



ACS Division of
Professional Relations

New Web site: acsprof.org

BULLETIN

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Election Results

The tellers' committee would like to thank all of this year's candidates. The election results for 2010 terms are as follows. Congratulations to all!!

Chair-Elect - Chris Bannochie
Secretary - Sue Schelble
Councilor - John Borchardt
Alternate Councilor - Dan Libby
Members at Large - Lisa Balbes, Vicki Finkenstadt,
Keith Vitense

Call for Officers

Adam C. Myers, Ph.D.

As the past chair, I am charged with putting forth a slate of officers for the coming election. This year, we will elect the following positions:

Chair-Elect
Treasurer
Members at Large (3)

If you would like to submit a name for consideration (including your own) for any of the above positions, please contact me at amyers@BASInc.com.

Message from the Chair

John Crawford

Welcome 2010. With the new year, the DPR Executive Committee would like to thank our predecessors for their contributions to the division. We also look forward to hearing from you, our members, about the professional issues and topics that you regard as most important.

We have established a NEW and improved website. Please bookmark its address: www.acsprof.org. As we are striving to make this website more user-friendly and current, we appreciate any

suggestions you may have for improvements. We are continuing to work with the ACS to update links to the new website. Our goals are to make the website a central place for division announcements and current events, to provide an open forum for member-driven content, and to develop a larger collection of professional resources.

With these goals in mind, please visit the website and share your ideas. We have set up forums to get your input on the following:

- * What topics/ issues would you like to see discussed at future ACS PROF town hall meetings?
- * What topics for professional development and professionalism articles would be of interest to you in the newsletter and website?
- * What additional links or resources would you find useful / valuable on our website such as web links or external articles of interest?

In addition to our web presence, we would like your programming ideas. What professional development topics would you like for us to explore or re-offer? The ACS has many tools and workshops focused on career development. Are there gaps that you feel we should address? How can we assist you to stay marketable in the profession? Browse our website for our national meeting programming and if you have an idea for a symposium or program you would like to organize or see offered, please contact me and/or our Program Chair, Dan Libby rdlibby@cs.moravian.edu.

I look forward to being an advocate for you. Please join us at the Town Hall forum or contact me (new email) at: jcrawford@dow.com. Please let us know how we can better impact the society and its policies with regards to professionalism. As always, we are looking for eager volunteers to serve the division. I would be happy to discuss your interests and potential opportunities within PROF.

2010 HENRY A. HILL AWARDEE: WILLIAM H. SUITS

William H. Suits a member of PROF and the ACS North Jersey Local Section is the recipient of the 2010 Henry Hill Award from the ACS Division of Professional Relations. This award will be presented at the ACS spring national meeting in San Francisco on Tuesday, March 23rd, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. (location not yet available at press time - check acsprof.org.)

Bill Suits exemplifies the example of Dr. Hill in nurturing the professional careers of chemical scientists.

He has been a member of the North Jersey Executive Committee for 25 years. Throughout this time he has assisted chemists to ensure that they are getting the most from their careers. Since 1990 he has worked with the North Jersey Careers in Transition Group that he co-founded. This group works with chemists seeking employment or professional change helping them to conduct a job search effectively and keeping all informed of ACS resources. Many successful placements have occurred as a result of this effort. Bill also uses his wide interactions with Topical Groups to seek out employment leads and try to match people. He has encouraged Job Boards at group meetings and has asked that all seeking employment contact him before attending Section meetings so that he can be sure a Career Consultant is present to assist members.

Bill Suits serves as a national ACS Career Consultant. He is active at national ACS meetings and also visits colleges and universities to present career workshops. He is especially supportive of young people, not only working on their resumes and interviewing skills but also encouraging them to network through groups like the YCC, to which he serves as a mentor. He has also become the Director of the ChemPharma Networking Group that administers a website where over 60 executive jobs a month are posted.

The Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM) committee has also profited from Bill's efforts. He is innovative in organizing symposia and encouraging wide participation by members and he co-chaired the largest MARM meeting in history.

Bill Suits exemplifies the best in our profession. He is very concerned about others not only in the chemical profession but in the world. In addition to his work in this country he is now working to provide AIDS drugs in Africa through AIDSFree Africa.

Closing Thoughts

Adam C. Myers, Ph.D.

As we start a new year, it is time for me to transition into the past-chair role. I'd like to extend a big thanks to all of you for your help as I navigated the waters (sometimes more successfully than others). As I make this transition, I'm struck by the fact that many of us, once a particular opportunity or season of service has passed, are at a loss as to where we can next plug in, or stay plugged in for our professional development. So, here are my suggestions...

Keep informed. Attend a PROF Town Hall Forum to keep discussion going on issues of importance to you. Read your newsletters, and attend national and regional meeting activities mentioned.

Volunteer. Email your officers, and let them know how they can better serve you, and how you can serve them. Offer to serve on an award committee or in subdivision leadership. Have an idea for a symposium? Submit it to our program chair. Organize a professional development related symposium at a local or regional meeting. Submit an article for our newsletter. Or, if you want to move to a deeper level, run for an office. However, when you volunteer, be sure to have the time to complete the tasks to which you commit yourself (a personal struggle for me).

Recognize the achievements of others. Nominate a deserving colleague for a divisional, national, or other award. There are many opportunities present for this, so check out the ACS awards site, as well as that of the division. You can also develop an award within your local section as well.

Thanks to so many of you who helped me through my year as chair. Join me in the adventure of continuing or starting your increased involvement in our division. Don't hesitate to contact me as there are ways I can continue to serve you (amyers@BASInc.com).

Reflections on three years in the PROF

Chair succession

David Chesney

After three years in the PROF Chair succession, I felt compelled to bother you one last time with one of my voluminous diatribes. We have had comments from the Past Chair before (I wrote a few), but never a full retrospective. Maybe I'll start a trend here.

I was there to see a major shift in PROF governance. I don't take credit for it, and some of it I don't agree with. The institution of subdivisions was a tortuous process and, at times, divisive. In general I like the idea, but the omission of a subdivision for industrial chemists strikes me as a major vision failure. I continue to express my dismay that there is no option to join PROF without joining a subdivision. And I'm still not sure why the subcommittee on Ethics exists. I admit the jury is still out on the subdivision structure and that only time will tell if it revitalizes and re-energizes PROF the way it was intended.

We have seen, with the past three elections, a distinct shift to youth in the Chair position. I think this is a positive sign for PROF. The division clearly needs enthusiastic and energetic people to guide it through what we all hope will be a new stage of growth and increased relevance to chemical professionals. The next few years, in particular, are going to be trying times, particularly for those members employed by industry. The division needs to actively seek out ways to help our members with the inevitable upsets in what once was a smooth career path. If nothing else, can't we start an informal support and referral network, perhaps with the aforementioned industrial subdivision?

While there is much to celebrate regarding the apparent shift to a younger demographic in the PROF governance structure, we can't ignore the fact that the majority of our members are, well, old. These are the people who have kept PROF going all these years, and we fail to solicit their abilities and perspectives at our peril. There was much discussion about voting procedures when I was Chair, with a majority of the Executive Committee in favor of going to electronic-only balloting. Ray O'Donnell and I argued to keep paper balloting, despite its cost, for the sole reason of not disenfranchising any of our older members who

were not computer savvy. We lost the argument and compromised with a one-year transition period. I found out just recently that there are guidelines put out by the Committee on Nominations and Elections that say, in effect, that if your entire constituency does not have access to computers, you have to provide an alternate balloting mechanism. I hope the PROF Executive Committee takes another look at this issue with the intent to reconcile our balloting procedure with the N&E guidelines.

I am proud of the PROF Town Hall Forums. Despite the fact that they are still struggling for traction among all the other events and symposia competing for your attention, we have seen glimmers of how well they can serve the ACS community. The current plan is to tie the Town Hall Forums to the Henry Hill awards in order to get a larger audience. There is also some discussion about taking the forum online as part of our new revamped web presence. I am convinced that once some tangible product comes out of a discussion originating at the PROF Town Hall Forum, the forums will become a "must attend" part of the ACS meetings for many attendees.

Lastly, I have to acknowledge two individuals whom I probably would never have met but for Chris Bannochie twisting my arm to run for Chair of PROF. I was as green as anyone could have been that first meeting as Chair-Elect, but Jim Walsh and Ray O'Donnell had instituted a "Chairs Breakfast" that proved invaluable. The ability to speak frankly, pose dumb questions, and sometimes just joke around was the best introduction to PROF I could ever hope for. The camaraderie was instant and ongoing. I continue to work with Jim on plans for the Henry Hill centennial celebration in 2015 and Ray and I chat periodically by phone. Jim, Ray, thanks again for the guidance, the conspiring, and the friendship.



Usage* (SCHB)

- Sustaining a Chemical Business through Federal R&D Grants* (SCHB)
- Sustaining a Work-Life Balance* (SCHB)
- Town Hall Forum and Poster Session
- True Stories of Success from Chemical Entrepreneurs* (SCHB)

Symposium

How to Succeed in Business: The Consulting Business

Sponsored by: Division of Professional Relations

Cosponsored by:

Division of Small Chemical Businesses
Division of Industrial & Engineering Chemistry
Committee on Economic & Professional Affairs
Senior Chemists Task Force

Monday Morning, March 22, 2010
Room 3018, Moscone Center

8:30 AM Introductory Remarks

8:35 – 9:05 Essentials of consulting, William Golton

9:05 – 9:35 Part-time consulting: Doing it your way,
Thomas Beattie

9:35 – 10:05 Sustainable marketing in the 21st
century, Joseph Sabol

10:05 – 10:15 Intermission

10:15 – 10:45 Consulting in a tough economy –
diversity in the offing, John Fetzer

10:45 – 11:15 Expanding one's consulting business
through effective marketing techniques appropriate to
the targeted client niche, William Suits

11:15 – 11:45 Consultant referral firms: Expanding
your network, Boyd Sorenson

11:45 – 11:50 Concluding Remarks

Program for Spring Meeting

The Division, with the help of cosponsors, will hold the “How to Succeed in Business – The Consulting Business” Symposium at the ACS national meeting March 21-25, 2010 in San Francisco. At press time, this was scheduled for Monday morning.

This symposium will take the successful “Be a Consultant, Here's How” Symposium (August 2009 ACS national meeting) one step further by discussing additional subjects such as consulting in a tough business environment, marketing your consulting business, consulting for international clients and part-time consulting.

We have a number of exciting and useful sessions scheduled for San Francisco, including:

- ACS Award for Encouraging Women into Careers in the Chemical Sciences: Symposium in Honor of Mildred S. Dresselhaus* (WCC)
- Algae as a Feedstock for Energy, Chemistry, and Environmental Remediation* (SCHB)
- Best Practices for Entrepreneurs* (SCHB)
- Excellence in Graduate Polymer Research* (POLY)
- How to Succeed in Business - The Consulting Business
- Innovations from Small Businesses in the Environmental Industry* (SCHB)
- POLY/PMSE Poster Session: Excellence in Graduate Polymer Research* (POLY)
- Research by ACS Scholars Celebrating the 15th Year of the Program* (PRES)
- Sci-Mix
- Sustainable Energy Sources and Light-Footprint



John's Grill – A San Francisco Tradition

by John Borchardt

No, I don't own John's Grill (johnsgrill.com). For over 100 years (40 being owned by the same family) John's Grill has been a San Francisco tradition. It was a setting for a scene in Dashiell Hammett's famous 1927 mystery novel "The Maltese Falcon." The décor is the same as described in the novel. You can even order the same meal Hammett's detective hero, Sam Spade, ordered, "chops, baked potato and sliced tomato."

The restaurant is located at 62 Ellis Street near the convention center hotels. The food is good, not great but is quite reasonably priced in the context of San Francisco.

I've eaten there twice and there always seems to be someone who knows the history of the restaurant and the booth where Hammett often sat and worked on his novels. They love talking about the restaurant and its history in the hopes of earning higher tips. So if you're a mystery buff or interested in writing, John's Grill is definitely a good place to go.



Photo credit Mike LaMonaca



PROF Subdivisions Update

By Christopher J. Bannochie, Ph.D.

As part of its 2007-2009 Strategic Plan, the Division of Professional Relations created five subdivisions focused on the four diversity areas (women chemists, younger chemists, chemists with disabilities, and minority affairs) as well as ethics. This was done in conjunction with representatives from each of these committees that participated in the strategic planning effort and was aimed at providing a “divisional home” for chemists with these interests. These subdivisions have been popularly received by the membership of ACS.

The subdivision of women chemists has 185 members: 85% women, 4% men, and 11% undeclared. Nearly 69% are 45 years of age or younger, which is in sharp contrast to the division’s overall demographic with 38% age 45 and under and approximately 27% over age 71. Similarly, the subdivision of younger chemists has 128 members: 51% women, 42% men, and 7% undeclared, with 71% of the membership age 35 or under. The minority affairs subdivision has 69 members: 65% women, 33% men, and just under 2% undeclared. Like the other two subdivisions, the membership is younger than the society or division in general, with 74% age 45 or younger.

The two smaller subdivisions, chemists with disabilities and ethics have 34 and 56 members, respectively. The chemists with disabilities subdivision is evenly split between men and women, and has 62% of its membership below age 45. The ethics subdivision has twice as many women as men with 69% of its membership below age 45.

The division is excited about the success of the subdivision concept and is in the process of appointing chairs to each subdivision in order to begin offering more services. The division bylaws are being amended to include the subdivision chairs as part of the division’s executive committee. Anyone interested in serving in a leadership role in one of the subdivisions, writing an article on a subdivision for the newsletter, or organizing subdivision programming at a national or regional meeting, should contact the PROF Chair, John Crawford (jrcrawford@dow.com).

PROFPAC – The PROF Political Action Committee

by Dave Chesney, 2008 Chair, Division of Professional Relations

As we all know, in recent years ACS has seen fit to raise the number of signatures needed for petition candidates for the Board and Presidency. Having tried to collect signatures for Howard Peters’ last campaign, I know how difficult it is for good candidates to just get on the ballot. I have seen candidates paying their own way to regional meetings to try and collect enough petition signatures to get over the new hurdles and run for elected office. I was struck by the fact that there were committed and experienced individuals out there who want to run but are confronted with a signature requirement seemingly designed to minimize the number of petition candidates who succeed in getting on the ballots. Of more concern is my suspicion that potential candidates will choose to not run for office because of the signatures hurdle. Assuming an ACS membership of 154,000, it takes 770 signatures (0.5 % of membership) to place a candidate on a Presidential ballot (or, if the timeline petition passes, before Council). For District Directors, the number is half that, 385 signatures. With the additional requirement that no more than one sixth (1/6) of the signatures can come from a single Local Section and that no more than two thirds (2/3) from any one District, the petition process assures that a candidate have wide spread, if not national, support. This is where PROFPAC comes in.

It is my contention that we need to encourage more members of the Division of Professional Relations to run for elected office. I further contend that the most direct form of encouragement is to reduce the petitioning hurdle. I outlined the concept (PROFPAC) at the last PROF Executive Committee meeting in Washington, and it seemed to have overwhelming support with that body. Here are the outlines of my PROFPAC proposal:

- 1) PROFPAC would serve as a resource for any member of PROF who wished to run for elected office. PROF member lists would be maintained and made available to any candidate who was a member in good standing of PROF.

2) PROFPAC would seek out reliable local contacts who could be contacted to collect signatures for petition candidates. Having a wide distribution of such contacts would address the geographical/political requirements of the petition process.

3) PROFPAC would not favor one candidate over another, but provide each candidate with the same information to assist them with their campaigns. PROFPAC would also refrain from endorsing any candidate.

4) PROFPAC would actively search for suitable candidates for the Board and Presidency, encouraging them to run and nominating them through the normal N&E processes.

PROFPAC would not be too difficult to set up and maintain. It does require participation by a significant fraction of the membership to be effective. I would welcome any suggestions, comments, or other perspective. Send to me at djchesne@mtu.edu or contact any other member of the Executive Committee.

2010 PROF Division Officers

Chair

John Crawford jcrawford@dow.com

Chair-Elect

Chris Bannochie cj.bannochie@srl.doe.gov

Past Chair

Adam Myers amyers@BASInc.com

Secretary

Sue Schelble sschelbl@mscd.edu

Treasurer

Peter Smith smithpm@westminster.edu

Program Chair

R. Daniel Libby program@acsprof.org

Newsletter Editor

Lisa Balbes lisa@balbes.com

Webmaster

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Members at Large

Robin Hood

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Lisa Balbes lisa@balbes.com

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John Borchardt jkborchardt@hotmail.com

Alternate Councilors

Linette Watkins linette@txstate.edu

R. Daniel Libby rplibby@cs.moravian.edu



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: Sue Schelble, Secretary
Division of Professional Relations, ACS
648 Simmons Ave.
Kirkwood MO 63122