



ACS Division of  
Professional Relations

# BULLETIN

Issue #80 July 2008  
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## Chair's commentary

Dave Chesney

I hate mornings – really, I do. I just don't function until after three cups of strong coffee and a quick check of the news and email. So when I hung up the phone after talking with Ray O'Donnell last February, I thought to myself: "Self? What were you thinking scheduling a breakfast meeting in New Orleans at 7 am? And to discuss the Division of Professional Relations, no less? Self! What does one normally do in New Orleans until 2 am that precludes 7 am breakfast meetings?" Ah, but the mantle of responsibility weighs heavily....

Some backstory is appropriate here. A few years ago, Jim Walsh started the tradition of having a breakfast at each national meeting for the individuals involved in the PROF chair succession. The intent was to provide the Chair with advice, bring the Chair-Elect up to speed on past PROF issues, and generally provide a forum for unfettered discussion and free-wheeling brainstorming. As Chair-Elect, the two breakfast meetings were extremely useful to me. So naturally, I have continued the tradition; and, despite my inner self protesting all the way, I think we had an extraordinarily productive breakfast session in New Orleans.

One of the key ideas engendered at that breakfast was the concept of a Town Hall Forum to focus on career and workforce issues. The idea is to have the forum at the Philadelphia meeting immediately preceding Sci-Mix. We are working to try get a venue near Sci-Mix so individuals can attend our forum then walk down the hall to Sci-Mix. This would be a Town Hall Forum unlike those at past ACS meetings. The focus would not be on ACS governance issues, but rather finding out from attendees what issues are important for their careers and what larger issues do they see impacting the chemistry profession. This is right down PROF's alley, so to speak. We are looking for broad input. And, quite frankly, to turn some of that energy into PROF members and sponsored symposia.

We also discussed at length the need for new (and younger) Division members. Adam Myers (PROF chair-elect) will be key to this, since he is still a member of YCC. YCC has its Younger Chemists Network (YCN), which works to get its members involved in ACS governance by offering their service to Divisions and other units in support of society activities. I anticipate that PROF will form a strong relationship with YCN as our activities propagate beyond meeting symposia and we are able to use their enthusiasm effectively.

Elsewhere in this issue you will read about embedded programming, regional meeting activities, and the first ever web archival of a PROF symposium. However, I still haven't had that third cup of coffee, so I'll leave that writing to later.

Thanks for reading. (A tip of the hat to Rudy Baum).

## Register for ACS Fall National Meeting

Philadelphia, the City of Brotherly Love, will once again host ACS for its 236th National Meeting & Exposition on August 17 – 21, 2008. The meeting's technical program will be robust with the ACS president, 31 technical divisions, one secretariat, and three committees hosting original programming in 717 half-day oral sessions and 93 poster sessions. More than 8,000 papers will be presented, including thematic programming around "Chemistry for Health: Catalyzing Translational Research." The meeting will also feature centennial celebrations of four technical divisions (Agricultural & Food Chemistry, Industrial & Engineering Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, and Physical Chemistry).

Register by July 25 to take advantage of early registration rates. For more information, including detailed information about programming, visit <http://www.acs.org/philadelphia2008>.

## Advocacy 101: Advocating Public Policy

At the spring National Meeting in New Orleans



Speakers included Lynne Greenblatt, Kristin Omberg, Chris Bannochie, Katie Hunt, Glenn Ruskin, and Sonja Strah-Pleynt.

## 2009 Officer Elections Approaching...

The slate of candidates identified by the nominating committee are listed below. Petition candidates, with signatures of 10 PROF members, must be received by Ray O'Donnell by August 15th. Bios for all candidates will be on the division web site shortly.

Chair-elect:

James Visintainer

Treasurer:

Chris Bannochie

Peter M. Smith

Members-at-Large: (3 to be elected)

Michael Brownfield

Mark Cesa

Jacqueline A. Erickson

Greg Ferrence

Lynn Greenblatt

Robin Hood

Keith Vitense

Councilor:

John Massingill

Alt. Councilor:

Linette Watkins

## Call for Nominations for Henry Hill Award

A call for nominations and seconding letters for the 2009 Henry Hill Award was published on page 50 of the June 9, 2008 issue of C&EN. Please consider nominating a colleague for this award which recognizes unique and distinguished service to our profession. Nominations should be sent to Ray O'Donnell at [odonnell@oswego.edu](mailto:odonnell@oswego.edu) by Sept. 15, 2008. The winner will be announced in January 2009.

## PROF Sponsors "Ethics Strike Force" at NERM

Dave Chesney, Chair, Division of Professional Relations

On July 1, three members of the ACS Committee on Ethics gave a Professional Ethics Workshop at the Northeastern Regional Meeting in Burlington, VT. Keith Vitense, Sue Shelble, and Dave Chesney were sponsored by PROF through a grant from the Innovative Projects Fund Grant for Divisional Enhancement program sponsored by the ACS Council Committee on Divisional Activities. The group had intended to go to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting, but scheduling problems precluded participation at that venue.

The 17 audience members were primarily students and faculty. Each of the presenters took a turn presenting a case study on professional ethics, all of which emphasized academic chemistry issues. A lively discussion ensued, facilitated by the use of "response clickers" borrowed from Cameron University to provide anonymous audience responses for multiple-choice scenarios. Parenthetically, the PROF Executive Committee was approached by this group in New Orleans with a request to purchase a set of these response clickers exclusively for PROF symposia. I am happy to report that this request was approved.

The "Strike Force" workshop is already penciled in for SERMACS this fall, and has requests from the Western Regional Meeting in Las Vegas this year, and the Great Lakes Regional Meeting in Chicago next year. The core group is looking for additional volunteers to help lead these workshops at the regional meetings. The case studies that have been developed thus far will be posted on the Ethics Committee web site ([www.acs.org/ethics](http://www.acs.org/ethics)) in the near future, for your perusal. If you want to be a part of this very worthwhile activity and support your local regional meeting, please contact Dave Chesney ([djchesne@mtu.edu](mailto:djchesne@mtu.edu)).

## **Embedded Programming –**

### **A way to enhance PROF's profile?**

Dave Chesney, Chair, Division of Professional Relations

The Multidisciplinary Program Planning Group (MPPG) is the ACS unit charged with deciding the programming themes for future national meetings. Each Division is represented (at least theoretically) and has an equal say in the discussions. As it turns out, I am the representative from PROF (for this year, at least).

The themes for 2009 are set. The theme for the Spring 2009 meeting in Salt Lake City is "Nanoscience: Challenges for the Future." The theme for the Fall 2009 meeting in Washington is "Chemistry and Global Security: Challenges and Opportunities" with the sub-themes of "Chemistry of CO<sub>2</sub> and Climate Change", and "Chemical and Biological Terrorism Defense".

MPPG has proposed the following themes for 2010: Green Chemistry for a Sustainable World (Spring, San Francisco, CA) and Preventing and Combating Disease (Fall, Boston, MA). These themes will be discussed and possibly finalized at the upcoming meeting in Philadelphia.

For a long time PROF has had the experience of putting together symposia that are placed far away from the other technical symposia. We have accepted this, because for the most part, our symposia deal with public policy, workforce, and/or career issues and have a different emphasis from the programs put on by more technical divisions. However, with the move toward thematic programming, I think that we have a great deal to offer in regard to the chosen themes, particularly with our close association with the Ethics Committee. The Ethics Committee is already talking about symposia on the ethics of biofuels, as well as the ethical issues scientists must face in choosing to work with nanoparticulate materials. Now, PROF could organize very nice symposia on these topics (and we will) to coordinate with the upcoming themes. However, I think I have a way that we can enhance our contribution to the meetings.

I would like to see the "embedding" of PROF talks within appropriate symposia from other technical divisions. Here is the model I have been using to illustrate this: A symposium from the Inorganic Divi-

sion on the synthesis/characterization of nanoparticles for use in medical research. I can envision three or four INOR talks followed by a PROF talk on the ethical issues of using nanoparticles in clinical studies (or proper techniques for nanoparticles in medical research, current or proposed legislation regarding nanoparticle research, etc.), followed by the remaining INOR sessions. The embedded (non-technical) PROF talk is there to make people think about the process of their research and its possible consequences. This is a change from what I am used to in technical symposia, where the emphasis is usually on the science only, not public policy or scientific ethics.

This embedded programming would require close coordination between the division program chairs and symposium organizers to get the appropriate mix of talks for a symposium. I am not expecting that every division would participate, nor would every symposium have embedded programming. I'm envisioning maybe one symposium from each of four or five participating technical divisions as a trial run.

I am hoping that MPPG will support and facilitate the "embedding" of talks. I realize there are going to be a lot of details to hash out, but I think it's worth a try. I know the Ethics Committee and the PROF Executive Committee were excited about the idea and are eager to participate. John Pochan, Chair of MPPG, has indicated his support for the idea. I will submit it to MPPG as a whole in Philadelphia and keep you posted on its progress

## **Volunteers Sought for Henry Hill Projects**

Jim Walsh

Henry Hill was the first Afro-American to be President of the ACS, and in 2015 we will celebrate the centennial of his birth. We would like to make this a memorable occasion, especially since he had a long-standing interest in Professional Relations. A few years ago, the ACS put together a splendid celebration of Percy Julian, which included his likeness on a U.S. postage stamp and a well-received, Nova broadcast film on his life and work. I believe that we should do no less for Henry Hill. I have agreed to assemble a committee to plan this event and it is a work in progress. I expect to have our first meeting in Philadelphia this fall.

(continued on next page)

There are several other exciting possibilities that come quickly to mind. Henry Hill's power base was in the Northeastern ACS Section. In 2015, one of the ACS National Meetings is scheduled for Boston. How fortuitous! There are three different Henry Hill awards; one given by PROF for service to that profession, one given by the Northeastern Local Section for service to the Section, and one given by the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCCChE) for research. Is it possible that we could coordinate so that all three are awarded at the same ceremony in Boston?

My final project is not unrelated. At present, the Henry A. Hill Award given by PROF consists of a certificate, an honorarium of \$500, and a reception. I think that we need to raise the profile of this award. I think that we should award a medal rather than the certificate. I think that the honorarium should be at least \$1,000. Why not a dinner instead of a reception? All of this will take money. I have agreed to organize a fund raising drive to raise money to provide an endowment for the Henry Hill Award. Perhaps it is overreaching, but we will not know until we try.

If there are any members who would like to volunteer to help in either of these efforts, please contact me at [JWALSH03@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:JWALSH03@tampabay.rr.com).

## 2007 Henry Hill Award Ceremony

Mary Virginia Orna received the 2008 Henry Hill Award, which was presented at the spring ACS National Meeting in New Orleans. The reception at the Hilton Riverside Hotel was very well attended. Thanks to having a large room, it wasn't crowded though - except maybe at the bar!



ACS Director Janan Hayes summarizes Dr. Orna's accomplishments. Photo by Mike Brown.



Presenter John Borchardt and Henry Hill Award winner Mary Virginia Orna. Photo by Mike Brown.

The number of ACS past-presidents and directors attending is a testament to Dr. Orna's long and active involvement in ACS activities.



The buffet table was busy as former ACS presidents Ann Nalley and Bill Carroll listen to John Borchardt (back to camera) make a point. Photo by Mike Brown.

## **236th ACS National Meeting Program Philadelphia, PA, August 17-21, 2008**

### **BUSINESS MEETING:**

Executive Committee Meeting: Tue, 3-5pm,  
Loews Hotel

### **MONDAY MORNING**

Globalization: A Perspective from Executives from the  
US and the EU

Sponsored by BMGT, Cosponsored by PROF

Merck Index Women in Chemistry Award Symposium

Sponsored by WCC, Cosponsored by PROF, MEDI,  
ORGN, CHED, CMA, and YCC

### **MONDAY AFTERNOON**

The Use of New Technologies in Finding Employment  
Cosponsored by CEPA, CINF, and WCC

1:30 — Introductory Remarks.

1:40 — Employment websites for mid- and late-career  
scientists and engineers. J. K. Borchardt

2:10 — Using Google Tools to target companies, ace  
the interview, and land the perfect position. J. L. Petoff

2:40 — Application of on-line networking tools to es-  
tablish a professional network, enhance career growth,  
and aid in the job search. K. J. Barr

3:10 — Intermission.

3:25 — Catalyzing your job search using personal  
branding. C. J. Timmins

3:55 — Pros and cons of using blogs and video-inter-  
viewing in a job search. D. J. Eustace

4:25 — Networking using Second Life. J.-C. Bradley

4:55 — Concluding Remarks.

The Merck Index Women in Chemistry

Sponsored by WCC

Cosponsored by PROF, MEDI, ORGN, CHED, CMA,  
and YCC

### **MONDAY EVENING**

The Academic Employment Initiative

Sponsored by AEI, Cosponsored by CHED, PROF,  
CEPA, CMA, CPT, WCC, SOCED, and CWD

### **TUESDAY AFTERNOON**

Chemist and Consumer: Women in the Pharmaceutical  
Industry

Sponsored by WCC, Cosponsored by CHED, MEDI,  
ORGN, PROF, CMA, and YCC

## **Learn about New Job Hunting Tools at Philadelphia Symposium**

John K. Borchardt

In navigating the job market, chemical scientists (chemists, engineers and technicians) need to use all the tools and strategies at their disposal. And these days, there are more tools and technologies than ever! This prompted Lisa Balbes to organize the symposium "The Use of New Technologies in Finding Employment." Sponsored by the Division of Professional Relations, this symposium will be held Monday afternoon, August 18th, at the Loews Hotel during the Philadelphia ACS National Meeting.

The best time to become familiar with these technologies is before one is actually in the job market. However, even if you're in the midst of a job hunt or just thinking about moving on, learning and using some of these technologies can be just the thing to reignite a stalled career.

These new technologies are useful at all stages of a chemical scientist's career. Just using one or more of them can demonstrate to employers that an experienced chemist is up to date on new technologies and implies that their chemical expertise is up to date as well.

For the first time, PROF is going to video- and audiotape this symposium, archive it, and make it available for download on the PROF web page. Other divisions have begun such web archival of symposia, but this is a first for PROF. It is anticipated that this will provide a much-needed service by making available this very useful information to those chemical professionals who were unable to attend the symposium in person.

## **PROF 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. All 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) \_\_\_\_\_

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