THE STUDIO RESTAURANT
8717 North Lincoln Avenue
Morton Grove, IL

DIRECTION TO THE MEETING
From the city, take I-94 (Edens Expressway) north to Dempster Street exit. Go west on Dempster to Lincoln Avenue (last street before the Metra train tracks). Turn left and proceed to restaurant. From the west, take I-294 north to Dempster Street. Go east on Dempster to Lincoln Avenue (first right past the train tracks), turn right and proceed to restaurant.

TOPICAL GROUP 5:30 P.M.

NIR/FTIR and Chemometrics
How They Can Help Your Company
Speaker
David L. Curtin
Stepan Company

David Curtin got his BS degree from Northern Illinois University and his MS degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has been working for the Stepan Company in the analytical department for ten years. His primary work has been in the field of infrared spectroscopy and its applications in analyzing surfactants, polymers and a variety of esters.

Abstract
The presentation will provide an overview of both near and mid infrared spectroscopy and their application to the chemical industry. The presentation will begin with an overview of the differences between near- and mid-infrared spectroscopy and their present day technological status. The remainder of the presentation will cover the advantages of utilizing this technology in the laboratory and process environment. Of primary concern will be:

1) Right the first time manufacturing
2) Reduced manufacturing costs
3) QC to QA transition
4) Elimination of hazardous chemicals
5) Rapid multi-component analysis

Come and find out how these powerful tools can help your company!

SOCIAL HOUR 6:00-7:00 P.M.
Cash Bar Available with hors d’oeuvres

DINNER 7:00 P.M.
Dinner reservations are required and should be received in the section office (847/647-8405) by noon on Tuesday, September 21, 1999. Dinner cost is $22 to Section members who have paid their local section dues, members’ families, and visiting ACS members. Cost to non-members is $24. Seating will be available for those who wish to attend the meeting without dinner. PLEASE HONOR YOUR RESERVATIONS. The Section must pay for all dinners ordered. No-shows will be billed.

The menu consists of Garden Fresh Tossed Green Salad with choice of dressings, choice of Prime Queen Filet Mignon with Bearnaise Sauce or Fresh Lake Superior Whitefish, Twice-baked Potato, Green Beans Almondine, Vanilla Ice Cream Sundae with Chocolate Sauce, Rolls and Butter, and Beverage.

GENERAL MEETING 8:00 P.M.

THE TOPIC:
Andrew T. Graham, Research Specialist, Dow Chemical, Midland MI, "Synthesis and Applications of Superabsorbent Polymers".

Disposable diapers were responsible during the ’70s and early ’80s for a global revolution in infant care. The use of superabsorbent polymers, beginning in the mid-’80s, significantly improved diaper performance while reducing their cost. As a result, the manufacture of these polymers has grown from a few thousand metric tons in 1985 to nearly 1 million MT/yr in 1998. The polymer of choice has been, and continues to be, partially neutralized crosslinked poly(acrylic acid). This talk will briefly outline the commercial synthesis and structure property relationships for these interesting polymers. In addition to their use in absorbent articles for personal hygiene, superabsorbent polymers have been used in non-personal care applications. Several of these applications will also be discussed.

(continued on page 2)

JOB CLUB
The next meeting of the Chicago Section Job Club will be held on Friday, September 24 at The Studio Restaurant at 5 p.m. The Job Club provides a continuing opportunity for unemployed members of the Section to meet with one another, share their experiences and develop a network that may help in identifying employment opportunities. Bring plenty of resumes and business cards to distribute to your colleagues.

Should you wish to attend the Section meeting following the Job Club, the fee for unemployed members is only $11, and you can continue your networking activities. Please call the Section office for reservations and indicate that you are eligible for a discount.

COME SEE THE FACES OF THE ACS CHICAGO SECTION IN THE NEW PHOTO GALLERY ON THE WEB
at http://membership.acs.org/C/Chicago
Chair's Column

July, 1999

Dear Fellow Members of the Chicago Section, ACS:

As the Chair of the Chicago Section ACS for July 1999 - June 2000, I'd like to present some of the opportunities available to the membership for the coming year. Although the Chicago Section office is run by paid staff, it should be obvious to all that the programs of the Section are carried out by volunteers: you the members.

What determines membership in an ACS local section? ZIP Code: of your ACS mailing address, either at work or home. What determines the value you place on your ACS local membership? The amount of effort you point into the process. This effort can consist of attending the monthly membership meetings or, better yet, additional effort on working with the various programs of the Section through the various committees. A list of the committees and their functions appear on p. (10). The Section Office can furnish the names and contact numbers for the committee chairs.

Among all of these opportunities, I'll highlight a few (note emphasis on outreach):

National Chemistry Week (NCW): assistance is always needed, not only on the day of celebration but in the planning. After several years of excellent leadership, Tom Kucera would appreciate a member willing to co-chair the committee.

Education, especially programs for children and families: Kids and Chemistry, a program for kids, is an active program, but could always need more trained leaders. Other opportunities exist, including children's museums (note: the DuPage Children's Museum will be moving from Wheaton to Naperville next year and can use volunteers for its science-based programs - contact Debbie Garner, 630-260-9907).

Education, collegiate: Earlier in the year, I contacted all known contacts for Student Affiliate Groups at colleges and universities in the Section. So far, I've had no response. At a minimum, we'd like to see a Student Affiliate page on the Section website to exchange ideas, announce programs and even brag a bit (e.g., North Central College had their own celebration of NCW on campus and regularly makes presentations on science and chemistry at nearby elementary schools).

Professional Relations: This has been a tough year as many chemists in the Section lost jobs. The Section leadership has felt somewhat helpless as those let go tend to fall off our radar screen. The Section - and the ACS - have numerous programs to assist those looking for a new position for whatever reason. This committee also has the mission of improving the status and job satisfaction for those currently employed, but we need your help.

Know of any other exciting outreach program for kids, including those sponsored by your company? Inform the Section and we can develop a Web page for exchange of ideas or inform ourselves and the public on what's available.

The Younger Chemists and Minority Affairs Committees are active and desire your participation. A related question: does the Section also need a Women Chemists Committee? Make your views known.

Monthly meetings (a.k.a. "you can't please all of the time"): Surveys in the past (do we need another one?) have indicated there's no good night to have a meeting, no good place, no good format, etc. Is the traditional dinner meeting on a Friday night the way to go? If you have other ideas, let us know. Although a survey on the web might introduce a bias, it sure would be efficient. Let us know your thoughts.

Please visit the Section website at http://membership.acs.org/C/Chicago. We appreciate that not every member has web access, but it is the wave of the future. Typically, those in education and those who are "younger" chemists do have access, and that's where we need increased outreach and involvement.

This year, the Section is experiencing two significant changes: in professional staff (Gayle O'Neill of TEI now administers the office), and the Chair, who is moving out of the area. The office numbers remain the same. Although I'm retiring to Minnesota, I can always be reached through the Section Office (612-389-2017; or at bunrock2@earthlink.net. I will be at both the Board and membership meetings every month and hope to see you there.

For the business year 1999-2000, it's my privilege to chair one of the largest and best of the ACS local sections: the Chicago Section. I strongly encourage your participation in Section activities to carry the proud traditions of the Section into the new millennium. Volunteerism is falling on hard times, for a number of reasons. However, I hope that you can find time to participate in your local section.

Robert E. (Bob) Buntrock
"CHEM SHORTS"  
For Kids

This column is presented by the Elementary Education Committee. They hope that it will reach young children and help increase science literacy. Please cut it out and pass it on to your children, grandchildren, or elementary teachers. It is hoped that teachers will try to incorporate some of these projects in this column into their lesson plans.

The Incrediblob

Kids, now it's time to use chemistry to make your own plastic ball. Cover a work surface with two layers of paper towels. Into a small plastic cup put one tablespoon of white liquid glue (like Elmer's®). Into another small cup put 1/2 teaspoon each of Epsom salts and water. Swirl the cup until no more Epsom salts will dissolve (if any is left undissolved at the bottom of the cup that's okay). Pour all the contents from the Epsom salts cup into the glue cup and stir it up with a plastic spoon. What happens to the mixture?

Scoop the mixture out onto the double thickness of paper towels, fold the towels over it and press down to absorb the extra water. Pick up your newly formed plastic and form it into a long roll. See how long you can make the roll without it breaking, and measure it's length. Form the plastic into a ball and flatten it down onto a piece of wax paper like a pancake. See how large a pancake shape you can make that can be lifted off the wax paper in one piece, and measure it's diameter.

Form the plastic back into a ball and try bouncing it off a hard clean surface. Congratulations on making and incrediblob incrediball!

Chemistry notes: Note how many different plastics you used to help make one of your own (the cups, the spoon). On the day you do this experiment, try to make a list of all the plastics you see that day and you'll be amazed at how long the list can be. Epsom salts are a chemical product called magnesium sulfate (MgSO4). You should have some left over from making the Epsom salt towers described in the last column. Try to work quickly in this experiment because your plastic material will dry out as you use it.


"ChemShorts" are on the internet at: http://membership.acs.org/C/Chicago/ChmShort/kinindex.html

KATHLEEN CARRADO  
Elementary Education Committee.
Analytical Laboratory Managers Association
20th Annual Conference
October 27 - 29, 1999
Argonne National Laboratory, Illinois

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CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Wednesday, October 27
4:00-6:00 pm Optional Tour of the Advanced Photon Source Laboratory
7:30-9:00 pm Registration and Welcome Mixer

Thursday, October 28
9:15-10:00 am Measurement as a Quality Management Tool with the Malcolm Baldridge National Quality Award Criteria, Joseph A. Muzikowski, Solvay Polymers, Inc.
10:30-11:15 am Measuring Laboratory Customer Satisfaction, Richard B. Beal, Kimberly-Clark Corporation
11:15 am-Noon Motivating the R&D Employee - a Particular Challenge, Jo Dohl, Nycomed Amersham
1:00-1:45 pm Evaluating Performance of Analytical Personnel, John Sadowski, Air Products & Chemicals
1:45-2:45 pm Panel Discussion: Why Organizations Measure Human Factor
3:15-4:45 pm Round Table Discussions
• Effectiveness of Teams in the Laboratory
• Enhancing the Laboratory's Image with Customers
• Communicating Lab Performance to Executive Management
• Measuring the Quality of Laboratory Results
7:00-9:00 pm Banquet followed by presentation of Round Table Discussion Summaries

Friday, October 29
7:30-8:30 am Conference Breakfast and Business Meeting
8:45-9:30 am Measuring the Cost/Productivity Performance of the Analytical Laboratory, Wayne Collins, Solvay Polymers, Inc.
9:30-10:15 am Benchmarking the Industrial Analytical Laboratory, Keith Darlington, Elf Atochem North America, Inc.
10:45-11:30 am LIMS as a Management Measurement Tool, Dave Womack, Bayer Corporation

ALMA PRESENTS FOUR WORKSHOPS immediately preceding the 20th Annual Conference

Managing the Chemical Analysis Support Laboratory
Two Day Workshop, Tuesday & Wednesday, October 26 & 27, 1999. Workshop Leader: Dr. Claude Lucchesi

The Design and Implementation of High Performance Work Teams
One Day Workshop, Tuesday, October 26, 1999. Workshop Leader: Dr. Anthony J. Montana

Organizational Change and the MBTI: A Practical Approach
One-Day Workshop, Wednesday, October 27, 1999. Workshop Leader: Robert B. Johnson

Quality Systems for the Laboratory: Fundamentals, Implementation, and Applications to Analytical and Quality Control
One Day workshop, Wednesday, October 27, 1999. Workshop Leader: Dr. Anthony J. Montana

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ALMA, 1201 Don Diego Ave, Santa Fe, NM 87505 Tel: 505-989-4683 Fax: 505-989-1073
OFFICE NOTES

Things are changing at the Section office. After 42 years of service to the Section, Ron Sykstus has retired to Florida. TEl Analytical, Inc. has been contracted to provide similar, but less extensive services. Most of the duties of Section Office Manager will initially be performed by me. Gradually, other staff at TEl will be responsible for specific areas. I will use this column to keep you informed about staff changes and other office news.

The transition this year may get a little rocky at times and your patience will be greatly appreciated. I have already been fortunate to have the assistance of several Section members. Elaine Anderson, Cherlyn Bradley, Marilyn Koub and Adele Rozek have spent hours helping to categorize the office files. In the process, they have discovered many photos that may be of interest. Margaret and Milt Levenberg will be working with these photos to create a photo album area on the Section website. Working in the office has some advantages. I was able to purge some photos before Margaret and Milt got their scanner on them. The camera is just too honest for my liking.

Speaking of scanners and web sites, we are computerizing more of the office operation. Hopefully, this will allow us to respond more quickly to your requests for information. If you call the office and are transferred to the voice mail, please leave a message. Normally the call will be going to voice mail because we are on the line with someone else, not because we are out of the office. This means that we can usually get back to you in a few minutes. You can also leave information or requests by e-mail. The address is gayle@teianalytical.com.

Many have offered to help and we will not be shy in taking advantage of the offers. We are fortunate to have so many members who are dedicated to the welfare of the Section.

Gayle O'Neill,
Office Manager

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1999 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS NAMED

The High School Education Committee of the Chicago Section ACS held its 45th annual High School Scholarship Examination on May 15, 1999 at the University of Illinois in Chicago. This year, 123 students were nominated to take the examination. Each high school chemistry teacher could nominate up to two students.

First Place, a $3500 Morton International Scholarship was awarded to Ken Tsui, a junior at Niles West High School, nominated by his teacher Ann Levinson.

Second Place, a $2500 Akzo Nobel Chemicals, Inc. Scholarship was awarded to Michael Martens, a senior at West Aurora High School, nominated by his teacher Richard Eberling.

Third Place, a $1500 Morton International Scholarship was awarded to Kelly O'Shea, a sophomore at Maine East High School, nominated by her teacher Anna M. Klein. Kelly was also awarded the $500 Marie Ann Lishka Memorial Scholarship for being the highest scoring female. Fourth Place, a $1250 Nalco Foundation Scholarship was awarded to Preeti Sukkerkar, a sophomore at Glenbrook South High School, nominated by her teacher Preston Hayes. Fifth Place, a $1000 Searle Research and Development Scholarship was awarded to David Neu, a senior at West Aurora High School, nominated by his teacher Richard Eberling.

The $200 Marshall S. Smoler Award was awarded to Eric Zuniga, a sophomore at Lincoln Park High School, nominated by his teacher Judith Ditkowsky.

The Marshall S. Smoler Award is given to the highest scoring Chicago Public High School student. This award was established in 1972 in memory of Marshall S. Smoler, by his sister Rachel. Mr. Smoler was a chemistry teacher in the Chicago public schools for many years. Eric will also receive a $400 Bernard E. Schaar Award from the Chicago Chemists Club.

In addition, the $1000 Clark Refining and Marketing Inc. Scholarship was given to Brad Johnson, a sophomore at H.L. Richards High School, nominated by his teacher, John Brodemus. This award is given to the highest scoring student from the Blue Island High School area.

Finally, there were 14 honorable mentions. These names have been submitted for two $1000 scholarships offered by the Chemical Industries Council of the Midwest and the Chicago Drug and Chemical Association.

The section is grateful to Dr. David Kanis from Chicago State for authoring and administering the examination. Dr. Kanis provided each student with a chemical kit to perform an experiment with polyurethane foam during the break in the exam. He also performed demonstrations with chemiluminescence.

In addition, Dave personally sent each student a letter stating their percentile rank on the exam.

The section is also grateful to the following companies for their contributions which made these scholarship awards possible: Abbott Laboratories, Akzo Nobel Inc., Akzo Nobel Chemicals Inc., Alltech Assoc., Baxter Healthcare Corp., Clark Refining and Marketing Inc., Morton International, The Nalco Foundation, Searle Pharmaceutical, Rachel Smoler, Unilever (Helene Curtis), and Wilkens-Anderson Co.

Ann Levinson,
High School Education Chairman
LOCAL STUDENT EARNS GOLD AT THE 31st IChO

Niles West graduate, Alex Ho, helped the United States place first at the 31st International Chemistry Olympiad which took place from July 4-11, 1999 in Bangkok, Thailand. The team won three gold medals and one silver medal.

Alex attended the study camp held at the Air Force Academy for the past two summers. In order to qualify for the camp, he placed among our nation's top twenty students on the national exam administered by the ACS. Approximately 1000 students qualified to take this 41/2 hour exam out of a possible 10,000 nominated students. After attending the camp this year, Alex placed among the top 4 students in the nation allowing him to represent the United States.

As a sophomore in honors chemistry at Niles West High School in Lincolnwood, Alex was nominated by his teacher Ann Levinson to take the Advanced Placement Chemistry exam offered by the Chicago area. Alex used this money to enroll in Organic Chemistry at Northwestern University during the summer of his sophomore year. As a junior, he studied Advanced Placement Chemistry in high school. He continued his studies in Chemistry independently during his senior year.

Alex graduated from Niles West this June. He will be attending the University of Illinois in Chicago medical program starting this fall.

Analytical Laboratory Managers Association to Celebrate 20th Anniversary

The Analytical Laboratory Managers Association (ALMA), founded in 1980, celebrates its 20th anniversary at this year's Annual Conference, October 27-29, 1999 at the Argonne National Laboratory. This year's program is entitled "Measuring Performance of the 21st Century Laboratory".

Founded as a nonprofit, professional society representing all segments of the chemical analysis laboratory profession, the organization has grown to 350 members from around the world. Created by a group of University laboratory managers, ALMA formed out of a need for consistent management practices in the Analytical Laboratory. It was recognized that managing an analytical chemistry laboratory required a unique blend of technical and managerial skills. The technical skills came as a result of their educational experience. The managerial skills were self-taught and, in most cases, were learned on the job in a haphazard manner.

Consistent management practices were hard to come by and seemed to differ depending on what type of lab you managed. Dr. Claude Lucchese of Northwestern University and Tom Lytle of Iowa State University recognized the need to bring together a consortium of varied managers who would be able to share their thoughts on the proper management of an analytical laboratory. Dealing with problems such as staffing, facilities, equipment, maintenance, finance, human resources, training, motivation, and compensation allowed an interchange of ideas that could be used in most any analytical laboratory setting.

In the ninetenth annual conferences since 1980, ALMA has looked at a varied assortment of managerial themes. Every conference includes time for managers to meet and share their experiences with fellow managers. The informal, collegial atmosphere is further enhanced by a series of round table sessions, held near the end of the first day. These round table discussions consistently receive acclaim from conference attendees.

For conference or membership information contact ALMA, 1201 Don Diego Avenue, Santa Fe, NM 87505, Tel: 505-989-4683, Fax: 505-989-1073 or visit the ALMA website at www.labmanagers.org.

John T. Pivinski
SCHEDULE OF CHICAGO SECTION, ACS MEETINGS 1999-2000

All meetings will be held on Fridays at various locations as indicated. Topical group meetings are at 5:15, dinner at 7:00p.m. Further information on speakers, locations, subject and topical group meetings along with exact times will appear in your monthly issue of "The Chemical Bulletin." Support your local section by planning to attend one or more of these outstanding meetings! Thanks

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1999-2000 Chicago ACS Volunteer Form

I am interested in working on the following Committees. Indicate preference, if any, by a 1, 2, etc.
Return to Chicago Section Office, 7173 N. Austin, Niles, Illinois 60714. Or fax to (847) 647-8364.

Name: ____________________________ Phone: ____________________________
Bus □ Home □
Address: ____________________________
Number & Street Apt/Dept# City State Zip

☐ Audit Committee. Audit the books and accounts of the Section for the current fiscal year.
☐ Awards. Determine local section nominees for various ACS and local awards; assemble information and make formal nomination.
☐ Bulletin Advertising. Assist Business Manager in contacting possible advertisers; follow through on advertising leads; suggest ad solicitation programs.
☐ Chemical Bulletin Editorial Staff. Formulate policy; write articles, program notes, etc.
☐ Chemistry Day. An annual 1-day or weeklong event depending on year. Serve on committee making plans for the event, as a judge for the educational portion, guide, hospitality table, demonstrator, helper, etc.
☐ Chicago School Board Liaison. Interface with the Chicago School Board to improve chemical education; assist with special teacher programs.
☐ Education - Elementary Science. Assist in promoting science education at the pre-high school level.
☐ Education - High School. Prepare and administer annual scholarship examination; arrange teachers conference and other programs connected with teaching high school chemistry.
☐ Education - College. Run annual undergraduate student symposium; maintain liaison with ACS Student Affiliates.
☐ Education - Continuing. Determine course and administer annual lecture series.
☐ Election Tellers. Count election ballots on day of annual Section meeting in April.
☐ Employment. Recommend how section can provide employment assistance; initiate new programs; advise applicants with job difficulties.
☐ Endowment. Solicit funds for annual scholarship awards; work on drive to establish permanent scholarship fund through individual member contributions.
☐ Environment & Laboratory Safety. Study, correlate and publicize matters relating to chemical safety.
☐ Hospitality. Assist at Section meetings by greeting new members, distributing dinner tickets; initiate programs to improve hospitality; handle special parties.
☐ House. Sell dinner tickets, run projection equipment at Section meetings; assist in maintaining equipment inventory, etc.
☐ Kids & Chemistry. Participate in activities of the ACS's "Outreach" program. Give demonstrations after training.
☐ Membership. Devise programs for getting new members; advise applicants for membership and investigate qualifications; make recommendations to ACS Admissions Committee.
☐ Middle Grades/Jr. High. Assist Grades 6-9 by providing teaching aids and science related materials.
☐ Minority Affairs. Give support and commitment to the development of an action agenda to stimulate and strengthen the participation of all minorities at all levels in chemistry. Devotes attention to mentoring, encouragement, and the intellectual and professional enhancement of students, teachers and practicing chemists of all ages and interest levels.
☐ Minutemen. Post monthly meeting notices and other material sent out by committees and other technical groups; keep membership applications and information; liaison with Section Board of Directors and membership at large.
☐ Nominating Committee. Serve on committee to solicit nominations for slate of Section election; assist in preparing slate of candidates.
☐ Professional Relations. Investigate member complaints on unethical practices, monitor layoffs, suggest new programs to improve status of chemists.
☐ Project Seed. Find summer positions in science for economically-disadvantaged high school students.
☐ Program. Establish overall program policy; contact speakers; hospitality to speakers.
☐ Public Affairs. For all who are concerned about the interrelation between chemistry and chemists, social responsibilities, government and the environment.
☐ Speakers Bureau. Volunteer to give nontechnical talks to lay audiences (service, church groups, clubs, etc.); audience donation, if any, goes to scholarship fund.
☐ Younger Chemists. Encourage recruiting and retention of younger chemists; assist in programming for the interests of younger chemists.
☐ Your Suggestions. How would you like to help?
CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

The High School Education Committee held its search for candidates to compete for the National Chemistry Olympiad on March 15, 1999. The local examination was held at Roosevelt University and administered by Dr. Fred Turner. Out of twenty-eight students, twelve were selected to write the National Exam on April 23, 1999, also at Roosevelt University. The National Exam took 4 1/2 hours and consisted of a multiple choice section, a free response section and a lab practical. The Olympiad Committee selected two of these students to be among the twenty students in the country to attend the intensive study camp at the Air Force Academy this summer. The students selected were Alex Ho, Niles West High School and Brian Tang, Naperville North High School. Their teachers were Ann Levinson and Lee Marek respectively.

The Chicago Section is proud to announce that Alex Ho was chosen as one of the four finalists and Brian Tang was selected as second alternate.

Ann Levinson,
High School Education Chairman

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