Chair's Message

By the time you read this, several events will have come and gone:
- The National meeting in San Francisco
- Sciencepalooza
- The Santa Cruz County Science Fair
- The Synopsis Silicon Valley Science and Technology Championship

The Regional High School Olympiad will be held at Las Positas College in Livermore on Saturday, April 24; please contact Sally Peters (Sally.Peters@parc.com) if you can help.

If you would like to help the Tech Museum’s Challenge on Saturday, April 24, please contact Sherry Garcia (sgarcia@thetech.org).

Our dinner meeting on Thursday, April 15, will feature Steve Boyer, who will talk about recent developments in searching the scientific literature with computers.

Winter ended on Saturday, March 20, at 10:32 a.m., Pacific Daylight Time. Although we need the water, I’ll be glad to welcome nicer weather so I can get some of my yard work done. Because of the rain, this should be a good year to drive through the hills and see the wild flowers. Take a picnic lunch and enjoy a relaxing day!

See you on Thursday, April 15th!
Laura Smoliar’s expertise covers diverse hardware-technology companies. Beginning her career in data storage at Seagate Technology, she later worked on MEMS-based laser displays at Silicon Light Machines (acquired by Cypress Semiconductor) and then migrated to solid-state lasers at Lightwave Electronics (acquired by JDSU). She has extensive experience partnering with Japanese companies such as Sony, Hitachi, Disco, and Panasonic and she has lived and worked in both Taiwan and Germany.

Laura holds a Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley, where she worked with Yuan T. Lee (1986 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry) and an A.B. Summa Cum Laude from Columbia University, both in Chemistry. She is a past member of the Council and Executive Board of the American Physical Society. Since 1997, she has served as a mentor with the Association of Women in Science, Palo Alto Chapter.

Abstract:
We successfully use text analysis technology to identify chemical names and other entities in unstructured text. Once identified, we convert the chemical names into their chemical structures using [name=structure] programs. This produces simplified molecular input line entry specification (SMILES) strings representing the chemical structures, which are subsequently used in computational calculations and as input for other applications. Using this technology, we analyze millions of patents and Medline abstracts and generate a large database of molecular structures derived from the text of those documents. In addition to extracting chemical structures from the text of documents, we also exploit image analysis to selectively recognize the chemical images contained in documents and convert these images to SMILES strings. This work (text and image analysis) effectively renders the scientific and patent literature searchable by structure/substructure search applications. The combined technologies for reading and processing molecular structures allow researchers the ability to build large databases of previously inaccessible literature – relevant in areas such as patents, pharmaceuticals, publishing, health care, and environmental science.

Integration of these and other operations has enabled us to process over 11 million documents to date with IBM’s BlueGene supercomputer. We currently index over 100,000 documents per month including all of the US, EP and WO documents on a weekly basis. Additionally, our computing environment is capable of indexing about a billion web pages in approximately 3 hours, retrieving and indexing biologically relevant information.

Biography:
Steven Boyer holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Temple University in Philadelphia and a Ph.D. in synthetic organic chemistry from Tufts University in Massachusetts. He is married and has two children.

He has over 25 years of experience in numerous capacities in corporate settings, first in the pharmaceutical environment and then in the computer world. With a Ph.D. in chemistry, Steve has found himself in a full spectrum of work places, from synthesizing drugs “at the bench” to launching the world’s first public patent website. At IBM’s Research Division, Steve is credited with being the “father” of the IBM Patent Server. This effort (1994-2000) aggregated the entire intellectual property of the world into a single database made available on the internet, a revolutionary act in its time. It resulted in one of the largest and most successful public information internet sites at that time on the web, a pivotal event that impacted the world of intellectual property (IP). As a result, Steve served as an advisor to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on the creation of WIPO-Net, an initiative to provide IP resources to third world countries, lecturing on technical issues and drafting proposals for improving international access to intellectual property. The IBM Patent Server was so successful that IBM spun it off as an independent business venture, Delphion (www.delphion.com), later acquired by Thomson Publishers.

At IBM, Steve has worked in numerous capacities, technical and managerial, including four years in Europe directing scientific and technical computing initiatives. His own recent patents apply computer technology to developing tools for building scientific databases and include internet metacrawling and searching technologies. His most recent activity has been in “text and image analytics”, specifically on the automated annotation of large document repositories.

April Dinner Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 15, 2010
Time: 6:00 Social Hour
7:00 Dinner
8:00 Presentation
Location: Biltmore Hotel & Suites
2151 Laurelwood Blvd.
Santa Clara, CA 95054
Speaker: Dr. Steven Boyer
(co-inventor of the Delphion patent database)
Computers in Chemistry
Cost: $27.00 with a choice of:
Teriyaki Steak
Vegetarian Lasagne

Reservations: www.scvacs.org or
Shirley Radding 408-246-2564
408-296-8625 Fax

Reservations should be made by April 12th stating your name, address, company affiliation, number of people in party, and menu selection. If you are unable to honor your reservation and do not cancel by Tuesday, April 13th, you will be invoiced following the dinner meeting.
DOE and NOBCCrE Science Bowl at the National Hispanic University

March 6, 2010

The US Department of Energy (DOE, www.energy.gov), the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCCrE, www.nobcce.org) and many other volunteers joined together on Saturday, March 6 in a lively middle school Science Bowl competition at the National Hispanic University (www.nhu.edu) on Story Road in San Jose. The morning session was devoted to multiple 20-minute placement sessions of 24 teams from middle schools around the San Francisco Bay Area.

After lunch, the field was narrowed to eight teams in elimination rounds which narrowed down to two excellent teams vying for first place. After an intense exchange and a surprising comeback, the Gale Ranch Middle School of San Ramon was declared the regional winner. This winning team will continue to practice and travel to Washington, DC.

Call for Nominations for the Radding Award

The Santa Clara Valley Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) announces the call for nominations for the 2009 Shirley B. Radding Award.

First awarded in 1994 to its namesake, the Shirley B. Radding Award annually honors someone who has been a member of the ACS for at least 20 years and has demonstrated dedicated, unselfish leadership, service and significant contributions over a sustained period of time to industrial, applied or academic chemistry and to the ACS through elected or appointed positions at local, district and national levels.

Award Criteria

- Member of the American Chemical Society for more than twenty (20) years.
- Demonstrated dedicated and unselfish service to ACS and its members over a sustained period of time.
- Provided leadership through elected and appointed ACS positions at local, district and national levels.
- Made significant contributions to industrial, applied or academic chemistry.

Previous Award Recipients:

1994 Shirley B. Radding
1995 Agnes Ann Green (deceased)
1996 John F. “Jack” Riley (deceased)
1997 Howard M. Peters
1998 Alan C. Nixon (deceased)
1999 Valerie J. Kuck
2000 Halley A. Merrell
2001 Norman A. LeBel (deceased)
2002 Paul H. L. Walter
2003 Jean’ne M. Shreeve
2004 Maureen G. Chan
2005 Glenn Fuller
2006 Janan M. Hayes
2007 Merle I. Eiss
2008 Dorothy J. Phillips
2009 Bryan Balazs

The award consists of an honorarium of $1,000 and a suitably inscribed memento. Nominations must consist of at least one letter of nomination stating how the nominee’s work relates to all aspects of the award. It is strongly recommended that seconding letters accompany the nomination.

Nominations are due on or before Saturday, May 29, 2010 to be considered for the 2010 Award, and must be mailed (not e-mailed) to:
Radding Award Committee, Santa Clara Valley Section ACS
Post Office Box 395
Palo Alto, CA 94302-0395

Welcome to the Santa Clara Valley Section of ACS

Each month the section receives a spreadsheet from national ACS with the names of members new to our section. The members are either new to ACS, have transferred in from other areas, or are the newest members -- the students.

To welcome you to the section and get to know you, the Executive Committee offers new members a free dinner!! To encourage you to attend a monthly section dinner meeting, we would like you to be our guest. When you register, make certain to mention that you are a new member and you and a spouse (or friend) will be our guests. The dinner meetings are often the 3rd Thursday of the month at a local spot, somewhat convenient to the entire section.

If you are unable to attend in the evening, perhaps you would join us for an outreach event, like judging a science fair, or a national chemistry week event in October. Then, there is our annual wine tasting and awards picnic in July.

The local section is a volunteer organization. Please attend an event, volunteer to help, and get to know your local fellow chemists. Welcome!!

New Members List on next page
Local Science Fairs in 2010

Contact: Howard Peters, peters4pa@sbcglobal.net

January to June of each year is the time for intense effort for IMPORTANT science and engineering fair competitions at the local, regional, state and international levels.

Contact local science fair information is below:

Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) World Class Competition
Date: Sun-Fri May 9-14;
JUDGING Tues, May 11, 5pm to 8pm and Wed, May 12, 8am to 6pm.
Location: San Jose Convention Center, San Jose CA
Contact: Dr. Howard Peters at peters4pa@sbcglobal.net
or Dr. Roy Okuda, SJSU at okuda@sjsu.edu.
For more information, visit: www.sciserv.org/isef or www.isef2010sanjose.org/judges.html

California State Science Fair
Date: Monday-Tuesday, May 17-18, 2009
Location: California Science Center, LA.
For information, visit: www.usc.edu/CSSF/

For other affiliated U.S. Science Fairs, please visit: www.societyforscience.org/
Call for Nominations for the Ottenberg Award

The Abraham Ottenberg Service Award was established in 1973 by the Santa Clara Valley Section to recognize members who have rendered outstanding service to the Section. It is named after Abraham Ottenberg, a former member who devoted much of himself to service to the Section. The award consists of an engraved plaque and a check for two hundred fifty dollars. The award recipient is selected from candidates nominated by members of the Section. Nominees must be members or affiliates of the Santa Clara Valley Section.

Previous Award Recipients:

The nominating letter should include a brief biography of the candidate and a description or evaluation of the service(s) to be recognized by the award. Seconding nominations are not required but will be accepted.

Nominations are due on or before Tuesday June 15, 2010 to be considered for the 2010 Award, and must be mailed (not e-mailed) to:
Chair, Ottenberg Award Committee
Santa Clara Valley Section ACS
Post Office Box 395
Palo Alto, CA 94302-0395

Photos from the February 17th Dinner Meeting with Dr. Valery Uhl
By Lois Durham

Mary Jo Dilger and Barbara Withers
Bruce Raby and Dr. Valery Uhl
Evan Sarina, Paul Vartanian, Sally Peters, Peter Rusch and David Parker
Sally Peters, Peter Rusch and David Parker
Evan Sarina, Harry Ungar and Paul Vartanian
Tom and Bob Stutz
Larry Hennessy and Joseph Castellano
David Nehrkorn and Melanie Billigmeier
Bruce Whitten, George Lechner and Valery Uhl
Highlights of the March 18th Dinner Meeting with Dr. Joseph Castellano

Photos Courtesy of Lois Durham

Natalie McClure
George Lechner and Dr. Joseph Castellano
Joseph Castellano

Karl Marhenke, Kevin Greenman and Dawn Van Seggen
George Lechner, Peter Rusch and Mark Kent
Bego Gerber, Howard Peters and Peter Hammond

Bruce Raby and Martin Neitzel
Mark Kent and Blair Narog
Ro Dinkey, Sally Peters and Jim Dinkey

Mark Kent, Bego Gerber and Howard Peters
Martin Neitzel, Hope and Dean Oliver
Bruce Raby and Howard Peters
CHEMPLACEMENT ABSTRACTS APRIL 2010

CHEMPLACEMENT ABSTRACT 3947
Position Title: Research Associate - Medicinal Chemistry
Job Description: The Research Associate - Medicinal Chemistry will participate in Genentech’s innovative program in drug discovery. The candidate will be responsible for the design and synthesis of novel drug-like compounds.
QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED:
Education: Bachelor’s or Master’s degree in Organic Chemistry
Experience: This position requires 2-8 years of experience in synthetic or medicinal chemistry. The incumbent should be highly motivated and excited to work in a collaborative environment. Demonstrated expertise in multi-step synthesis, compound purification and structural characterization is preferred.
LOCATION, SALARY, EMPLOYER DESCRIPTION:
Job Location: South San Francisco, CA
Salary: DOE
Employer: Genentech is among the world’s leading biotech companies, with multiple therapies on the market for cancer and other serious medical conditions
Application Instructions: Genentech is dedicated to fostering an environment that is inclusive and encourages diversity of thought, style, skills and perspective. To learn more about our current opportunities, please visit: http://careers.gene.com and reference Req. #1000030386. Please use “Web – ACS” when a source is requested. Genentech is an equal opportunity employer

CHEMPLACEMENT ABSTRACT 3948
Position Title: Academic Year Lecturer
Job Description: Subject to funding, the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Santa Clara University has two one-year and one two-year full-time non-tenure-track openings for teaching chemistry lectures and/or laboratories beginning Fall 2010. Specific teaching responsibilities are provided at the websites given below
QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED:
Education: Ph.D. in chemistry is a minimum qualification.
Experience: Prior teaching experience at the university level is strongly preferred
LOCATION, SALARY, EMPLOYER DESCRIPTION:
Job Location: Santa Clara University
Salary: At least $48,300–51,100 per year
Employer: The Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry at SCU is a Catholic, Jesuit institution with an ACS-approved undergraduate program and that educates a diverse student population. As an EOE/AA employer, we encourage applications from candidates who will contribute to the inclusive excellence of our community
Application Instructions: See www.scu.edu/hr/careers/faculty.cfm or www.scu.edu/cas/chemistry/Job-Opportunities.cfm for details regarding application materials and deadline for submission. Questions should be directed to Dr. John Gilbert, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, Santa Clara University, 500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA 95053. E-mail: jgilbert@scu.edu.

CHEMPLACEMENT ABSTRACT 3949
Position Title: Academic Year Lecturer
Job Description: Subject to funding, the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Santa Clara University has one two-year full-time non-tenure-track opening for teaching lectures and/or laboratories and maintaining/repairing instrumentation, beginning Fall 2010. Specific responsibilities are provided at the websites given below
QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED:
Education: Master’s degree in chemistry or biochemistry or closely-related field is a minimum qualification
Experience: Prior teaching experience at the university level is desirable and extensive experience in repair and maintenance of sophisticated instrumentation is preferred.
LOCATION, SALARY, EMPLOYER DESCRIPTION:
Job Location: Santa Clara University
Salary: At least $48,300–51,100 per year
Employer: The Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry at SCU is a Catholic, Jesuit institution with an ACS-approved undergraduate program and that educates a diverse student population. As an EOE/AA employer, we encourage applications from candidates who will contribute to the inclusive excellence of our community
Application Instructions: See http://www.scu.edu/cas/chemistry/Job-Opportunities.cfm or www.scu.edu/hr/careers/faculty.cfm for details regarding application materials and deadline for submission. Questions should be directed to Dr. John Gilbert, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, Santa Clara University, 500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA 95053. E-mail: jgilbert@scu.edu.
SANTA CLARA VALLEY SECTION
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 395, Palo Alto, CA 94302

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http://www.scvacs.org

To receive an email when our newsletter is published on our web site, sign up at: http://www.scvacs.org/newsletter/

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FUTURE MEETINGS

Apr 15  Dr. Steven Boyer
Meeting  Using Computers to Read Scientific
   Literature
   Santa Clara, CA

Apr 24  Regional High School
   Chemistry Olympiad
   Las Positas College, Livermore, CA

May 9-14  Intel International Science and
   Engineering Faire
   San Jose Convention Center
   www.societyforscience.org/ISEF

May 20  Dr. Laura Smoliar
Meeting  Fiber Lasers and Their Applications
   Santa Clara, CA

May 21-23  14th Annual Green Chemistry
   Conference
   Washington, DC
   http://acswebcontent.acs.org/gcand

Jul 10  Annual Wine Tasting and Awards
   Dinner
   Stanford Chemistry Department

Jul 13-15  SemiconWest 2010
   San Francisco, CA
   www.semiconwest.org/index.htm