference.

If you have any questions or suggestions for next year's conference, or want to volunteer for of those above-mentioned roles, please let us know.

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BEYOND THE CHEMISTRY WEB...

BOB BUCHANAN

LIBRARIAN FOR CHEMISTRY AND VETERINARY MEDICINE, AUBURN UNIVERSITY

❖ *This column focuses on PubMed and other free third-party search interfaces that use Medline data.*

If you have not searched **PubMed** in the last year or two, it is well worth a visit. The Google-like basic search produces high quality results – mainly by mapping search terms to MeSH terms, journal titles, and author names and expanding these terms to all fields. The advanced search is predictably powerful and even allows one to browse the index of each field. Combined with an easily manipulated search history, PubMed meets the needs of neophyte and expert searchers. In “My NCBI” you can save results and run automated search updates. There is a small learning curve (pull-down menus for Display and Send To; tabs for History, Clipboard, and Details; and returning to PubMed via a thin navigation bar at the top of the page) for optimal searching, but this is a small price to pay.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed>

The goal of **Pubget** is to eliminate the hassle of opening PDFs from PubMed records. It does this by knowing how best to access over 20,000 journals and automating the process. Pubget can also be configured for your institution’s subscriptions. Quick access to full-text PDFs may make this free commercial interface released last April a big hit with biomedical researchers.

<http://pubget.com>

The combined controlled vocabulary of MeSH terms and Gene Ontology in **GoPubMed** makes it easy to refine PubMed searches. Use the statistics tab to apply filters for authors, institutions, subject terms, and journals and to visualize the relationships between authors. Results are sorted by a relevance ranking algorithm. The most noteworthy researcher of each search is also highlighted.

<http://www.gopubmed.org>

Much like GoPubMed, **novoseek** maps keywords to controlled vocabulary, with an emphasis on “biological entities”, to search PubMed and to refine results quickly. Relevance ranking is the default, but results can also be sorted by date. One novel feature is that it also searches NIH’s database of grants, CRISP.

<http://www.novoseek.com/Welcome.action>

Fast Automated Biomedical Literature Extraction (**FABLE**) is designed to maximize gene and protein keyword searches in PubMed. FABLE claims to find 25% more articles than PubMed. It does this by using a search algorithm that recognizes gene and protein objects and by mapping gene and protein synonyms to a controlled vocabulary.

<http://fable.chop.edu>

PubFocus performs statistical analysis of PubMed searches. It identifies publication trends and provides information on journals, first authors, and last authors. It also measures the quality of research activity for each author and identifies the authors with the most impact. These quality measures can be used to sort search results.

<http://www.pubfocus.com>

BEYOND THE CHEMISTRY WEB...(CONT.)
BOB BUCHANAN

PubMed PubReMiner generates one compact page with pick lists sorted by frequency for author, MeSH term, substance, year, country and words from the title/abstract/MeSH terms. The pick lists are used to refine the search and to launch a PubMed search. Because the parsing algorithm is slow, it is best to aim for a search that generates fewer than 1,000 results.

<http://bioinfo.amc.uva.nl/human-genetics/pubreminer>

Based on the first nine transition elements:

Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu
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Puzzle no 24

V							Cu	
Ti	Cu	Mn			Fe			
	Cr		V					
Co				Mn				Cr
						Fe	Sc	Ti
		Fe					Co	
Ni					V			Fe
Mn					Ti			

Solution on page 12



**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, MRM SECTION,
CHEMISTRY DIVISION**

CATHY DIPALMA

❖ Summer Greetings

The 2009 SLA Centennial Conference is now past but the spirit of "Information to Inspiration: Knowledge & Vision Shaping the Future" will continue to resonate within us for some time as we continually strive to reinvent and dedicate ourselves to meet the changing needs of our profession as well as to our clients.

The good-will and camaraderie at the conference was shared by over 5,000 attendees from 30 countries. Although the programs were diverse it was clear that social networking is still a force to be harnessed and the green initiative continues to gain momentum.

Here is a link to the 2009 Annual Conference presentations, handouts and podcasts which have been submitted to SLA for posting

<http://www.sla.org/content/Events/conference/ac2009/Conference/handouts/index.cfm>

I am pleased to report that the MRM program "Materials Research and Wind Energy: Recent and Future Developments" was well attended. Liz Salerno was our first speaker. She is the Manager of Policy Analysis at the American Wind Energy Association. Her talk focused on a market update for U.S. wind energy which included an outline and progress of the U.S. turbine manufacturers as well as new component manufacturing and wind industry R & D initiatives.

Stan Calvert, our second speaker, heads the Wind Technology Application team for the U.S. Dept. of Energy's Wind and Water Power Program. His talk centered on the materials of the wind energy turbine—its history, applications and technology. Of special interest was his description of the raw materials used in wind turbines. Another segment of the discussion centered on the blade composites manufacturing process and the use of carbon fiber in wind energy. He also touched on the sensors, drivetrains and gearboxes. He stressed that composites technology are the primary materials challenge for wind technology today.

Please take a look at their presentations here <http://units.sla.org/division/dche/mrm/resources/index.htm>

Happy Anniversary MRM! Many of you may be unaware that the MRM section is celebrating a milestone of its own this year. The Materials group has been in existence, as both division and section, for 60 years. A great deal of appreciation and applause go out to the membership and leaders who have helped sustain this valuable branch of SLA. Please feel free to share your thoughts or stories about our group via the MRM list.

The MRM Board is committed to providing the best possible service to our membership. In the coming months we will be seeking your input to improve our efforts and spark your interest. To mark the 60 anniversary of MRM, please begin thinking about ways to refresh our group with a new direction and a new initiative.

Our membership is approximately 55 strong and growing. Please welcome our new members:
Lynn Peseky – Corning Inc.; Sara Rouhi – American Chemical Society and Douglas Strock – Glatac, Inc

Cathy DiPalma
Chair, MRM Section, Chemistry Division

Saint-Gobain NorPro
330-677-3566



2009 WINNER OF SPARK AWARD
LI ZHANG
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

❖ With the support of the Marion E. Sparks Award, I have enjoyed my fruitful five-day trip to Washington D.C. for the Special Library Association (SLA) 2009 Annual Conference. Attending the conference opened my eyes to specialized areas of librarianship, increased my knowledge of chemistry and awareness of information sources, and gave me the opportunity of meeting wonderful people and absorbing their valuable advice.

Overall, my conference experience was all about learning and having fun: learning in interactive classroom settings, learning from colleagues at luncheons, dinners, and receptions, and learning about the association while participating in all sorts of fantastic activities. The conference offered me a great chance to learn the latest trends and best practices in the profession.

I have to mention the continuing education courses I attended: "Chemistry for the Non-Chemist Librarian" and "Chemical Information Sources, Requests, and Reference." The instructors, Bartow Culp, Judith Currano, and Denise Callihan, provided a thorough overview of the major divisions of chemistry, basic principles of each division, research questions that chemical scientists may ask, as well as possible reference sources for finding information to meet the chemists' information needs. I loved the hands-on exercises that involved me in solving problems, reflecting on what I learned, and thinking about what I am doing.

I also enjoyed my time at the Chemistry Division's no-host dinner and Newcomers' Lunch. I was excited to be able to meet the people who I previously only "knew" via the listservs. Fun and informal interactions generated laughter, inspiration, exchange of ideas, and useful recommendations. What a relaxing environment to get reenergized in! Likewise, the Chemistry Division Business Meeting & Breakfast allowed me to see how the division operates. I now have a clearer idea about how I could play an active role in the organization.

A number of workshops really impressed me. For example, in the session presented by Carol Tenopir on "Interdisciplinary Science and Its Impact on Information Professionals," Tenopir envisions that interdisciplinary research will continue to expand in the academic world. She suggests that information professionals need to take a leadership role, "providing collection and access that facilitate interdisciplinary work." In another session, "The New Face of the Special Librarian: Embedded Librarians," Mary Talley, Josh Duberman, and Barb Zinter shared their experiences of being information professionals who work directly with customer groups and teams in an embedded role. I was interested to hear lots of insights on embedded librarianship.

I feel so pleased to be a member of SLA and the Chemistry Division. I am grateful for the Sparks award, which helped me have a fabulous professional experience. A special thanks goes to my colleagues who strengthened my skills with their wisdom and guidance. I am looking forward to meeting many of you in New Orleans next year!



2009 WINNER OF ACS NEW PROFESSIONAL AWARD

PAULINA BORREGO

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

❖ Having been the recipient of the American Chemical Society New Professional Award, I was thrilled to have the opportunity to attend the Special Libraries Association Conference in Washington, DC. This was my first time attending a national conference and the first time I attended SLA. The experience was more gratifying than I could have ever imagined.

The very best part of attending the conference was the various people that I met. Everyone was so enthusiastic and helpful. I thoroughly enjoyed talking to the session speakers, vendors, and just plain random people I met while waiting for the sessions to begin. I was fortunate to have a "First Timer" sticker on my badge so people were always asking me how I was enjoying the conference and where I was from. I would therefore suggest this tactic to any first time attendee – it's a quick way to make friends and begin conversations.

All of the sessions that I attended were professional, fun, and engaging. Before attending the conference I looked through the conference preview booklet and planned out what I intended to attend. Of course, there were more sessions than there was time so I had to choose wisely. I found the sessions I chose to be informative and thought provoking – I went away with lots of ideas and renewed energy to try new things.

Besides attending subject specific workshops I spent one whole day visiting the various vendors. I found this to be simply overwhelming! Before arriving to the conference I looked at the vendor list and noted which ones I wanted to talk with and wrote down the vendor booth numbers – this made my life so much easier. It was nice to talk with the vendors and learn more about the products they offer. All in all, building this vendor-client relationship is so important and one that I am glad I made the time to establish.

My one regret of the conference is that I did not get to attend any of the pre-conference classes but hope to do so in the future. Overall, I am so grateful to ACS for their generosity in helping make it possible for me to attend this conference. It was a great introduction to the world of SLA.



2009 SLA RISING STAR AWARD NORAH XIAO

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

❖ SLA in Washing DC, June 14 - 17 was my first SLA conference, and I was very excited about it.

Flying from LAX and arriving at BWI in the early morning of June 14, my first day of SLA started with the first-timer orientation, and then the opening general session, where I, with other award recipients, stood on the podium and received our awards (<http://www.slatv.org/media.cfm?c=519&m=2410&s=120&>).

The award, Rising Star, is a new award this year to “recognize a new information professional who shows exceptional promise of leadership and contribution to the association and profession”. SLA and our division are an integral part of my professional growth since the day I decided to become an information scientist, and it was my great honor to receive this award. I would like to give thanks, to my mentors, Susan Campbell and Deborah Holmes-Wong, who guide my professional growth and advise me; to people who always support me, and are with me; to my users at USC, who always motivate me and inspire me to do better every day; more importantly to my SLA and my Chemistry division that give me warmly-welcoming professional environment to grow, learn, and shine! I look forward to continuing my professional growth with our association, and contributing to our association with my best.

From the day two, I began my full SLA conference experience by crossing meetings, sessions, and events in my conference calendar. It was certainly a very busy schedule (a typical first-timer one!), however, I found myself very much enjoy it, from Academic Libraries (general topics) to subject specialized roundtable discussions and sessions, from career growth sessions to knowledge and technologies update hot topics and spotlight sessions, from All Science poster session (where I presented my first SLA poster!) and talk and visit to the Info-EXPO. As a new member of our DCHE Advisory Board, I also attended my very first Chemistry Division Business Meeting Breakfast, and acted as photographer (see pictures from our DCHE facebook <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=10174306575>). With me moderating the session, Ben Wagner and Cristina Tomeo gave our DCHEM last session this year, “the Business of Chemistry”, which was well attended.

All in all, I had a great SLA conference. Moreover, I’ve met and talked (or smiled as “Hello”) many of you, my dear SLA-DCHE members, in-person!

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**Solution to puzzle no 24**

V	Fe	Co	Cr	Ti	Ni	Mn	Cu	Sc
Ti	Cu	Mn	Co	Sc	Fe	Cr	Ni	V
Sc	Cr	Ni	V	Cu	Mn	Ti	Fe	Co
Co	Ni	Ti	Fe	Mn	Sc	Cu	V	Cr
Cr	Mn	V	Cu	Ni	Co	Fe	Sc	Ti
Cu	Sc	Fe	Ti	V	Cr	Ni	Co	Mn
Ni	Co	Cu	Mn	Cr	V	Sc	Ti	Fe
Mn	V	Sc	Ni	Fe	Ti	Co	Cr	Cu
Fe	Ti	Cr	Sc	Co	Cu	V	Mn	Ni