

Message from Jeffrey I. Seeman, Chair of HIST

Greetings from Richmond, Virginia!

So much is happening in HIST these days, it is necessary to share the top line items and to let you know the best way to stay informed of HIST's activities.

HIST's website is the place! We are at <http://www.scs.uiuc.edu/~mainzv/HIST/> You can also get to us by searching "HIST ACS" on your favorite search engine.

Last year, HIST's Executive Committee decided unanimously to fully direct our budget to projects that add value to the membership and support HIST programs. The cost of printing and mailing HIST's newsletter and the ACS National meeting abstracts had risen so dramatically that it consumed a major portion of HIST's budget. These are now being posted promptly and, for us, easily on our website. We understand that a few of our members do not have computer access. To be sensitive to all our members' needs, we are continuing to mail materials to members who request this special consideration. Please write to our Secretary-Treasurer, Vera Mainz, whose contact information is found elsewhere in this *Bulletin*. And you are also encouraged to contact me directly for any need.

The Bulletin for the History of Chemistry will continue to be mailed directly to our members and our subscribers. We are proud of *The Bulletin* and urge you to consider submitting an article for publication. Kudos to Paul Jones and his Associate Editors!

HIST's National and Regional meeting programming has expanded greatly over the past few years. HIST has sponsored and organized a number of ACS Presidential symposia and continues to do so. The symposia have been designed to respond to the specific agenda proposed by each new ACS President. Mary Virginia Orna is organizing a new series of ACS Presidential symposia, *Research and Development over the Past 25 Years*.

HIST's awards programming is strong, diverse and growing! HIST is honored to announce the selection of Peter Morris (Science Museum, London) for the 2006 Sidney M. Edelstein award. 2006 marks the 50th anniversary of the Dexter/Edelstein awards. The San Francisco ACS National meeting will feature a special celebration of these 50 years plus a wonderful symposium to honor Peter. Tony Travis is the lead organizer for the 50th anniversary celebrations. And to look ahead, HIST is planning an 85th Birthday celebration for HIST in 2007 to be led by Jim Bohning!

HIST's 2nd Annual Concert will also take place at the San Francisco meeting. Together with the Chemical Heritage Foundation, our fine partner in many events, HIST initiated and organized a piano concert at the Fall 2005 Washington, D.C. National meeting. Eminent pianist-chemist Victoria Bragin performed a number of pieces including two of chemist-composer Alexander Borodin's works to a huge and appreciative audience. We thank ACS staff for their special facilities support.

2006 will also see the inauguration of a new HIST award program, *Citation for Chemical Breakthroughs*. This program will recognize and honor seminal publications, patents, and books. Plaques, to be placed in the hallways outside the office or laboratory where the breakthroughs were achieved, will be presented annually to the institutions at which these breakthroughs occurred.

There is much more to tell. Please visit expanded HIST's website for topical news as well as historical information. Have you seen HIST's new logo? And check out HIST's new mission statement.

Welcome to HIST! And enjoy this issue of *The Bulletin*.

Jeff

