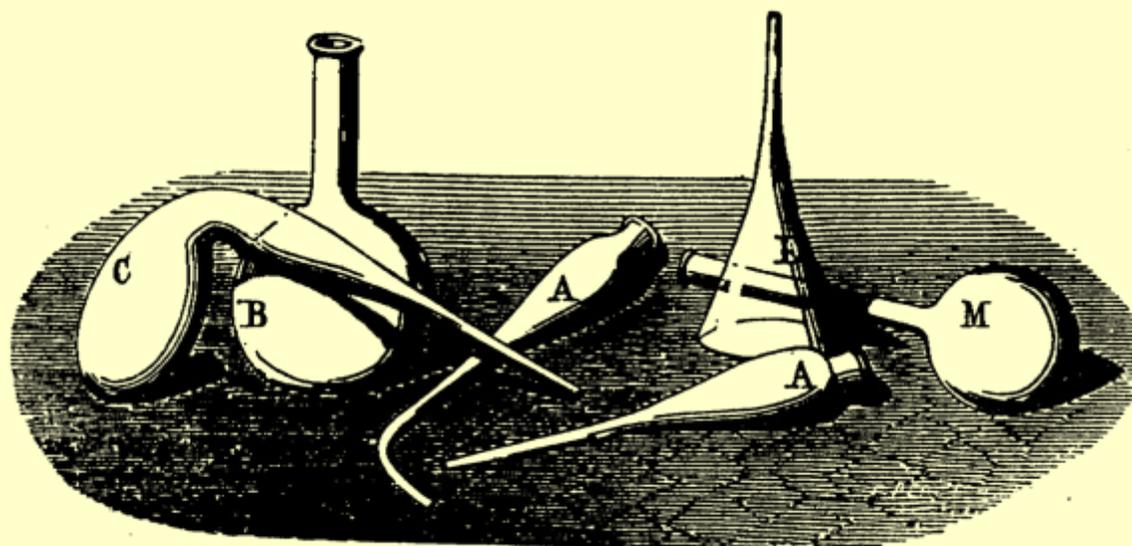




ACS
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American Chemical Society
**DIVISION OF THE
HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY**



NEWSLETTER

251st ACS National Meeting
San Diego, CA
March 13-17, 2016

S. C. Rasmussen, Program Chair

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Mission Statement

The Division of the History of Chemistry ([HIST](#)) of the American Chemical Society (ACS) seeks to advance knowledge and appreciation of the history of the chemical sciences among chemists, students, historians of science, and the broader public by

- Encouraging research and scholarship in history of the chemical sciences;
- Providing a welcoming environment for the discussion of history of chemistry in a variety of venues, particularly in symposia at national ACS meetings;
- Serving as a resource for chemical scientists in general, and members of the ACS in particular, who seek to understand the roots of their discipline, sub-discipline, or interdisciplinary subject;
- Recognizing major achievements from the past in the chemical sciences and the individuals who made those achievements;
- Publishing a scholarly journal in history of chemistry;
- Interacting with other organizations interested in the history of science; and
- Adding value to the ACS by helping it achieve its vision and missions.

Division Governance

Message from the HIST Division Chair

2015 finished with a flourish at the Pacificchem Meeting in Hawaii. Many historians of chemistry from the Pacific Rim came and participated in our symposium on the history of chemistry in their countries. HIST is now viewed as a central member of the worldwide community of historians of chemistry. Korea has been added to the active list of countries that value this history.

HIST is a hotbed of outreach activities. HIST received a ChemLuminary Award, in this case for Jeff Seeman's *Citation for Chemical Breakthrough* program. Congratulations for an important and very well-received activity in the worldwide community of chemists. [If we are fortunate, we may have a winner of the HIST Award to announce.]

The ACS National Meeting in San Diego promises to be very busy and exciting. HIST Symposium programming includes "Preceptors in Chemistry" and "The Posthumous Nobel Prize". In addition, HIST is the primary sponsor for an MPPG symposium on "The History of Computers in Chemistry".

It is a good time to think about the ACS Meeting in Philadelphia in August. HIST has another full schedule, including a symposium on "Chemistry in America Before 1876". There are still open places for a few talks on this subject. In addition to the regular programming, HIST is sponsoring a workshop for High School teachers on the use of the history of chemistry in High School chemistry teaching on Saturday, August 20, 2016. If you wish to assist in this effort, please contact me (gp9a@andrew.cmu.edu).

HIST and Springer continue to be "the place" to publish "Briefs" on the History of Chemistry. Seth Rasmussen has created an important route to rapid and visible publication. Please continue to talk to Seth about your manuscripts.

I look forward to meeting and greeting many of you in San Diego and Philadelphia.
Gary Patterson, HIST Chair



Report of Councilors, Division of the History of Chemistry

250th ACS National Meeting – Boston, MA, August 19, 2015

Election Results

By electronic ballot, the Council elected **Christopher J. Bannochie (265)**, **Michelle V. Buchanan (199)**, **Alan B. Cooper (268)**, **Donna G. Friedman (176)**, and **Carolyn Ribes (260)** for a 2016-2018 term, and **Jetty Duffy-Matzner (164)** for a two-year term, 2016-2017, on the Committee on Committees.

By electronic ballot, the Council elected **Frank D. Blum (259)**, **Mary K. Carroll (305)**, **Lisa Houston (178)**, and **Lee H. Latimer (285)** for a 2016-2018 term on the Council Policy Committee.

By electronic ballot, the Council elected **Mary K. (Moore) Engelman (227)**, **Roland F. Hirsch (203)**, **C. Marvin Lang (191)**, **Les W. McQuire (302)**, and **Donivan R. Porterfield (220)** for a 2016-2018 term on the Committee on Nominations and Elections.

Petitions to Amend Bylaws

The Council **VOTED** to approve the *Petition on Preferential Voting*, contingent upon confirmation by the ACS Board of Directors (Procedures for election of President-Elect, District Directors, and Directors-at-Large).

The Council **VOTED** to approve the *Petition on Member Expulsion*, contingent upon confirmation by the ACS Board of Directors, as well as the procedures thereof.

International Chemical Sciences Chapters

On the recommendation of the Committee on International Activities, Council **VOTED** to approve the establishment of the Australia, Brazil, Nigeria, Peru, and United Arab Emirates International Chemical Sciences Chapters, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors.

Reports of Committees (Highlights)

Nominations and Elections (N&E)

Nominations & Elections announced the candidates for the fall 2015 ACS national election:

Candidates for President-Elect, 2016

- **G. Bryan Balazs**, Associate Program Leader, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, CA

- **Allison A. Campbell**, Associate Laboratory Director, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, WA

Candidates for Directors-at-Large, 2016-2018

- **Lee H. Latimer**, Head of Chemistry, NeurOp, Inc., Oakland, CA
- **Willem R. Leenstra**, Associate Professor, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT
- **Ingrid Montes**, Professor, University of Puerto Rico - Rio Piedras Campus, San Juan, PR
- **Mary Jo Ondrechen**, Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Northeastern University, Boston, MA
- **Thomas W. Smith**, Professor, Chemistry & Microsystems Engineering, School of Chemistry and Materials Science, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY

Candidates for District I Director, 2016-2018

- **Thomas R. Gilbert**, Professor, Northeastern University, Boston, MA
- **Laura E. Pence**, Professor of Chemistry, University of Hartford, West Hartford, CT

Candidates for District V Director, 2016-2018

- **John E. Adams**, Curators' Teaching Professor, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, MO
- **Kenneth P. Fivizzani**, Retired, Nalco Company, Naperville, IL.

Council Policy (CPC)

The CPC Long-Range Planning Subcommittee was asked to review the way Local Sections and Divisions are currently represented on Council. The Task Force is examining issues that affect the Divisor formulae set out in the Bylaws; for example, how sacrosanct is the rule that twenty percent of elected Councilors shall be elected by Divisions, and eighty percent shall be elected by Local Sections? What would Council look like if the ratio were changed, for example to 70/30? Should there be more Division representation on Council and what would be the impact? Would this result in more resources for Divisions? Should

a cap be placed on the number of Councilors per Local Section and Divisions to ensure more balance? What does representation look like for international members of Local sections and Divisions? Comments on these questions can be submitted to President@acs.org.

Budget and Finance (B&F)

B&F reviewed the Society's 2015 probable year-end financial projection which expects a Net Contribution from Operations of \$15.5 million, or \$2.1 million higher than the Approved Budget. Total revenues are projected at \$512.1 million, which at \$481,000 favorable is essentially on Budget. Total expenses are projected at \$496.6 million, which is \$1.6 million or 0.3% favorable to the Approved. This variance is the result of lower-than-budgeted expenses across almost all major expense categories.

Education (SOCED)

SOCED voted to approve revisions to the ACS Guidelines for Chemistry in Two-Year Colleges. The committee voted to make the pilot program of ACS International Student Chapters a permanent feature of the student chapters program. ACS has chartered 15 International Student Chapters since the pilot launched last year.

Science (ComSci)

ComSci voted to recommend approval of the draft ACS policy statement on energy, a notably improved statement on this critical economic and environmental issue. At this meeting, the committee sponsored a roundtable discussion with leaders of Divisions, journals, and outside experts on moving advanced materials from discovery to application.

Committee on Divisional Activities (DAC)

DAC recently completed a review of a white paper to help Divisions identify, evaluate, and pursue international engagement opportunities; received an update on several changes to the Meeting Abstracts Programming System (MAPS); was briefed on a recently-created task force that seeks to enhance the content and functionality of the acs.org web pages that help Division and Local Section volunteers execute their volunteer duties; and voted to fund 14 Innovative Project Grants (IPG) totaling \$77,050.

The Multidisciplinary Program Planning Group is proposing the following 2018 national meeting themes to the Divisions for their consideration:

Nexus of Food, Energy and Water (Spring/New Orleans), and Nanotechnology (Fall/Boston).

Local Section Activities (LSAC)

LSAC will award 20 Innovative Project Grant (IPG) grants totaling \$39,886. This brings the total for 2015 to 34 IPG awards totaling over \$75,000. Since the inception of the program, a total of 166 Local Sections have received at least one award. The committee voted to keep the current Local Section allotment formula in place for the next three years, and developed a new process for managing the annexation of unassigned territories by multiple sections.

Membership Affairs (MAC)

MAC reported that as of July 31, the ACS membership was 156,561; 2,055 fewer than on the same date in 2014. The number of new members who have joined this year is 14,457; 147 fewer than this time last year. The Society's overall retention rate is 84%. The number of international members has increased to 25,989; 1,014 higher than in July, 2014. The international retention rate is 85%. The committee intends to submit a petition for consideration in San Diego to permanently extend the Unemployed Member Dues Waiver Benefit period from two years to three years.

Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA)

The committee reported that ACS ChemCensus data showed that Domestic Unemployment among ACS member chemists edged slightly upwards in the last year from 2.9% to 3.1%. Still, the current unemployment rate is lower than it was from 2009 to 2013. The ChemCensus also showed a modest salary increase year-over-year. For the first year since 2004, the percentage of ACS members working in manufacturing increased. These trends are mirrored by a slight decline in the percentage of members in academia. Other workforce categories remained relatively flat.

Meetings and Expositions (M&E)

M&E accepted 9,271 papers for the Boston meeting. As of the Council meeting, total attendance for the meeting was **13,888**. The Exposition had 475 booths with 325 exhibiting companies. There were nearly 5500 downloads of the Boston Mobile App. The committee established a new Operations Subcommittee, responsible for monitoring the financial

success of the national meetings, monitoring compliance with the National Meeting Long Range Financial Plan and the recommendations of the 2015 Task Force on Implementing National Meeting Financial Targets.

Ethics (ETHX)

ETHX requests that the committee be kept informed of any ethics-related activity sponsored by ACS entities such as committees, Local Sections and Divisions. ETHX will provide this information (with proper credit) to national meeting attendees. Please contact the committee staff liaison at E_slater@acs.org.

International Activities (IAC)

IAC welcomed dignitaries from our sister societies in Canada, Cuba, India, Germany, Taiwan, the UK, as well as leadership of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the US National Academies of Science, the Iraqi Chemical Society, ACS International Chapters, and ACS International Student Chapters. The committee approved the ACS Global Innovation Initiatives (Gii) Singapore White Paper and chose South America and Mexico for the 2017 joint ACS-Pittcon program to foster exchange and research collaboration in analytical chemistry.

Minority Affairs (CMA)

CMA focused its activities at this meeting on the 20th anniversary celebration of the ACS Scholars Program. The program has awarded more than \$17 million in scholarship assistance since 1995 to enable 2,500 talented minority students to pursue their dreams of a degree in the chemical sciences. The new Scholars Endowment Fund now has commitments of more than \$2 million. Nominations are being sought for the Stanley C. Israel Award. Instructions for nominations can be found at www.acs.org/stan-israel-award.

Patents and Related Matters (CPRM)

CPRM continues to monitor legislative and regulatory developments influencing intellectual property in ways that impact the chemical enterprise. The committee website is updated frequently and contains a wealth of helpful information about intellectual property matters relevant to those in the chemical enterprise.

Project SEED (SEED)

SEED announced another successful SEED program with the participation of 411 high school students. These students are currently placed in over 100 laboratories across the nation, under the supervision of over 400 volunteer scientists and coordinators in 39 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The committee awarded 32 first year non-renewable College Scholarships to SEED alumni in 17 states and Puerto Rico.

Public Relations and Communications (CPRC)

CPRC co-sponsored a number of events in Boston to showcase ways to increase public appreciation for chemistry: the PBS preview of “Mystery of Matter: Search for the Elements”; a symposium on the public perception of chemistry co-sponsored with Chemical & Engineering News, and the ACS Office of Public Affairs; ChemChamps; and Wikipedia Edit-a-thon, co-sponsored with the Division of Chemical Information.

Senior Chemists (SCC)

This meeting marked the third anniversary of the formation of the SCC at the Philadelphia National Meeting. SCC has been able to establish a number of initiatives thru its provision of mini-grants to Local Sections to sponsor senior-related activities, several of which were recognized by the initial ChemLuminary awards at Boston. A committee retreat is being planned for this fall to identify priorities that will serve the SCC constituency as well as meeting the strategic goals of the committee.

Technician Affairs (CTA)

CTA is now accepting nominations for the 2016 National Chemical Technician Award. This annual award is presented in recognition of outstanding technical and communication skills, reliability, leadership, teamwork, publications, and presentations. For more information about the award, please visit the committee website at www.acs.org/cta.

Younger Chemists (YCC)

The Program in a Box effort continues to grow rapidly with a 43% increase in the number of disseminated boxes between the fall 2014 and February 2015, when 181 boxes were delivered to local sections and international chapters. At this meeting YCC participated in the 5th Younger

Chemists Crossing Borders, an exchange which brings younger chemists from parts of Europe to the meeting. YCC is currently in discussions with N&E, ACS Webinars, ACS Office of Public Affairs, and

the presidential candidates about holding a roundtable webinar, “Catalyze the Vote”, where the candidates can speak to the younger constituency about their vision for the Society in the future.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In addition to links within committee reports and elsewhere, the following is a list of URLs and email addresses presented elsewhere at the Council meeting:

Diane Grob Schmidt	d.schmidt@acs.org ; president@acs.org
Donna J. Nelson	djnelson@ou.edu
C&B Bylaws / Bulletin V	bylaws@acs.org ; www.acs.org/bulletin5
Career Navigator	www.acs.org/careernavigator
Ethics	www.acs.org/ethics ; e_slater@acs.org
Nominations and Elections	nomelect@acs.org
Scholars Program	www.donate.acs.org
Get Involved Stay Involved (Local Sections)	www.acs.org/getinvolved
Minority Affairs – Speakers	cma@acs.org
Stan Israel Regional Award Nominations	www.acs.org/stan-israel-award
Public Relations and Communications	www.pbs.com ; www.rsc.org ; www.acs.org/chemistryambassadors
Nanotechnology-Inspired Grand Challenges	http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/acs-webinars/grand-challenge.html

Activities of HIST Councilors

Roger Egolf – continuing as a member of the Divisional Activities Committee (DAC). He co-chairs the new Governance and Annual Reports subcommittee of DAC. He also serves as the liaison from DAC to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee (C&B), to HIST, and to the Computers in Chemistry Division (COMP).

Mary Virginia Orna – completing her first year as a full Member of the Local Sections Activities Committee (LSAC). She is also a member of the Technology, Tools, and Operations Subcommittee until the end of 2015. She will then assume the Chair of the new subcommittee on Communications.

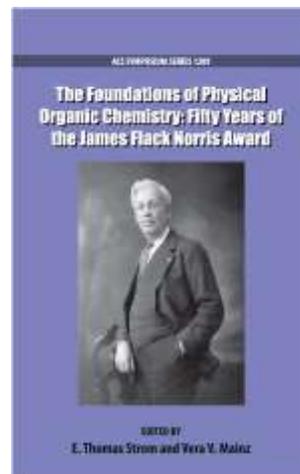
Mary Virginia Orna, Roger A. Egolf, Councilors

News

New HIST-sponsored Volumes of ACS Symposium Series Published

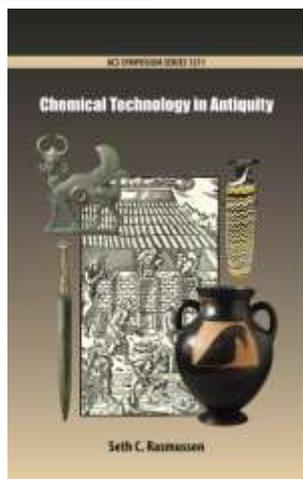
Two new HIST-sponsored volumes of the ACS Symposium Series have been recently released in ebook form, with hardcover editions due to be released via Oxford University Press sometime in the next few months. The first of these is volume 1209, *The Foundations of Physical Organic Chemistry: Fifty Years of the James Flack Norris Award*, edited by E. Thomas Strom and Vera V. Mainz. The book is based on a HIST symposium from the Spring 2014 ACS meeting in Dallas organized by Strom and Jeffrey Seeman.

The book contains a chapter on James Flack Norris by Arthur Greenberg and seven chapters by past Norris Award winners Kenneth Wiberg, Edward Arnett, Ronald Breslow, Andrew Streitwieser, Paul Schleyer, Keith Ingold, and Weston Borden, as well as chapters on deceased Norris Award winners Paul Schleyer, Glen A.



Russell, and William Doering. The chapter on Glen Russell was written by Strom and Kathleen Trahanovsky; the chapter on Doering by Ronald Magid and Maitland Jones. Because of the death of Paul Schleyer while the book was in progress, his Dallas presentation on “Norbornyl Cation Isomers Still Fascinate” was edited by Mainz and Strom, while his autobiographical memoir “From the Ivy League to the Honey Pot” was edited by Andrew Streitwieser. A full list of the available chapters and the corresponding details can be found at <http://pubs.acs.org/isbn/9780841230712>.

The second of these is volume 1211, *Chemical Technology in Antiquity*, which is edited by Seth C. Rasmussen. The book is based on the popular HIST symposium from the Spring 2015 ACS meeting in Denver and covers the early production and use of mineral pigments, pottery, metals, fermented drinks, leather, organic dyes, perfumes, soap, and glass. An initial chapter on the role of chemical technology in early civilizations is also included to set the stage for the rather long time spans covered by the various contributing authors, as well as highlighting the importance of these early chemical applications. A full list of the available chapters and the corresponding details can be found at <http://pubs.acs.org/isbn/9780841231122>.



Both of these volumes should be of wide interest to the chemical community and illustrate the broad interdisciplinary interest that HIST symposia engender across division lines.

HIST-sponsored PACIFICHEM 2015 Symposium to Generate New Book

The HIST-sponsored symposium for the 2015 International Chemical Congress of Pacific Basin Societies (Pacifichem 2015) entitled *Historical Evolution of the Chemical Community in the Countries of the Pacific Rim* was a



success and caught the attention of World Scientific Publishing, who are eager to develop a general interest book based on the symposium. Originally covering the development of chemistry in the US, Australia, Japan, Canada, Korea, and China, additional authors have now been recruited to cover New Zealand and Taiwan, with the hope to add one of two more chapters yet. The planned book will be entitled *Igniting the Chemical Ring of Fire. Historical Evolution of the Chemical Communities in the Countries of the Pacific Rim* and will be edited by Seth C. Rasmussen.

The Reach of HIST Continues to Grow via Facebook

The international community following the HIST Facebook page has continued to expand; now exceeding **1600 likes!** As can be seen in the table below, HIST now has a Facebook following that is comparable to most of the 'big' divisions of the ACS, which speaks to the inherent interest in the history of our science throughout the chemical community.



Division	Followers	Division	Followers
PHYS	2306	HIST	1603
INOR	2099	ORGN	1459
ANYL	2031	CHED	1311
POLY	1811	PMSE	523

As in the past, the majority of those reached via Facebook are still younger people (74% are aged 18-35, with 42% aged 18-24). The majority of our followers (~63%) reside in Egypt, India, and the US. All in all, 86% of our followers are from various international communities (45 different countries!), without traditional access to HIST.

The HIST Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/ACS-Division-of-the-History-of-Chemistry-HIST/152326921497559> or by searching 'HIST' in the Facebook search bar. If you are a Facebook user, please stop by and check out these efforts to share our passion of the subject with the world. Then 'Like' the page to join us and post comments to share the history of chemistry with our growing audience!

Efforts of HIST Past Presidents Project Continue

HIST Past Presidents Project continues to present symposium and prepare information on Past Presidents of the ACS.

Charles C. Price, 1965 ACS President, is the subject of the seventh HIST Past Presidents Symposium during the Fall 2016 National meeting in Philadelphia. The focus of this symposium is to share stories of Dr. Price's legacy both in organic chemistry and other science and community activities. Primary organizer Roger Egolf has identified some participants to speak on Price's contributions to research, science organizations, and academic and research organizations. Those participating include Arnold Thackray on Price and CHF and Madeline Joulie as his colleague. We would like to invite participation by any others who would like to share their experiences

working with, for and over him. Volunteer to share your experiences with Dr. Price or his scientific contributions by contacting Roger Egolf, rae4@psu.edu, or Jan Hayes, jmhayesacs@gmail.com, for further information.

Future symposia are planned as follows: Spring 2017, San Francisco, Glenn Seaborg, 1976 President; Fall 2017, Washington DC, Daryl Busch, 2000 President. In each case, we invite participation of individuals or suggestions as speakers and organizers for each of these programs.

We also invite HIST members, and others, to suggest subjects for future meetings. The plan has been to pick former presidents that are identified with the geographic location of the meeting. Those with information or suggestions, or volunteers for any program to contact Jan Hayes, HIST Past Presidents Program organizer, at jmhayesacs@gmail.com.

News from the Chemical Heritage Foundation

The [Chemical Heritage Foundation](#) (CHF) fosters an understanding of chemistry's impact on society. An independent nonprofit organization, we strive to inspire a passion for chemistry, highlight chemistry's role in meeting current social challenges, and preserve the story of chemistry across centuries. CHF maintains major collections of instruments, fine art, photographs, papers, and books. We host conferences and lectures, support research, offer fellowships, and produce educational materials. Our museum and public programs explore subjects ranging from alchemy to nanotechnology.

CHF and LSF Finalize Merger

On December 1, 2015, the Chemical Heritage Foundation and the Life Sciences Foundation finalized their historic merger.

On October 9, 2015, the board of directors of the Chemical Heritage Foundation approved a merger with the Life Sciences Foundation. On October 11, the Life Sciences Foundation board approved the same plan. The new organization will cover the history of the life sciences and biotechnology together with the history of the chemical sciences and engineering—two of the largest and most significant branches of modern science and technology.

Meetings between the two groups revealed plans and ambitions on both sides that were remarkably similar and led to an interest in working together more closely. Rather than build capacity in two separate institutions, leadership on both sides decided to bring the two organizations together.

The new organization will continue to explore the interaction of engineering, technology, and industry with science. The goal remains to reveal science and technology's evolution, their cultural role, and their crucial importance for our future. The combined organization aspires to make the history of science as valued and familiar as the histories of nations and empires, literature and art.

Carsten Reinhardt Elected to the German National Academy of Sciences

Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF) president and CEO Carsten Reinhardt was elected as a member of the German National Academy of Sciences, the Leopoldina.

The German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina is one of the world's oldest academies in the natural sciences. It was founded in 1652 and was appointed Germany's National Academy of Sciences in July 2008. Scientists who have distinguished themselves

by demonstrating academic excellence are elected as members of the society. Its central task is to provide independent science-based advice to policy makers and the society at large in order to tackle and

overcome urgent social and increasingly global challenges. Its expertise is based on the excellence of its more than 1,500 members worldwide.

News from the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry

Founded in 1935, the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry (SHAC) has consistently maintained the highest standards of scholarship in all aspects of the history of alchemy and chemistry from early times to the present. The Society has a wide international membership of over 200 with members from 28 countries.

Ambix Special Issue

Publication of the fourth issue of volume 62 of *Ambix* is imminent, following an unavoidable delay caused by widespread flooding around Chennai where, like many academic journals, it is composed. It is a special issue on the theme of ‘Chemical Knowledge in Transit,’ guest edited by Ana Maria Alfonso-Goldfarb, Hasok Chang, Marcia H. M. Ferraz, and Silvia Waisse. This project began with the international conference *Crossing Oceans: Exchange of Products, Instruments, and Procedures in the History of Chemistry and Related Sciences*, held in São Paulo, Brazil, 24-28 August 2014, jointly organised by the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry (SHAC), the Centre Simão Mathias (CESIMA), Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo (PUC-SP), and the Centre for Logic, Epistemology and History of Science (CLE), State University of Campinas (UNICAMP). Besides celebrating the twentieth anniversary of CESIMA, a leading centre for the history of science (including numerous projects related to the history of alchemy and chemistry), this was the first time that SHAC sponsored a major event outside Europe or North

America. The special issue represents a further stage in our transatlantic collaboration, incorporating four essays by Brazilian and British scholars, and guest-edited by representatives of both CESIMA and SHAC.

Morris Award

SHAC is pleased to announce that it was the unanimous decision of the committee to select as the recipient of the Morris Award, Dr. Anthony S. (Tony) Travis. Dr. Travis was nominated as a candidate for his contributions to the history of the chemical industry (history of the dye industry and Heinrich Caro) and the history of modern chemistry (history of chemical instrumentation and the history of groundwater pollution).

The award was presented at the SHAC Spring Meeting, on 11 February, 2016, at the Dana Research Centre and Library, 165 Queens Gate, London SW7 5HD. The meeting theme was ‘High Pressure in the Interwar Period’ with Dr. Travis presenting the Morris Award Lecture. The subject of his paper was ‘Nitrogen Capture: The Emergence of a Global Industry, 1920-1935’.

News from the History of Science Society

The History of Science Society is the world's largest society dedicated to understanding science, technology, medicine, and their interactions with society in historical context. It was founded in 1924 to foster interest in the history of science and its social and cultural relations.

Nathan Reingold Prize Awarded to Evan Hepler-Smith

The 2015 Reingold Prize is awarded to Evan Hepler-Smith, of Princeton University, for his essay “‘A way of thinking backwards’: Chemists, computers, and a once and future method.” The essay skillfully recounts the history of a critical method in organic chemistry—retrosynthetic analysis—while proposing a new way of understanding the role of

computers in the history of science. Evan Hepler-Smith’s insightful paper follows organic chemist E.J. Corey’s development of a computer program (LHASA) aimed at both “emulating” and aiding human chemists in the task of organic synthesis. Hepler-Smith finds that the program played a number of crucial roles for Corey in the 1960s and 1970s, functioning as a means of both refining existing methods and developing new methods.

Through the construction of LHASA, retrosynthetic analysis itself emerged, “at once a well- established and transformative way of thinking about synthetic design,” a method that was “neither discovered nor constructed but unfurled.” Contrasting Corey with fellow Harvard organic chemist R.B. Woodward, Hepler-Smith describes how Corey systematized Woodward’s conception of organic synthesis as art, taking Woodward’s “imaginative leaps” as “objects of study in themselves.” Hepler-Smith adeptly

illustrates how the construction of LHASA enabled Corey to organize the previously inarticulate and intuitive process of organic synthesis into an “orderly set of strategies.” Through this history, Hepler-Smith provocatively suggests that computer programs may be regarded as simultaneously embodying and transmuting existing human scientific methods; and, in homage to its alchemical roots, chemistry may still be practiced as both an art and a science.

BULLETIN FOR THE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY

A publication of the Division of the History of Chemistry of the American Chemical Society

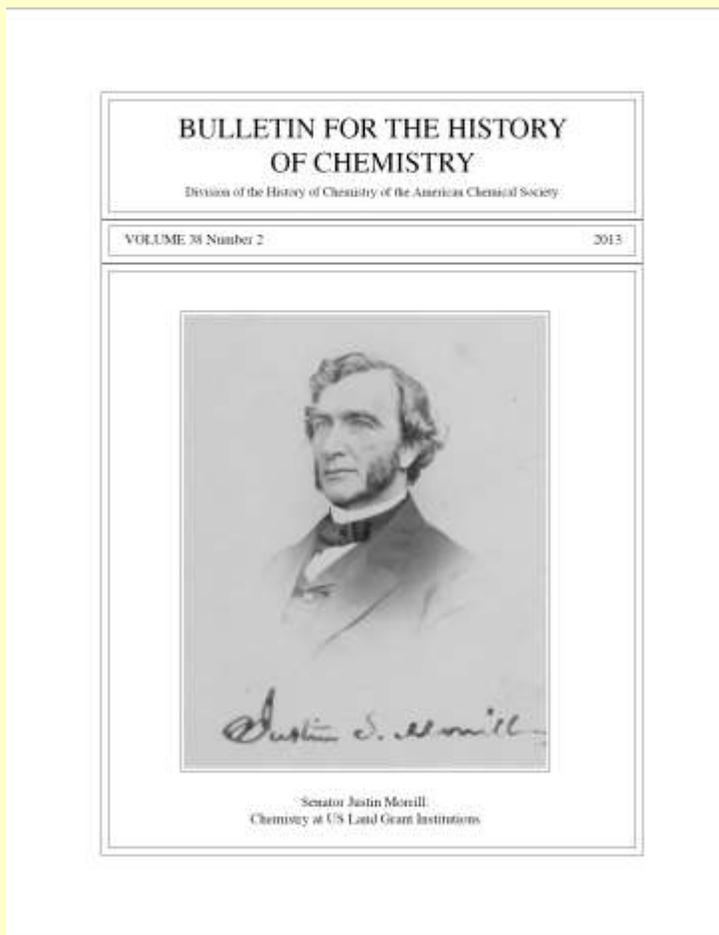
Available online: <http://www.scs.illinois.edu/~mainzv/HIST/bulletin/index.php>

PAPER SUBMISSIONS: Articles of 4-20 pages, double-spaced (excluding references) should be submitted electronically by email attachment to the Editor, Carmen Giunta, at giunta@lemoyne.edu. The title of the article should be of reasonable length (up to 15 words); a subtitle may be included if appropriate. Authors should strive to make the title descriptive of the specific scope and content of the paper. Preferred file formats for submissions are .doc, .docx, and .rtf.

Full instructions for authors can be found at <http://www.scs.illinois.edu/~mainzv/HIST/info/bull-info.php> or in the back cover of all issues of the *Bulletin*.

All matters relating to manuscripts, book reviews, and letters should be sent to:

Prof. Carmen Giunta
Editor, *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry*
Le Moyne College
1419 Salt Springs Rd.
Syracuse, NY 13214-1301
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HIST Programming

Message from the HIST Program Chair

With a new year comes yet another HIST Newsletter from your humble Program Chair. This last December, HIST participated for the first time in programming for the Pacifichem conference, which is held every five years in Hawaii. The most important aspect of this was that the HIST-led international symposium consisted of cooperation between organizers from the US, Canada, Japan, and Australia, which represents just one of several recent efforts to strengthen ties between HIST and the rest of the world.

Closer to home, the HIST program for San Diego is relatively strong, with two focused symposia and two General Papers sessions. Likewise, our upcoming programming for Philadelphia also looks to be strong, with four focused symposia currently scheduled. Of course, things could always be even better. A disturbing trend which contributes to limitations in HIST programming is the growing resistance to organize symposia for days other than Sunday or Monday. While some have expressed concerns of low attendance for later days in the ACS National Meeting schedule, this has never been a problem for Tuesdays and even Wednesday does not see a dramatic drop off in attendance for HIST sessions. As such, I hope that we can work together to rebuild our programming in order to allow full schedules for at least Sunday through Wednesday morning (thus giving a minimum of three and half days of programming). As I have said in the past, the success of our programming is always dependent on the efforts of our various symposium organizers, so if you have ideas for potential symposia and would like to get more involved in the division, just let me know and I can team you up with more experienced members that can help make your symposium happen.

As always, if you have programming ideas or would like to provide suggestions or feedback, please don't hesitate to let me know (seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu).

Seth C. Rasmussen, HIST Program Chair



HIST SYMPOSIA, 250th ACS Meeting in Boston, MA, August 16-20, 2015

Schedules and abstracts are listed at the end of this Newsletter.

Preceptors of Chemistry

Cosponsored by CHED

In the history of chemistry there have been people who chose to organize their thoughts and practices in such a way that they could be taught to others: the Preceptors of Chemistry. In this symposium, many of these people will be featured. It starts with an early true teacher: Libavius (Bruce Moran); followed by the featured talk on Herman Boerhaave (John Powers). In the 18th century the French dominated pedagogical chemistry (Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent). From the 19th century Mendeleev is a good example (Vera Mainz). From the 20th century the teachers are Basolo (Jay Labinger), Bartlett (Weininger) and Pauling (Gary Patterson). Come and learn how chemistry was taught effectively throughout the last 500 years. The symposium will be held **Sunday afternoon**, March 13, at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront - Aqua 311 A/B.

G. D. Patterson, Organizer

The Posthumous Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Correcting the Errors and Oversights of the Nobel Prize Committee

This full day symposium will center on the idea of a Posthumous Nobel Prize and will highlight those overlooked during the history of the award. The opening talk on "The Nobel Prize: A Brief Overview" is by William Jensen and E. Thomas Strom. The remaining presentations cover overlooked chemists Dmitri

Mendeleev, Henry Moseley, Herman Mark, Wallace Carothers, Edward Teller, Y. K. Zavoiskii, Michael Dewar, Louis Hammett, R. B. Woodward, Neil Bartlett, and Howard Simmons. We all know that Woodward won a Nobel Prize, but perhaps he deserved two. The presenters, respectively, are Carmen Giunta, Virginia Trimble, Gary Patterson, Tom Strom, Burtron Davis, David Lewis, Eamonn Healy, Charles Perrin, Jeffrey Seeman, Joel Liebman, and Pierre Laszlo. The symposium will be held **Monday Morning** and **Monday Afternoon**, March 14, at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront - Aqua 311 A/B.

E. T. Strom, Organizer

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND HIST DEADLINES

Subject to change. Check the HIST website (<http://www.scs.illinois.edu/~mainzv/HIST/>) for updates.

252nd ACS Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, August 21-25, 2016

Submit your abstract via the new online Meeting Abstracts Programming System (MAPS) by **March 28th, 2016**. If you do not have access to a computer for use in the submission or are having difficulties in submitting your abstract, contact Seth Rasmussen (seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu). Check the call for papers in *Chemical and Engineering News* or www.acs.org for changes in the abstract deadlines.

HIST Tutorial and General Papers. (**Seeking contributors**) Seth C. Rasmussen, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, North Dakota State University, NDSU Dept. 2735, P.O. Box 6050, Fargo, ND 58108-6050, Phone: (701) 231-8747, email: seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu

Chemistry in America: 1676-1876. (Invited and **Seeking contributors**) Gary D. Patterson, Department of Chemistry, Carnegie Mellon University, 4400 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, Phone: 412-268-3324, email: gp9a@andrew.cmu.edu

Charles C Price, 1965 ACS President: Exploring his legacy after 50 years. (Invited and **Seeking contributors**) Roger Egolf, Pennsylvania State University - Lehigh Valley Campus, 2809 Saucon Valley Road Center Valley, PA 18034, Phone: (610) 285-5110, email: rae4@psu.edu; Jan Hayes, Hayes, 6829 Barbara Lee Circle, Sacramento, CA 95842, Phone: (916) 331-6886, email: janan.hayes@yahoo.com

A Salute to Ted Benfey at 90: Science, History, Culture, and a Commitment to Humanism. (Invited) Jeffrey I. Seeman, Department of Chemistry, University of Richmond, Westhampton Drive, Richmond, VA 23173, Phone: (804) 794-1218, email: jiseeman@yahoo.com

253rd ACS Meeting, San Francisco, CA, April 2-6, 2017

HIST Tutorial and General Papers. (**Seeking contributors**) Seth C. Rasmussen, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, North Dakota State University, NDSU Dept. 2735, P.O. Box 6050, Fargo, ND 58108-6050, Phone: (701) 231-8747, email: seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu

The Science and Legacy of Glenn Seaborg. (Invited and **Seeking contributors**) Jan Hayes, Hayes, 6829 Barbara Lee Circle, Sacramento, CA 95842, Phone: (916) 331-6886, email: janan.hayes@yahoo.com

Chemistry Through the Eyes of Non-chemists: Evolution of the Public Perception of Chemistry. (Invited and **Seeking contributors**) Daniel Rabinovich, Department of Chemistry, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, 9201 University City Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28223, Phone: 704-687-5105, email: drabinov@uncc.edu; Nicolay V. Tsarevsky, Department of Chemistry, Southern Methodist University, 3215 Daniel Avenue, Dallas, TX 75275, Phone: 214-768-3259, email: nvt@smu.edu

254th ACS Meeting, Washington, DC, August 20-24, 2017

HIST Tutorial and General Papers. (**Seeking contributors**) Seth C. Rasmussen, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, North Dakota State University, NDSU Dept. 2735, P.O. Box 6050, Fargo, ND 58108-6050, Phone: (701) 231-8747, email: seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu