

SLA Chemistry Division E-Newsletter

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

LURAY M. MINKIEWICZ

❖ Colleagues and Friends,

It is with deep reluctance that the SLA Chemistry Division has decided to cancel its Open House/Speed Networking event at the upcoming SLA conference. This year has proved to be more challenging economically than in past years and the Division program planners felt that we would like to concentrate our resources on the other Division program sessions.

❖ A change of seasons is here. It reminds us that change is a fact of life. As part of the changes happening in the SLA Chemistry Division, I would like to welcome some new members to the Advisory Board:

- Arda Agulian from BASF Catalysts (NJ) as the 2010 Conference Planner
- Jack Bashian from Smithers Rapra (OH) as the MRM Section Chair-Elect
- Linda Maddux from Reed College (OR) as our new Webmaster
- Kiem Ta from Oklahoma State University (OK) as the new Bulletin Editor
- Norah Xiao from the University of Southern California (CA) as the new ACS Liaison

By the time you are reading this, the Division's membership survey should be either on its way to your email box or already in progress. When the survey arrives at your destination, I urge

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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.

you to take a few minutes to answer the survey – it will help the Chemistry Division define our new strategic vision and goals and set our direction for the next few years. One of my favorite quotes is from St. Augustine: "If you wish to reach a higher level of self-understanding, you must allow yourself to be dissatisfied with where you are. For when you were satisfied, you made no progress." Change and adaptation is necessary in order to grow and make progress.

Change is also a theme running through the 2009 SLA Annual Conference and the lineup of programs from the Chemistry Division. I hope you are able to avail yourselves of some of these great programs and events:

- Change the way you measure your library's collection -- A Measures Toolkit for Librarians
- Change the way you think about energy sources -- Materials Research in Wind Energy - Present and Future
- See how changes in science affect our profession, too -- Interdisciplinary Science and Its Implications for Librarians and Information Professionals
- Come hear how changes in the regulatory landscape will effect the chemical industry -- REACH & the Future of Toxics Legislation (with ERM)
- What changes have you instituted in your library workflow? -- Interact at the poster session during the All Sciences Reception

These are but a sampling of the great programming in store for all attendees at the SLA Annual Conference in Washington, DC! I hope to see you there!

Happy 100th Anniversary to SLA!

Luray M. Minkiewicz
Chair, SLA Chemistry Division

❖ **Note:**

Please remember to contact Yan He at yh83@georgetown.edu if you are interested in our No-Host Dinner on Saturday, June 13 at 7:30PM. More on page 3...

From the Editor's Desktop

It appears that our Division is well-presented at this conference. Over 100 members are attending the conference. I think that is great!

❖ Kiem-Dung Ta and Kevin Lindstrom

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR**LURAY M. MINKIEWICZ (CONT.)**

❖ I am highlighting some activities of the Division at the upcoming [SLA Annual Conference in June](#). I hope that you will be able to attend some or all of these events at this momentous time in SLA's history -- its 100th year!!

I hope to meet as many of you as I can at the Conference!!

Saturday, June 13- 8 am to 5 pm
Chemistry for the Non-Chemist Librarian
(CE Course ticketed event with special pricing for student members)

Sunday, June 14- 8 am to 12 noon
Chemical Information Sources, Requests and Reference
(CE Course ticketed event with special pricing for student members)

Sunday, June 14 - 12 noon to 1:30 pm
Chemistry Division and MRM Section Newcomers' Lunch --
This will be by invitation only -- more details will be forthcoming.
Thank you to [SRI Consulting](#) for sponsoring this luncheon!

Sunday, June 14- 1 pm - 5 pm
Advanced Chemical Information Topics: Substructures, Sequences and Polymers
(CE Course ticketed event with special pricing for student members)

Monday, June 15- 7:00 am to 8:30 am
Chemistry Division Breakfast Roundtable

Monday, June 15- 9:00 am- 10:30 am
Materials Research and Wind Energy - Recent & Future Developments

Monday, June 15- 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Are You Eating Safe Foods? (Co-sponsoring with the Food, Agriculture and Nutrition Division)

Tuesday, June 16- 9:30 am - 11:00 am
Forensics: Beyond the TV Shows (Co-sponsoring with the Sci-Tech Division)

Tuesday, June 16- 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Interdisciplinary Science and Its Impact on Information Professionals (Co-sponsoring Division: Social Science)

Tuesday, June 16- 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm (Co-sponsoring with the Environment & Resource Management Division) REACH and the Future of Toxics Legislation

Wed, June 17- 8:30 am - 10 am
The Business of Chemistry -- practical tips and techniques on this topic.

Thursday, June 18 - 8 am to 2 pm (ticketed event)
Tour of NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) (co-sponsoring division: Sci-Tech)

More details on the full SLA Chemistry Division Conference Page:
<http://units.sla.org/division/dche/2009/index.htm>

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY (ACS) SPRING 2009 MEETING

MEGHAN LAFFERTY

❖ Coming from Minnesota, going to this year's spring ACS meeting in Salt Lake City, UT from March 21-26 was a welcome change. I was unable to explore the city much since I had just 4 days that were packed with meetings and sessions, although I'm pretty sure I hit most of the vegetarian restaurants in town.

The first session I attended, *Just Enough, Just in Time: How Engineers use Information for Everyday Problem Solving*, was a half day session. Judith Seiss spoke about her experiences with scientists and engineers and their use of information. Diana Bittern of Knovel presented results of a survey of AIChE members on tools they use in their work; Excel was at the top of the list, and MathCAD and similar software were next. In response to that, Knovel is experimenting with linking equations in two *Knovel* books with MathCAD. I also learned about some new places to find chemical engineering information and new uses for familiar sources from Ann Bolek's talk.

Are Chemical Information Professionals Ready for the Future? was a day-long session addressing the variety of ways in which libraries are responding to new ways of accessing, disseminating, and organizing information (full disclosure: I was both a co-organizer and a speaker). Beth Brown opened the symposium with a broad overview on changes in libraries and the roles of librarians. Martin Brändle of (ETH) spoke about several projects at his institution; I was particularly interested to learn about their Physical Properties Source Index with result ranking based on resource evaluation by users and ETH staff.

Libraries have become increasingly aware of the need to find new ways to use space as user needs change. Andrea Twiss-Brooks described proactive space planning at the John Crerar Library at the University of Chicago and the lessons they learned in the process. A key one was the imperative to look at your spaces before someone else does it for you.

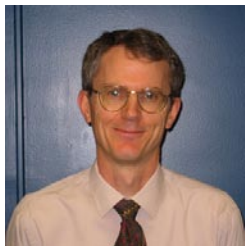
E-science is a looming issue that libraries and institutions are in the beginning stages of addressing. Barb Losoff gave a broad overview of e-science. Leah Solla spoke about chemistry's e-science potential; an important consideration is the wide variety of approaches to and types of data that chemists use.

Publishing is another area of major change for libraries. Erja Kajosallo presented an MIT Libraries ethnographic study of faculty in several departments that receive NIH funding and will be affected by new open access policies. They investigated whether depositing articles into PubMed Central as a library service was feasible and ultimately decided it was not. In the process, they gained a lot of insight into faculty members' publishing workflow.

ACS meetings are also a good opportunity to find out about changes for Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) and ACS Publications.

Among the highlights:

- 2009 is the last year for print Chemical Abstracts, including CASSI
- CAS Common Chemistry, a database of CA Registry information for 7800 commonly used substances, is now online
- Google Scholar is now crawling ACS Publications



BEYOND THE CHEMISTRY WEB...

BOB BUCHANAN

❖ This column is devoted to humor in science, particularly in chemistry. Many of these are great to use in the classroom, especially the cartoons and visual humor.

Jokes

When you feel the need for humor, especially puns, on just about any science-related topic, go to **Science Jokes**. Indexed by discipline and keyword searchable, this large collection of over 2,500 jokes includes subcategories like “Why the chicken crossed the road” and “You might be a chemist if ...”. This is the best single site for science and chemistry humor.

<http://www.xs4all.nl/~jcdverha/scijokes/index.html>

Terry Helser has gathered jokes about chemistry and academia in **Chemistry Quotes and Jokes**.

<http://employees.oneonta.edu/helsertl/ChemQuotes.html>

Bad Chemistry Jokes and Stories offers much visual chemical humor and jokes.

<http://www.nku.edu/~russellk/G-html/chemhum.html>

Chemistry Jokes offers the old standbys.

<http://www.jupiterscientific.org/sciinfo/jokes/chemistryjokes.html>

Chemistry Puns offers 38 element-based puns

http://www.sciencebyjones.com/chemistry_puns.htm

Cartoons

The comic strip **Piled Higher and Deeper** provides a humorous view of the Ph.D. process. Use the “New to PhD” link to navigate to the best cartoons. This is an outstanding and on-going strip.

<http://www.phdcomics.com/comics/aboutcomics.html>

Lab initio, formerly called Nearing Zero, offers over 400 cartoons by Nick Kim. Most are science-oriented and many are specific to chemistry. Navigation is easy by the subject index. This is one of my favorites for the classroom.

<http://www.lab-initio.com>

Lab Bratz – Online science humor comic strip features biologically-oriented cartoons with continuing characters. Unfortunately, site navigation is problematic – cartoons can only be viewed sequentially.

<http://labbratz.comicgenesis.com>

The deservedly well known cartoons of Sidney Harris can be found at **Science Cartoons Plus**.

<http://www.sciencecartoonsplus.com/pages/gallery.php>

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS:

SPARKS AWARD FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ACS NEW PROFESSIONAL AWARD

2009 Marion E. Sparks Award for Professional Development

The SLA Chemistry Division (DCHE) is pleased to announce: Li Zhang is the winner of the 2009 Marion E. Sparks Award for Professional Development. Ms. Zhang is currently working as a Science Librarian/Chemistry Subject Specialist at the Mississippi State University Library. She obtained her MLS Degree in 2004 from the University of South Florida.

DCHE will present Ms. Zhang with a \$1500 check and award certificate to support her attendance at the 2009 SLA Annual Conference. Presentation will take place during the DCHE Annual Business Meeting/Breakfast in Washington, D. C. on Tuesday June 16th.

The Sparks Award is named to honor Marion E. Sparks, a pioneering and influential chemistry librarian who worked at the University of Illinois from 1913 through 1929.

-Cory Craig
Chair of Awards Committee, SLA Chemistry Division

2009 ACS New Professional Award

The SLA Chemistry Division (DCHE) and ACS Publications are pleased to announce: Paulina Borrego is the winner of the **2009 ACS New Professional Award**. Ms. Borrego is currently working as a reference librarian at the Integrated Sciences and Engineering Library at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She obtained her MLIS degree from Simmons College in 2007.

ACS Publications will present Ms. Borrego with a \$1500 check and an award certificate to support her attendance at the 2009 SLA Annual Conference. Presentation will take place during the DCHE Annual Business Meeting/Breakfast in Washington, D. C. on Tuesday June 16th.

DCHE would like to thank ACS Publications for their generous sponsorship of this award!

-Cory Craig
Chair of Awards Committee, SLA Chemistry Division

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SLA CHEMISTRY DIVISION AWARDS: <http://units.sla.org/division/dche/sparks.htm>

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❖ Useful website for the 2009 SLA Annual Conference by the local DC/SLA chapter members.

-- Information on getting to and around DC

<http://wiki.sla.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=4817393>

-- Museums, tours, & attractions including special offerings for SLA members only from Our Kids as well as quick breaks and excursions

<http://wiki.sla.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=4358341>

-- Favorite "Washington Eats"

<http://wiki.sla.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=3899529>

-- 12 virtual library tours illustration the wonderful collections managed by DC-area libraries

<http://wiki.sla.org/display/SLA2009/Virtual+Library+Tours>

-- And more... <http://wiki.sla.org/display/SLA2009/>

THE END