JULY 2015 NEWSLETTER TOPICS

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Connect with chemists
Meet fellow local Chemists for an early morning coffee. Look for Ean at a table with molecular models.

Thursday, July 23 at 7 a.m.
La Boulange
151 University Avenue, Palo Alto

Chair’s Message
For this month’s Chair message, I would like to talk to you about your local section. The Santa Clara Valley section’s geography covers all the way from Monterey up to South San Francisco. Our section includes five counties: San Benito, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Mateo and Monterey. Our section has about 2800 members and is one of 189 sections across the nation. In total, ACS has about 160,000 members! Talk about an extensive

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2015 Shirley B. Radding Award Recipient
Connie Murphy

Connie Murphy retired in 2008 after working for more than 28 years at The Dow Chemical Company in Midland, MI. She spent the first 25 years of her career in research and development in roles including research technologist, team leader, group leader and project portfolio manager. She holds five patents in monomer/polymer synthesis and processing. The last three years of her career at Dow she was a supervisor of IT professionals in information systems. Since retirement, Connie and her husband, Karl, have traveled the world.

Connie has been a member of the ACS since 1992. Since joining ACS, she served as a member of the Committee on Committees, the Committee on Membership Affairs, the Committee on Technician Affairs and the Chemical Technology Program Approval Service. She is currently a member and was the 2011-13 chair of the Committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs. She was the 2013 chair of the Division of Industrial & Engineering Chemistry. She served in the leadership of the Division of Chemical Technicians for several years, serving as chair-elect, chair, past chair, councilor, webmaster, membership chair and member-at-large. In the Midland Section of the ACS, she served as a director, membership chair, government affairs committee chair and alternate councilor. She facilitates workshops in both the ACS Leadership Development System and in the ACS Career Pathways series. She is also an ACS career consultant.

Connie was honored by her selection as an ACS Fellow in 2011. She received the K. Michael Shea Award from the ACS Committee on Technician Affairs in 2014, the Outstanding Service to the American Chemical Society Award from the Midland Section of the ACS in 2008, Distinguished Service Award from the ACS Division of Chemical Technicians in 2006, Outstanding Chemical Technician Award from the Midland Section of the ACS in 1997, Petersen Award for Service (2010), the Rochester Section Award (1991), and Outstanding Technologist Achievement Award from the Dow Central R&D Scientists Organization in 1994. She received seven Special Recognition Awards from The Dow Chemical Company between 1988 and 2002 for technical and professional contributions. She was the 2012 commencement speaker for Milwaukee Area Technical College, the first alumna ever invited to give the keynote address at a graduation ceremony there.

SCVACS Annual Wine Tasting, Family Picnic and Awards Ceremony

Date: Saturday, July 11, 2015
4:00 p.m. Wine Tasting
5:30 p.m. Dinner
7:00 p.m. Awards

Deadline for Reservations: Wednesday, July 8, 2015

Location: Stanford University
Mudd Chemistry Building (https://goo.gl/maps/g7saM)
Registration Online at: http://www.scvacs.org/Local_Folder/din_mtg.html
Adults: $20.00
Children under age 12: $5.00
Student: $10.00
In late April, I visited the UPS store in the Sharon Heights Shopping Center (Menlo Park) to telefax the confirmation for Armadillo Willy’s for our annual SCVACS Awards Picnic at Stanford in July. A young man came in to send two boxes, took a second look at me and said, “You look very familiar. Do I know you? What is your name?”

I replied, “Howard Peters.”

Then he said to my bewilderment, “You judged my high school project in a science fair. I’m Arun Thottumkara. I just received my Ph.D. in chemistry at Stanford with Dr. Justin DuBois.” Then it all clicked… and I remembered. I have been an INTEL ISEF groupie judging those amazing high school science projects for the past 14 years.

Arun was an ACS finalist/award winner at the INTEL International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in San Jose in May 2001. He later received the top ISEF category award in chemistry and an ACS special award. There I learned that he planned to go on to Harvard as a chemistry major.

He did well at Harvard, received his bachelor’s degree in chemistry, and has been for the past years in the Stanford Chemistry Department doing his Ph.D. chemistry research with Dr. Dubois. He received his Ph.D. in December and is now with Relypsy, Inc. in Redwood City.

I later remembered that I had also judged the science projects of his younger brother, Prem Thottumkara, at later ISEF events. Prem is currently an undergraduate at Stanford majoring in bioengineering. What is this family doing right?

Needless to say we had a spirited conversation.

The Society for Science and the Public of Washington DC (www.societyforscience.org) has organized the ISEF competitions for years. About 1500 high school students from around the world compete for a week. ISEF 2015 is in Pittsburgh, PA on May 10-15. Four Nobel prize winners will be present to inspire the students. About $5,000,000.00 in awards (grants, tours, trips, internships, etc.) will change hands. And, if history is any guide, about 25% of these high school students will have filed a patent application on their project. As a retired patent attorney, I love a story with a happy ending.

It Is a Small World
by Howard Peters

Befriend a Teacher of Science

The ACS launched the AACT (American Association of Chemistry Teachers) last year and our Santa Clara Valley section jumped in with a local teacher subsidy to encourage participation. See the June 2015 SCVACS newsletter for details.

A growing group of engaged teachers responded to our membership subsidy offer. In the spirit of continuing to support these educators in science, we would like to match them, one-on-one, with a practicing chemist. The partnership of a teacher and a chemist can take on whatever form the two choose: a classroom visit, referrals to technical resources, a work site visit, or just conversation.

Our 2015 campaign to enroll teachers in the AACT is on-going with budgeted funds expected to last through the end of the year. We anticipate a boost in participation at the end of the summer when teachers prepare for the new school year. The offer is not limited to chemistry teachers. It is suitable for all K-12 teachers who present science in their classrooms.

Befriend a teacher of science! Chemists from all areas are invited - industrial, academic, research, engineering, start-ups, even grad students, If you would like to participate, contact us at aact@scvacs.org and let us know if you have pairing preferences, for example, grade level or location.

There are many teachers out there eager to make your acquaintance. Who will your lucky one be?
Chemistry Quiz

Nuclei of masses greater than 56 cannot be formed by direct nuclear fusion. Instead they are formed by this pathway which has two named processes. What are they?

Last Month’s Question:
Who came up with the name “atom” as a fundamental, indestructible, indivisible unit of chemistry?
-- Around 440 BC, Leucippus of Miletus coined the term atom from the Greek word, ἄτομος which means indivisible.

ACS Boston Meeting

Join the thousands of chemical professionals at the 250th ACS National Meeting & Exposition in Boston, MA, from August 16 - 20, 2015, to explore the overarching multidisciplinary theme of Innovation from Discovery to Application. The preliminary program is now available online at: http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/meetings/fall-2015/program-overview.html

Early registration discounted rates have been extended until July 13. Social Event registration is now open. If you have already registered for the meeting, you can visit the meeting page at http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/meetings/fall-2015.html to update your record, print a receipt, invite a colleague, print a registration confirmation and purchase social events or an Abstract USB. In order to receive your ticket(s) with your badge, you must update your record by June 30th. Tickets purchased after June 30th can be picked up onsite.

Don’t forget that an ACS ID is required when registering for the meeting. Save time and sign up to get your ACS ID now. Creation of an ACS ID is FREE and you are not required to be an ACS member to create an ID. An ACS ID also provides many additional benefits.

June Seminar Dinner Meeting
Held Jointly with the Golden Gate Polymer Forum

The June 22nd dinner meeting brought together the polymer and chemistry communities in a joint meeting of the Golden Gate Polymer Forum (GGPF) and the Santa Clara Valley ACS.

Speaker Dr. Al Nelson presented studies on the chemistry of polymers in the self-assembly of nanostructures in the context of materials for enabling nanomanufacturing. Featured was his IBM Almaden Research Center group’s work on directing assembly of magnetic nanoparticles. Initial results on creation of 3D structures from block copolymers for biomedical applications were also presented, to be continued in his new position on the chemistry faculty of the University of Washington in Seattle this Autumn.

Nearly 60 attendees enjoyed the setting of June’s meeting at Michael’s Restaurant located in the Shoreline Recreational Area and Wildlife Sanctuary. Judging by the lively mingling between the two communities of chemists and polymer scientists, future joint meetings of the GGPF and SCVACS are in store.

David Wang International Chemistry Olympiad Finalist

David Wang, a senior from Monta Vista High School in Cupertino, was chosen to represent the U.S. at the 47th International Chemistry Olympiad in Baku, Azerbaijan, July 20-29, 2015. To prepare for this adventure, David scored among the top 20 students nationally on the national chemistry Olympiad qualifying exam and then attended the study camp at the Air Force Academy in early June. This is second time David attended the study camp. Last summer he was chosen as the first alternate, but this year he will travel to Azerbaijan with three other finalists.

The other exciting event in David’s life, besides being an Olympiad finalist, is his decision to attend MIT next year. And, yes, he is going to major in chemistry!

David – Good luck in Baku, Azerbaijan in July. Also, good luck at MIT in the Fall!

David Wang
International Chemistry Olympiad Finalist

Materials for Enabling Nanomanufacturing

ACS Boston Meeting

The California Section of the ACS is hosting a joint event with the AICHE Engineering Brandy

A high level walk through of the brandy making process, from receiving grapes to distillation.

Speaker: Konrad Miller, PE
Process Engineer
E&J Gallo

Date: July 20, 2015
Time: Social hour: 6:30
Presentation: 7:30
Social hour: 8:30
RSVP: Two Mile Wines
477 25th Street
Oakland, CA 94612

We will provide light appetizers. A cash bar will be provided by our host, Two Mile Wines. The event is a few blocks north of the 19th Street BART station, and there is street parking available. The closest parking garage is located at 2323 Webster.

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FUTURE EVENTS

Jul 11  SCVACS Annual Wine Tasting, Family Picnic, and Awards Ceremony
       Stanford Chemistry Department

Jul 20  Engineering Brandy: Hosted by AIChE and CalACS Younger Chemists Committee
       Oakland, CA
       www.eventbrite.com/e/engineering-brandy-hosted-by-aiche-and-acs-registration-1751550483

Aug 16-20 250th ACS National Meeting & Exposition
          Boston, MA

Sep 12  ACS Wine, Cheese, and Chocolate
       Mondavi Institute
       University of California Davis