November 14th Dinner Meeting
Nadia Drake and Peter Aldhous

The Metamorphosis: Turning Science into News in a Changing Media Landscape

Abstract:
Most research isn’t born being “news” – that transition requires work from both scientists and journalists. As an omnivorous science reporter who’s been assigned to cover several, completely unrelated beats, I’ve found that some scientific fields seem to spawn news much more easily than others. So, what does it take to transform an elegant experiment into an accurate, engaging news story?

Biography:
Nadia Drake is a science journalist at WIRED, reporting on materials science, marine mammals, and mega-spiders. Before that, she covered astronomy for Science News, based in Washington, DC. She has written news and features for Nature, New Scientist, Nature Medicine, Proceedings of...

Chair’s Message

This month is filled with the Western Regional Meeting (WRM) and several outreach events. Planned for more than two years in conjunction with the California section, the WRM brings the excitement and feel of an ACS National Meeting to Silicon Valley. Featuring invited speakers, special events, almost 500 scheduled papers plus a poster session for students, the meeting starts October 3 at the Hyatt in Santa Clara. While you’re in the exhibition, meet other Santa Clara Valley section volunteers at our exhibit table.

The annual Teach the Teachers Workshop takes place on October 5 at Mission College. Chemistry teachers from all around the Bay Area gather for presentations by mentors with long careers in teaching. Volunteer to help and meet some very dedicated and enthusiastic teachers.

October is time for National Chemistry Week (NCW). On October 19, volunteers from our section will be at the MLK Library in San Jose to interact with students and parents demonstrating the fun of chemistry with simple experiments.

Last but not least, the Bay Area Science Festival takes place at AT&T Park on November 2. In conjunction with the California Section, volunteers will meet crowds of kids and parents interested in science. Our chemical experiments are designed to quickly convey the wonders of chemistry to the hundreds of visitors expected.

How does all of this happen? Volunteers. Join in and meet them and the public that is eager to know more about why we like chemistry.

There is so much going on this month that we won’t have a dinner meeting in October. In November, our dinner meeting is at the Basque Cultural Center on the 14th of November, two weeks before Thanksgiving. Join us for a joint presentation featuring two Bay Area science writers.

November Dinner Meeting

Date: Thursday, November 14, 2013
Time: 6:00 p.m. Social Hour
7:00 p.m. Dinner
8:00 p.m. Presentation
Speakers: Nadia Drake and Peter Aldhous
Location: Basque Cultural Center
599 Railroad Avenue
South San Francisco, CA
www.sfbcc.us/content2.asp?id=13
Cost: $30.00, Duck Legs Confit or Breast of Chicken Chasseur or Vegetarian Pasta
Reservations: www.scvacs.org or Sally Peters 650-854-4614

Reservations should be made by November 7th stating your name, address, company/school affiliation, number of people in party. Watch the web site for more information. If you are unable to honor your reservation and do not cancel by Monday, November 11th, you will be invoiced following the dinner meeting.

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Abstract:
Much has changed since I started writing about science as a PhD student in the late 1980s. Technology has opened a world of possibilities for multimedia journalism, and science provides rich material. At the same time, the cozy business models of print journalism have collapsed. I’ll talk about the opportunities and challenges, from the point of view of a old-school science journalist who’s embracing new skills including web development, and a teacher preparing science communication students to enter a fast-changing working environment.

Biography:
Peter Aldhous is San Francisco bureau chief with New Scientist magazine and reports on biology, medicine, social sciences and the environment — from genetics and stem cells, through ecology and conservation, to psychology and psychiatry. He also teaches in the Science Writing Program at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He is especially interested in investigative and computer-assisted reporting, and he’s fascinated by data visualization. See his website at www.peteraldhous.com for articles and his data images.

Peter got his break in journalism in 1989 as a reporter for Nature in London, fresh from a PhD in animal behavior. Later he worked as European correspondent for Science and as news editor for New Scientist. Prior to moving to California in October 2005, he spent five years as chief news and features editor with Nature. His articles have won awards from the Association of British Science Writers, the Association of Health Care Journalists, the UK Guild of Health Writers, the Society of Environmental Journalists, the Royal Statistical Society and the Wistar Institute. When the opportunity arises, he loves to combine work with travel. Over the years he’s reported from countries including Cameroon, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Mexico, Russia and Vietnam.

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 — 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, participating in the Chemistry Olympiad, 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 for September

Pragya Adhikari
Snehal Atwe
Dr. Kurt E. Breitenkamp
Abraham King Cada
Georgette Castanedo
Audrey Cheng
Richard Closser
Laila Dafik
Dr. Amanda Engler
Dr. Ximao Feng
Carl Fisher
Christopher Fuller
Michael Ghebreab
Courtney Hadsell
Marco Huerta
David J. Keenan
Alex Klevay
Gloria Lee
Dr. Lay Min Lee
Sindy Liao
Dr. Scott Lokey
Nathan Luehr
Andrew Morgenthaler
Chi K. Nguyen
Jeremy R. Niskala
Mark Panger
Tim Phelps
Victoria A. Piunova
Dr. Mahesh Ramaseshan
Dr. Shaunak Roy
Dr. Jacob Schneider
Gurpreet Singh
Geraldine Denise Smoluk
Lindsay J. Sperling
Vinod Srinivasan
Dr. Daqing Sun
Paul Voelker
Dr. Johannes H. Voigt
Deven Wang
Wenyue Wang
Dr. Brittany C. Westlake
Shuangluo Xia
Teng Zeng
Dr. Xiaolin Zheng
Yuntao Zhou
CHEMEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACTS OCTOBER 2013

CHEMEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACT 3984

Position Title: Assistant Professor in Physical Chemistry

Job Description: Establish an externally funded and productive undergraduate research program in experimental physical chemistry, contribute to departmental research and teaching objectives, and demonstrate the ability to teach physical chemistry and general chemistry effectively. Specific responsibilities are posted at www.scu.edu/hr/careers/faculty.cfm

QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED:

Education: A Ph.D. and postdoctoral experience in physical chemistry or a closely allied field are required.

Experience: College teaching experience is highly desirable, and experience in teaching a diverse student population is preferred.

LOCATION, SALARY, EMPLOYER:

Location: Santa Clara, California

Salary: Competitive, depending on experience

Employer: Santa Clara University, located in Silicon Valley, is a highly ranked Jesuit Catholic institution with an ACS-approved undergraduate program and a housing program. It is an EO/AA employer committed to excellence through diversity, and welcomes applications from women, persons of color, and members of historically under-represented groups.

Application Instructions: For complete instructions and list of required application materials, please visit http://www.scu.edu/hr/careers/faculty.cfm. All materials should be sent in electronic form (Word and/or PDF format) to ChemApp@scu.edu. Completed applications must be received by October 11, 2013.
FUTURE MEETINGS

Oct 19  National Chemistry Week  
Hands-on Science  
M.L. King Library  
San Jose State University  
contact: akennedycali2007@yahoo.com

Oct 23  BioScience Forum  
www.biosf.org/programs.htm

Nov 2  Bay Area Science Festival  
AT&T Park, San Francisco, CA

Nov 2-3  SPLASH-Stanford Learning Program for 7th-12th grade students  
www.stanfordesp.org

Nov 5, 12, 19  San Jose State University Chemistry Seminars  
www.sjsu.edu/chemistry/Seminars

Nov 14  Science in the News with editors from New Scientist and Wired  
Basque Cultural Center  
South San Francisco, CA

Jan 16  Mosher Award Dinner  
Biltmore Hotel & Suites  
Santa Clara, CA