



ACS Division of  
Professional Relations

# BULLETIN

Issue #83 June 2009  
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## Thoughts from the Chair

Adam C. Myers

Welcome to our summer newsletter, in that oh-so-short time between the two national meetings of the calendar year. I'm currently serving as the representative for our division on the ACS Awards Review Committee, and it reminded me of just how important recognition can be. Since we are called, as a division, to inform our membership and the society about professional matters, we should be promoting the available awards.

Within our own division, we give two awards, the Henry Hill award and the Lou Sacco award. Calls for nominations for both of these awards are in this issue of the newsletter. As members of the division, we call upon you to nominate qualified candidates for these awards.

Furthermore, the society has a multitude of awards, in a variety of different categories. As members of the society, we are able to nominate for many of these awards. To search the full list of awards, visit [www.acs.org/awards](http://www.acs.org/awards) for all the needed information on each award.

As members of a group focused on professional matters, let us join together to help recognize professional excellence. I always knew that there were many awards within the society, but I've never been a very active participant in the process. I have set a new challenge for myself this year, one in which I invite all of you to join me. I am challenging myself to submit a nominee for at least one award within our division, and one award outside our division. Will you join me in this goal?

As always, this is your division, and I am here to serve you, so please do not hesitate to contact me ([amyers@BASInc.com](mailto:amyers@BASInc.com)).

## PROF Election – Call for Nominations

At the Salt Lake City meeting, the PROF Nominating Committee announced the following candidates:

Chair-Elect: George Heinze, Chris Bannochie  
Secretary (two-year term): Jackie Erickson  
Councilor (three-year term): John Borchardt,  
Adam Myers  
Alternate Councilor (three-year term): open  
Member at Large (two-year term): Dan Libby,  
Lisa Balbes, Jim Landis, Vicki Finkenstadt,  
Keith Vitense

Additional nominations for any of the above offices are welcome at this time. Please send a nomination email to the PROF Nominating Committee in care of Dave Chesney ([djchesne@mtu.edu](mailto:djchesne@mtu.edu)) by July 30. The final ballot will be sent out by August 15, in accordance with PROF bylaws.

All terms of office begin on January 1, 2010. The winning candidate for Chair-Elect will succeed to the office of Chair on January 1, 2011.

## National Officer Candidates

Candidates for President-Elect, 2010

Dr. Nancy B. Jackson, International Chemical Threat Reduction Department Manager, Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM

Dr. Cheryl A. Martin, General Manager, Rohm & Haas Company, Philadelphia, PA

Candidates for Directors-at-Large, 2010-2012

Dr. Dennis Chamot, Associate Executive Director, Division on Engineering and Physical Sciences, National Research Council, Washington, DC

Dr. H. N. Cheng, Senior Research Fellow, Ashland Hercules Water Technologies, Avondale, PA

Dr. Ray A. Dickie, Retired, Ford Motor Company, Efland, NC

Ms. Valerie J. Kuck, Retired, Lucent Technologies, Montclair, NJ

## Webmaster Role Changes Hands

Dr. Benny Chan, PROF Webmaster

I am the new webmaster for PROF. I would like to thank Barbara Moriarty and Milt Levenberg for their excellent service as webmasters. I am in the process of transitioning our website onto the new ACS web hosting service which will allow interactive posting and multimedia experiences. If you have any updates for the PROF website, please sent them to chan@tcnj.edu.

## 5th Annual Excellence in Graduate Polymer Research Symposium

Salt Lake City - March 22-23, 2009

Submitted by H N Cheng

This session consisted of two half-day oral sessions, a poster session, and a networking social. The purposes of this symposium were to provide recognition to outstanding graduate students in polymer science and engineering, to foster networking and exposure, and to help develop the careers of future leaders in our field. This year 14 students presented in oral sessions, 10 students presented posters on their work, and each received a certificate and cash award.

This symposium was organized by ACS Polymer Division (POLY), and cosponsored by Presidential Event (PRES), Young Chemists Committee (YCC), Division of Professional Relations (PROF), Society Committee on Education (SOCED), and POLY. The symposium had the generous support of ACS President Thomas H. Lane and the Dow Corning Foundation, National Science Foundation Division of Materials Research (DMR), ACS Polymer Division (POLY), Industrial Advisory Board of the Polymer Division (IAB), Rohm and Haas - a wholly owned subsidiary of The Dow Chemical Company, and Lord Corporation.



## Henry Hill Award

The 2009 Henry Hill Award was presented to Dr. William F. Carroll, Jr., by Dr. Ray O'Donnell, chair of the 2009 Division Award Committee at a very well attended ceremony in the Grand Ballroom of the Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City. It was a great pleasure for all to honor Bill for his distinguished activities in behalf of our colleagues in their professional lives.



Bill Carroll accepts the 2009 Henry Hill Award from Ray O'Donnell



Bill Carroll (center) talks with Ingrid Montes and Mary Carroll. Photos courtesy of Linda Wang.

## Overcoming Issues in Graduate School

Shanadeen Begay

This symposium (sponsored by YCC and co-sponsored by PROF) featured talks from presenters with tremendous accomplishments in the areas of mentoring, counseling, career planning, teaching, and leadership within the ACS community and beyond.

Jim White (University of Utah) discussed transitioning from undergraduate to graduate student life with emphasis on the importance of skills outside of work, such as maintaining open communication with your professional friends, personal care, self-assessment, setting realistic goals, and maintaining mental balance. Yong Cai (FIU) talked about the graduate school experience, with a focus on choosing an advisor and writing the dissertation. Important topics such as maintaining a healthy and professional relationship with your advisor, understanding your significant contribution to your field, and identifying the purpose of your dissertation were discussed.

Marjorie C. Caserio (Professor Emeritus, UCSD) currently serves as a consultant to the ACS on graduate education. She discussed the role of an advisor beyond research guidance, and gave insight into faculty concerns and motivating factors for their work, stressing the importance of training of both faculty and students concerning effective lab management.

Joel Shulman focused on 'Transitioning from Graduate School to an Industrial Position', highlighting the basics of R&D work, key factors for success in industry, successful transitioning strategies, organizational culture, communicating company and employee expectations, and professional development. Lastly, Cindy Larive spoke concerning the transition from graduate school to the postdoc and beyond. She mentioned the reasons for doing a post-doc, gave a basic introduction into the types of post-docs that exist, and discussed how to search for and select your post-doc using lists and priorities. She also talked about types of funding and the importance of timing at each stage of planning the post-doctorial experience. Several great resources were noted in the symposium, including the ACS Graduate Education Newsletter and PFLAG (Preparing for Life After Graduate School) Workshop.

## Call for Nominations for Henry Hill Award

Since awardees are nominated by members of the Division, this would be a good time to consider nominating someone for the 2010 Award.



Henry Aaron Hill

PROF members are requested to nominate colleagues who have made significant contributions to advancing chemistry as a profession. Deadline for receipt is Sept. 30, 2009. See <http://membership.acs.org/p/prof/awards.html> for prior winners. Questions & nominations to 2009 Hill Award Committee Chair, Dr. Howard Peters, 228 Sand Hill Circle, Menlo Park, CA 94025, [peters4pa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:peters4pa@sbcglobal.net). (650) 854 4614.

## Call for Nominations for the Lou Sacco Award

The Division of Professional Relations solicits nominations for the Lou Sacco Award. The Lou Sacco Award honors the late Lou Sacco and is given to recognize persons who have served the Division of Professional Relations in a meritorious and exemplary manner over a significant period of time. Nominations should consist of a letter of nomination providing justification for the award including the service to the Division of Professional Relations for which the nominee is being recognized. The letter should also provide additional biographical information that can include education, professional experience, experience in the Division of Professional Relations, awards, honors and publications.

Nominations should be sent to [bmoriarty@nalco.com](mailto:bmoriarty@nalco.com) by September 15, 2009.



## **DC Here We Come!**

**Washington, DC, August 16-20, 2009**

R. D. Libby, Program Chair

### **SUNDAY MORNING**

Be A Consultant - Here's How

8:30am - ConvCenter 156

Cosponsored by Senior Chemist Task Force, IEC, SCHB, and CEPA

Young Scientist Award Symposium

Sponsored by AGFD, Cosponsored by PROF

### **SUNDAY AFTERNOON**

2:00pm - ConvCenter 103B

Career strategies: Critical career steps.

Sponsored by SCHB, Cosponsored by HIST and PROF

### **MONDAY MORNING**

Chemistry, Sustainability, and Diversity: Global Imperatives

9:00am - J W Marriott

Cosponsored by JSD, CTA, CMA, CWD, WCC, YCC, and PRES

Professionalism in the Twenty-First Century: Poster Session and Town Hall Forum

11:00 - 1:00 ConvCenter So. P-F

Division of professional relations town hall forum.  
D. J. Chesney Organizer

Chemical and Technology Import-Export Regulations, Issues, and Security Challenges

Sponsored by SCHB, Cosponsored by BMGT and PROF

The Effect of Globalization on the Worldwide Chemical Enterprise

Sponsored by BMGT, Cosponsored by GLOBAL, PROF, and IAC

The Merck Index Women in Chemistry Award Symposium

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

### **MONDAY AFTERNOON**

Finding Jobs at Small Companies. J. K. Borchardt

2:00 - ConvCenter 302

Sponsored by SCHB, Cosponsored by BMGT, CINP, and PROF

The Merck Index Women in Chemistry

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

### **MONDAY EVENING**

Academic Employment Initiative

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

Leaving the Nest: Life After Post-Doc'ing

Sponsored by COMP, Cosponsored by CPT, CEPA, YCC, PROF, and WCC

### **TUESDAY MORNING**

Best Practices for Entrepreneurs

Sponsored by SCHB, Cosponsored by WCC and PROF

Public Office Campaign Strategy

Sponsored by SCHB, Cosponsored by CCPA Committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs, CPT, and PROF

### **TUESDAY AFTERNOON**

Alternate Routes to the Teaching of Chemistry:

There Are Jobs Open Now, Help Others as You Help Yourself

Sponsored by CHED, Cosponsored by CEPA, CPT, and PROF

Science Policy

Sponsored by YCC, Cosponsored by PROF

True Stories from Chemical Entrepreneurs  
Sponsored by SCHB,  
Cosponsored by WCC and PROF

#### WEDNESDAY MORNING

Global Harmonization of Safety Challenges Facing the  
Chemical Industry  
Sponsored by SCHB,  
Cosponsored by BMGT, CHAS, and PROF

#### The Art of Collaborations

Sponsored by YCC, Cosponsored by PROF

#### WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

Chemical Health, Safety, and Security Practices for  
Small Businesses  
Sponsored by SCHB, Cosponsored by CHAS and  
PROF

### **ACS Network: Global Chemistry Community**

Over 17,000 chemists and chemical practitioners worldwide have joined the ACS Network, and are using the power of this on-line community to establish connections, collaborate with colleagues and to share their knowledge and expertise. The ACS Network is a professional networking and collaboration platform that connects scientists, ideas and opportunities.

The ACS Network's suite of tools allow members to build on-line profiles, form and join groups, participate in discussions, get email alerts, share documents and collaborate with other network members who share similar interests. The ACS Network can help you:

- Manage your career, meet people and find opportunities.
- Interact and collaborate with peers in a trusted environment.
- Sharpen your skills, learn and grow in your profession.
- Do your work, gain insights and research and gather information.
- Get recognized by your peers.

Join the ACS Network ([www.acs.org/acsnetwork](http://www.acs.org/acsnetwork)) today and make it your #1 online destination to connect, communicate and collaborate within the world of chemistry.

### **Highlight on Industry**

John Crawford

The Responsible Care® initiative and its embrace by chemical manufacturers is driving responsible operations, ethics and transparency. As both a chemical professional in industry and a member of an ACS task force on Responsible Care, I have had the opportunity to learn about and to participate in this effort that is focused on improving the environmental, health, safety and security performance of the chemical enterprise.

Responsible Care is a set of principles and guidelines that are meant to serve as the ethical foundation for the initiative and practice of good chemistry. Some of its primary objectives are for member companies to:

- create products and services that make life better for people around the world,
- make continuous progress toward the vision of no accidents, injuries or harm to humans and the environment,
- publicly report global health, safety and environmental performance, and
- lead companies in ethical ways that increasingly benefit society, the economy and the environment.

Responsible Care is a global initiative that was founded by Canadians in 1985, adopted by the American Chemistry Council in 1988 and is now practiced in 53 countries through national chemical trade associations. The initiative sets environmental, health, safety and security (EHS) goals above government regulatory requirements. The program shares a common commitment to improve EHS performance, to promote safe and secure chemicals management, and to more openly communicate with stakeholders about products and processes.

Building on the original Community Awareness and Emergency Response program, the Responsible Care initiative is organized into a series of key codes that include: Employee Health and Safety, Process Safety, Product Stewardship, Pollution Prevention, Distribution, and Security. In terms of Product Stewardship, the code challenges us to consider environmental, health, safety and resource conservation along the value chain. This approach to protection of the user and environment during a

product's life cycle considers the impact and safe use of products as they are manufactured, transported by carriers, and handled by distributors, consumers and end users. What information is known about the hazards and safe handling of products and processes? What wastes are generated? How might resources like water and energy be better conserved? How should the products be disposed of safely?

Member companies are required to keep pace with changes to the Responsible Care initiative. As the initiative has evolved and then been applied in industry, it has shaped how we incorporate product stewardship and the Responsible Care principles into our processes and systems. During 2002, a management system structure, called the Responsible Care Management System®, was adopted based on a quality improvement cycle to:

- Plan – To assess operations, products and processes for potential hazards and risks and to establish objectives to mitigate significant hazards and risks
- Do – To implement plans including to formalize policies and processes, to define structure and responsibilities, to train staff and to follow operational and document controls
- Check – To monitor and measure performance and to address corrective actions
- Act – To review, report and improve

Member companies are now required to undergo certification by an independent, accredited auditor and to have a system in place to track and evaluate performance. Aggregate reporting of performance is now shared on the trade association website via a broader set of performance metrics.

Further information on the Responsible Care initiative may be found at: [www.americanchemistry.com/responsiblecare](http://www.americanchemistry.com/responsiblecare)

Responsible Care® and Responsible Care Management System® are registered marks of the American Chemistry Council.

## Did You Know?

### 2011 is the International Year of Chemistry

The 63rd General Assembly of the United Nations has proclaimed 2011 as International Year of Chemistry (IYC), under the leadership of UNESCO and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC). IYC 2011 will celebrate the achievements of chemistry and its contributions to the well-being of humankind. The IYC Managing Committee invites national and international chemical societies and organizations to publicize IYC 2011 through national and regional celebrations of chemistry.

ACS invites you to take help plan how to celebrate the transforming power of chemistry. Chemistry enthusiasts from around the world are being asked to contribute to the planning, implementation, and evaluation of IYC-2011 programming.

We welcome your ideas for ways the ACS community can help accomplish these IYC-2011 objectives:

- Increase the public appreciation of chemistry in meeting world needs
- Increase interest of young people in chemistry  
Generate enthusiasm for the creative future of chemistry
- Celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mme. Curie Nobel Prize and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the International Association of Chemical Societies

Email your suggestions to [IYC2011@acs.org](mailto:IYC2011@acs.org).

### ACS Senior Chemists Task Force

At the 2009 Spring ACS National Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT, the Senior Chemists Task Force was created to determine how ACS can best meet the needs of this growing population of members.

The Senior Chemists Task Force have several programs planned for the fall ACS National Meeting in Washington, DC. Cosponsoring with the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA), Division of Small Chemical Business (SCHB), Division of Industrial & Engineering Chemistry (I&EC), a symposium, "Be A Consultant, Here's How" is scheduled on Sunday, August 16, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 Noon.

## Developing Soft Skills Provides Career Options

John K. Borchardt

Originally presented at the March 2009 ACS National Meeting

Soft skills enable you to apply your chemical knowledge and skills more productively thereby:

strengthening your competitive position when job hunting

increasing your value to your employer thus enhancing job security

providing more career options

When job hunting, soft skills can distinguish you from other job candidates. Your soft skills may be assessed using your academic record and comments from references. A primary way to do so is in your on-site employment interviews.

Your transferable skills inventory includes:

Oral Communication

Written Communication

Time Management

Teamwork

Leadership

Networking

Business (ability to sell your ideas, formulate & manage a budget, managing multiple priorities, etc.)

Soft skills often provide mid-career chemists and technicians with an edge in the job market compared to recent graduates. They provide a justification for the higher salaries paid to mid-career professionals compared to recent graduates. One learns them by doing and consciously trying to improve. They are often difficult to teach.

In general, the more your career evolves away from the lab, the more your soft skills dominate your job performance in less traditional careers such as sales, marketing, management, information science and technical writing. However, the way lab careers have evolved soft skills also have become more important in the lab. For example, as lab chemists and technicians increasingly work on teams, managing multiple priorities and teamwork, leadership and time management skills have become more important to their job performance and career advancement.

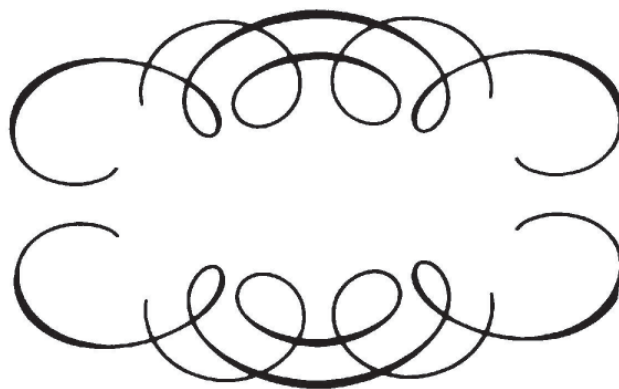
So how can you improve some of your soft skills? The best way to develop and maintain oral presentation skills is to learn by doing. The programs offered by Toastmasters International are an excellent way to do so. Oral communications skills are critically important in presenting oral reports to managers, coworkers, suppliers and customers. They are also critically important in employment interviews.

Written communications skills are also very important in job hunting being critically to writing outstanding résumés and cover letters. Effectively written internal reports and journal papers can aid in professional advancement. To improve your skills, consciously examine your writing to determine how well it's written. Take a short course in business writing or journalism to aid in communicating with sales and marketing personnel, customers and others.

Effective time management is essential in meeting deadlines. If you are a student, effective time management shows in a balance of high grades with a full curriculum plus extracurricular activities. Read a good book on time management and use a time tracking system to see how you spend your time. This can aid you in utilizing your time more efficiently.

Teamwork and leadership skills may be developed and generated through serving on teams at work. Both mid-career professionals and students can develop and demonstrate these skills through professional society activities including election to leadership positions and volunteer work.

Developing and using your soft skills can add new dimensions of accomplishment and satisfaction to your career.



Division of Professional Relations  
American Chemical Society  
c/o Balbes Consultants  
648 Simmons Ave  
Kirkwood MO 63122

## **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) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Chris Bannochie, Secretary  
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