



ACS Division of  
Professional Relations

# BULLETIN

Issue #79 February 2008  
Lisa M. Balbes, Ph.D. Editor

## Greetings from the Chair

Dave Chesney, 2008 Chair

Welcome to 2008, division members! It's a new year and we have a lot of things to do. I personally have big shoes to fill – Ray O'Donnell did a yeoman's job as Chair last year, overseeing a new strategic plan and setting the stage for a new, invigorated division dedicated to looking after the professional interests of chemists everywhere. I hope that I can continue the momentum. Thanks again, Ray.

One of the issues I campaigned on was the delivery of symposia content to chemists who couldn't make the national meetings. I have had a chance to discuss this with the technical insiders at ACS and have been assured that it is not a problem from the technical standpoint. There are still hurdles to overcome with respect to quality assurance of the broadcasts, the use of contractors in certain venues, and the rights of individual speakers and their employers to choose whether or not to allow recording of their talks. These are issues that I will continue to pursue and attempt to resolve. While our symposium organizers have done a good job in the past of capturing the essence of the symposia in their newsletter reports, nothing takes the place of sitting in on the Q&A sessions. I will keep you posted.

PROF is sponsoring regional meeting symposia from the ACS Committee on Ethics. A group of Ethics Committee members (full disclosure – I am one) has a traveling symposium in which they present dilemmas in professional ethics to the audience and then lead a discussion on each case. The discussions are often wide-ranging and are always enlightening. These symposia are well attended at regional meetings and serve also as a way to introduce young people to the division. While PROF did receive an Innovative Projects grant this year to support this group's attendance at two regional meetings, there is not enough money to go to additional regional meeting.

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## Election Results Announced

Barb Moriarty

As you know, the Division conducted our election at the end of 2007 by electronic means. We did this for two reasons. First, we wanted to decrease the cost of the election, so that we would have more impact with our financial resources. Unfortunately, we spent as much as if we did this by mail. This is because we wanted postcards to be sent to those who did not have email, so that they would be included in the process. Since the cost of an election is a major factor, I urge all of you to ensure that your email address is up-to-date. Secondly, we thought that conducting the election electronically would increase the number of members who voted. Compared to previous years, we had about the same participation, i.e. approximately 20% of the membership voted. Judging by the comments of those who voted, many liked this approach and we will continue this approach in the future.

Those that were elected are:

For Chair-elect (2008): Adam C. Myers

For Secretary (2008-2009): Alison Aldridge

For Member-At-Large (2008-2009): Lisa Balbes, R.  
Dan Libby, Barb Moriarty

Thanks to all those who participated in the election. If you have comments about the division's election, please let me know.

## Greetings from the Chair

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Thus, there are two challenges I would pose to the PROF membership: The first is to help me identify corporate sponsors who could be approached by the division to help us present these ethics symposia before additional regional audiences. A small grant of about \$5K per meeting is all that we would need. I envision an ongoing annual sponsorship from an individual corporate source dedicated to programming in their region. The second challenge is for PROF members to step up and volunteer to give these symposia in their own regional meetings. There is no reason that the individuals from the Ethics Committee have to give these talks or lead these discussions. We can, however, provide the case studies that we know engender active discussion, we can provide you with the AAAS video tapes that we have used, and we can give you some guidance with respect to format and what to expect. Remember, we do have a new Subcommittee on Ethics under the PROF umbrella. I would like nothing more than a group of PROF members to take ownership of an ethics symposium for each regional ACS meeting. Doing so would also cut down substantially on the cost of getting the symposium speakers there. We are getting more requests all the time for these symposia, and if a group of speakers were available in each region, we could offer the symposium to local sections, too.

As always, I want to hear from you, either with respect to some of the ideas I have talked about here or PROF issues in general. My email is [djchesne@mtu.edu](mailto:djchesne@mtu.edu). Write early, write often.

## 2008 Henry Hill Award Winner Announced

John K. Borchardt

Dr. Sr. Mary Virginia Orna has been awarded the 2008 Henry Hill Award of the Division of Professional Relations. The award honors a person who has served the chemical profession in a unique and distinguished manner.

Dr. Orna was educated as an analytical chemist at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia and earned her Ph.D. at Fordham University. Since 1966 she has served on the faculty of the College of New Rochelle (CNR) in 1966 with the exception of a four year period (1997 – 2000) when she served as Director of Educational Services for the Chemical Heritage Foundation.

She is internationally known for her analyses of colorants dyes used in medieval paints and documents. She has worked with museums and art collectors to validate paintings.

She has been a facilitator and mentor to chemists and professionals within the American Chemical Society and in society in general. She is a popular lecturer both to audiences of chemists and of the general public representing the best of our field to others. She has also worked to advance the resources and pedagogy of the chemical education community. She has planned several science tours to Europe, planned chemical education conferences and served as business manager of the “Journal of Chemical Education.”

Many of her cross-word puzzles have appeared in the “New York Times” and “Chemical Technology.”

Dr. Orna has won the James Flack Norris Award for innovations in physical organic chemistry and the Chemical Manufacturers Association’s Catalyst Award for generating novel concepts in chemistry and for her professional research/educational work and the elevation of the profession of chemistry. She has won two awards from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the coveted Merck Innovation Award.

## **Dreaming of your own business?**

Sharon V. Vercellotti

Is entrepreneurship right for you? Already have a business? Is your strategy in place to grow a business? Attend the “Tools for Entrepreneurs from the Kauffman Foundation” session with the Division of Small Chemical Businesses (SCHB) Tuesday morning, April 8, 2008, at the 235th National American Chemical Society Meeting in New Orleans. Representatives of the Kauffman Foundation, the largest foundation dedicated to advancing entrepreneurship in America, will facilitate a variety of exercises that are relevant, practical “just-in-time” information, tools, and resources—all designed specifically to assist aspiring and existing entrepreneurs who are building companies. This session will include interactive exercises and facilitated discussions around starting and running high-impact companies. If you have a business idea or already lead a business, bring your thirty-second elevator pitch to share.

“Best Practices for Chemical Entrepreneurs” is back by popular demand on Tuesday afternoon, sponsored by SCHB! Join our wide spectrum of expert panelists for a facilitated discussion as to best steps for the chemical entrepreneur. Topics will include creating an organizational structure; various forms of intellectual property and their use as strategic business assets; alternative forms of funding/financing; and factors relating to enterprise success such as technology, customer base, marketing, management. This is your opportunity to ensure the success of your new or planned business entity.

The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation of Kansas City is a private, nonpartisan foundation that works with partners to advance entrepreneurship in America and improve the education of children and youth. Information about the Kauffman Foundation is available at [www.kauffman.org](http://www.kauffman.org)

## **Tips to Reduce Your ACS Meeting Expenses**

John K. Borchardt

With ACS national meetings becoming ever more expensive to attend, what can you do to reduce your minimize these expenses?

Begin with meeting registration. Of course, you can save money by pre-registering. There are also reduced registration fees available for unemployed and retired members, 50-year members, pre-college teachers, and both graduate and undergraduate students. Depending on what sessions you want to attend, a one-day registration fee can let you attend what you want to while letting you save money.

You can also save money on travel costs. ACS customarily arranges reduced fares for meeting attendees on one of the major airlines. Does your employer have reduced fare arrangements on one of the airlines? Could you use your frequent flier miles?

For shorter distances, you could travel by train or drive. If you drive, try to find a colleague attending the meeting to share the driving, gasoline costs and perhaps a hotel room.

Should ACS conference hotels be too costly even if you share a room, check out non-conference hotels listed on the ACS website and on travel and reservation websites. Many of these list hotel distances from convention centers. Some YMCA and YWCA facilities and youth hostels might be conveniently located near the meeting. Could you stay with friends in the host city? Occasionally you might be able to stay in a near-by college dormitory.

Once you arrive in the host city, check out cheaper alternatives to taking a taxi from the airport to your hotel. These include airport shuttle services, buses and trains. Use the ACS shuttle instead of a taxi to get around the meeting locations. Share taxis you take to restaurants.

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## Tips to Reduce Your ACS Meeting Expenses

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The ACS website, C&EN and the onsite meeting program list many afternoon and evening social events that serve complimentary hors d'oeuvres. Particularly suitable for students are the YCC Reception, the ACS Presidential Event and the ACS Corporation Associates Reception for Undergraduates. Refreshments are available at the Division's Henry Hill Award Reception.

Don't forget fast food as a cheap alternative. Locate the fast food restaurants near the convention center and conference hotels.

Some hotels offer free breakfast buffets for their guests. Pack nutritious breakfast bars in your carry-on bag as alternative to a restaurant breakfast or for a quick lunch. Get a professor or manager to take you to a lunch or dinner.

## Note from the Editor: Content Requested

The newsletter needs you! Please send your articles, announcements, pictures, or any other news to [lisa@balbes.com](mailto:lisa@balbes.com). All contributions are greatly appreciated. The next issue will come out just before the Fall national meeting, so publicize your event here!

## Final Program 235th ACS National Meeting

New Orleans, LA, April 6-10, 2008

### Divisional Events:

Executive Committee Meeting: 3:00-5:00 PM  
Tue Hilton Riverside, Jefferson Ballroom

Awards Ceremony  
Tue 5:00-7:00 PM Hilton Riverside – Belle Chasse

## Final Program 235th ACS National Meeting

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### SUNDAY MORNING

Faculty Development in Chemical Education  
Personal Experiences

STARS: Science & Technology Awards and  
Recognitions for Professionals in the Chemical  
Sciences - The Process of Awards Nominations

The Many Faces of CHAL: Where Chemistry Meets  
the Law

### SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Faculty Development in Chemical Education - Diverse  
Institutions and Positions

STARS: Science & Technology Awards and Recognition  
S - for Professionals in the Chemical Sciences  
The Impact of Awards

### SUNDAY EVENING

Excellence in Graduate Polymer Science Research

### MONDAY MORNING

Excellence in Graduate Polymer Science Research  
Novel Polymer Syntheses

### MONDAY AFTERNOON

Hilton New Orleans Riverside -- Steering  
ACS: Taking the Lead on Ethics

1:30 — Introductory Remarks.

1:35 — 1. Ethical issues in the chemical sciences:  
Challenges for the ACS committee on ethics. M. A.  
Cavanaugh

2:05 — 2. Ethics in sports officiating. K. Vitense

2:35 — 3. Ethics in academia: Gender issues. S. M.  
Schelble, A. Flammer

3:05 — Intermission.

3:15 — 4. Swept away: Professional ethics in the wake  
of Katrina. L. Koplitz

3:45 — 5. Ethics: New directions in the chemical sci-  
ences. T. R. LeBon

4:15 — 6. Safety is ethics. D. J. Chesney 4:45 — Pan-  
el Discussion.

A GREAT TEAM: Technicians, Engineers, and Chem-  
ist

## Final Program 235th ACS National Meeting

New Orleans, LA, April 6-10, 2008

Monday Afternoon (cont'd)

ADAPT'ing to Retirement: A Symposium Honoring  
Peter C. Jurs

Excellence in Graduate Polymer Science Research  
Novel Polymer Fabrication and Properties  
Sponsored by POLY, Cosponsored by YCC, PRES,  
PROF, and SOCED

### TUESDAY MORNING

Section A

Hilton New Orleans Riverside -- Steering  
Advocacy 101: Advocating Public Policy  
Cosponsored by CEPA

L. P. Greenblatt, Organizer, Presiding

9:00 — Introductory Remarks.

9:05 — 7. Become an advocate for science. G. S.  
Ruskin

9:35 — 8. Capitol Hill and science. K. M. Omberg

10:05 — 9. Advocacy at the local level. C. J. Banno-  
chie

10:35 — 10. Speaking up for science and technology:  
What's the ask? C. T. Hunt

11:05 — Intermission. 11:15 — Panel Discussion.

Laboratory Safety Incidents and Near Misses: Case  
Studies and Lessons Learned

Sponsored by CHAS, Cosponsored by ACS Division  
of Chemical Health & Safety and AIChE Loss Preven-  
tion Symposium (Area 11a), PROF, and ACSAICHE\*

Partnering for Innovation and Competitiveness: Op-  
portunities for the Chemical Enterprise in Energy and  
Environment

Sponsored by COMSCI, Cosponsored by ACS Com-  
mittee on Science (COMSCI) and AIChE Manage-  
ment Division (Group 5), ACS Corporation Asso-  
ciates, BMGT, CHAL, PETR, SCHB, ENGENV,  
ENVR, PROF, CEPA, TECH, and ACSAICHE\*

## Final Program 235th ACS National Meeting

New Orleans, LA, April 6-10, 2008

### TUESDAY AFTERNOON

ACS Award for Encouraging Women into Careers  
in the Chemical Sciences: Symposium in Honor of  
Esther M. Conwell  
Sponsored by WCC, Cosponsored by PROF

Careers in Chemical Information  
Sponsored by CINF, Cosponsored by CHAL, PROF,  
COMP, CEPA, and WCC  
Networking Discussion and reception sponsored by  
Chemical Abstracts Service

Laboratory Safety Incidents and Near Misses: Case  
Studies and Lessons Learned  
Sponsored by CHAS, Cosponsored by ACS Division  
of Chemical Health & Safety and AIChE Loss Preven-  
tion Symposium (Area 11a), PROF, and ACS AICHE\*

### WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

Equipping the 2015 Chemical Technology  
Workforce: Applied Chemical Technology  
Advancement and Enhancement  
Sponsored by TECH, Cosponsored by  
Career Services and CTA, CEPA, PROF, and YCC

### THURSDAY MORNING

The Many Faces of CHAL:  
Where Chemistry Meets the Law  
Sponsored by CHAL, Cosponsored by PROF

## **DPR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – GIVE TO A COLLEAGUE!**

Join the ACS Division of Professional Relations – the member oriented division. In addition to enjoying a newsletter, special symposia and other programming, sponsorship of the prestigious Henry A. Hill Award, and other activities with your colleagues throughout the chemical profession, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are supporting the premier division within ACS that is concerned with the chemist rather than chemistry. Professional chemists belong in the Division of Professional Relations!

Send this form (or a photocopy) with \$10.00 annual dues, to the address below.

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

ACS number (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Allison Aldridge, Secretary  
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