

Silicon Valley Chemist

Santa Clara Valley Section

American Chemical Society

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SEPTEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER TOPICS

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Chair's Message

Be sure to make reservations to hear Dr. Helen Free talk about the Diabetes Epidemic at our dinner meeting on October 17. Check out the website, www.scvacs.org, and sign up for the dinner and talk at the Biltmore Hotel in Santa Clara.

And remember to attend National Chemistry Week events in October. See the schedule. Contact Abby Kennedy if you can help.

There is another letter about Silver Circle groups in this newsletter from Bruce Raby. Take a look, consider your involvement in the venture and let Bruce know if you have any interest.

We received a letter from a member who is interested in another volunteer opportunity: Project RE-SEED. See the letter from Dr. Joseph Castellano in this newsletter for more information. This ties in very well with the Silver Circle group's concept, as you will see.

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October Dinner Meeting The Diabetes Epidemic

Dr. Helen Free



Abstract:

About 16 million Americans have diabetes. And about one-third of them don't even know it! American Diabetes Association estimates predict that a million more individuals will become diabetic every year. Many biochemists contribute to understanding this disease and many clinical chemists are involved with its diagnosis. Many pharmaceutical chemists contribute to its treatment, and many chemists of all kinds provide the novel self-testing reagents and instrumentation used by diabetics to monitor their own blood glucose levels. BUT the best attack against diabetes is prevention and this is entirely up to each individual with the help of his/her medical team. Statistics, risk factors and recommended lifestyle changes will be discussed, and blood glucose testing will be available.

Biography:

Helen M. Free holds a bachelor's degree in Chemistry from the College of Wooster, a master's degree in management in the health care field from Central Michigan University, and honorary doctorates of science from both schools. She joined Miles Laboratories (now Bayer Healthcare) in 1944, and her career includes wide experience in laboratory work, management, growth and development, manufacturing, and marketing related to her main interests in the field of clinical chemistry and medical devices, and in management in the health care area. She holds several patents and has

published over 200 papers. She has also held many elected positions in scientific societies, including president of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry in 1990 and president of the American Chemical Society in 1993. Among her national awards are: the ACS Garvan medal,
continued on next page

October Dinner Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 17th

Time: 6:00 Social Hour
7:00 Dinner
8:00 Presentation

Location: Biltmore Hotel & Suites
2151 Laurelwood Blvd.
Santa Clara, CA 95054

Speaker: Dr. Helen Free
The Diabetes Epidemic

Cost: \$27.00 with the choice of
Chicken Florentine or
Eggplant Parmesan
Includes wine with dinner.

Reservations: www.scvacs.org
Shirley Radding
408-246-2564

Reservations should be made by October 15th, stating your name, address, company affiliation, number of people in party, and menu selection. If you are unable to honor your reservation and do not cancel by Monday, September 10th, you will be invoiced following the dinner meeting.

Diabetes, continued from front page

the Hall of Excellence of the Ohio Foundation of Small Colleges, and the Kilby Foundation Award. She and her husband were married for 53 years when he died in 2000 (9 children). Together they were honored by Medical Economics Press and the Laboratory Public Service National Leadership Award. They were inducted into the Science and Engineering Hall of Fame and the National Inventors Hall of Fame for their work on the development of urinalysis reagent strips and self tests for blood

glucose used worldwide by persons with diabetes.



Chair's Message, continued from front page

Once again, we will be electing a new slate of Section officers soon. Watch the mail for your ballot. The Section relies on volunteers to provide leadership to direct our activities that enhance our lives as chemists in an ever increasing atmosphere of complexity and challenge. Your continued support is solicited. Also on the ballot will be a proposal to change the

Section bylaws to allow electronic voting. This is an effort to make voting easier to do and make the process less expensive. Of course, for those who are Internet-and-Computer-Challenged, we will still have the mail. Stay tuned for more information on this subject.

Please let me know whether you have any concerns, issues that need airing, or can offer your expertise in Section activities.

See you soon at a dinner meeting or National Chemistry Week event.

George Lechner

Thatcher Collection

Baroness Margaret Thatcher was elected an Honorary Member of the ACS Division of Chemistry and the Law.

Baroness Thatcher's degree from Oxford University was in chemistry. She worked in the lab of Dr. Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkins who later won the Nobel prize for her work in crystallography. Thatcher continued in law, initially drawn to patent law, then tax law and then on to a spectacular career in politics. She was elected MP and served as Prime Minister of the UK from 1979 to 1990 – the first woman and longest serving Prime Minister of the 20th Century. (See what you can do with a chemistry degree?)

Santa Clara Valley Local Section members Howard and Sally Peters presented the ACS plaque and some other documents to Andrew Riley, the archivist for the Thatcher Collection at Churchill College, Cambridge, on 10 July 2007. College officials were thrilled and plan to use the plaque to attract more scientists' papers and archives.

Churchill College is also the archive and depository for the papers of other UK scientists.

We viewed an original high school analytical chemistry notebook of Baroness Thatcher's dated 1941. Her father was a lay minister in the Methodist Church and, due to the wartime paper shortage, he used part of the notebook for his sermon notes.

The original papers of Dr. Rosalind Franklin, The Dark Lady of DNA, are there. Howard and Sally viewed an exact copy of her handwritten laboratory notebook and X-ray films for that critical period of early 1953.

The Archives also have the personal papers of Lord (Alexander) Todd, a Nobel Prize winning Cambridge organic chemist.



Howard and Sally Peters present the ACS plaque and other documents to Andrew Riley, archivist for the Thatcher Collection.

41st Western Regional Meeting American Chemical Society

October, 9 – 13, 2007

- Over 50 top-notch technical sessions ranging from synthetic organic chemistry to stem cell research.
- Advanced registration is OPEN
- Strong Chemical Education and Undergraduate programming
- Kick-Off Lecture by Prof. K.C. Nicolaou (The Scripps Research Institute) "Chemistry, Biology and Medicine of Natural Products".
- U.S.S. Midway Extravaganza featuring Prof. Harry B. Gray (Caltech) "Powering the Planet with Solar Energy".
- Awards Banquet Featuring the 2007 San Diego local section Distinguished Scientist, Professor J. Andrew McCammon (UCSD), "Adventures in Computational Chemistry".
- Exposition featuring over 40 exhibitors.
- Meeting-Wide Happy Hour and Networking Social.
- Career Workshop and Employment Services.

Important Deadlines

- Advanced Registration closes September 24th
- Special Events are Limited So Reserve Early

For more information, please visit: www.wrmacs.org.

2007 ACS National Election Candidate Information

The Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E) wants to inform you that there are no petition candidates for the 2007 national election. The candidates that will appear on the fall ballot are:

Candidates for President-Elect, 2008

Dr. Thomas H. Lane, Director, Global Science and Technology Outreach, Dow Corning Corporation, Midland, MI

Dr. Howard M. Peters, (Retired) Peters, Verny, (Jones, Biksa, Schmidt, Aston) LLP, Palo Alto, CA

Candidates for Directors-at-Large, 2008-2010

Dr. Janan M. Hayes, Professor Emeritus, (Retired) Merced College, Sacramento, CA

Ms. Bonnie A. Lawlor, Executive Director, NFAIS, Philadelphia, PA

Dr. Kent J. Voorbees, Professor, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO

Dr. Frankie K. Wood-Black, Project Manager, Trihydro Corporation, Ponca City, OK

Candidates for District II Director, 2008-2010

Dr. Joseph (Joe) R. Peterson, Professor Emeritus, (Retired) University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

Dr. Diane Grob Schmidt, R&D Section Head, The Procter & Gamble Company, Cincinnati, OH

Candidates for District IV Director, 2008-2010

Dr. Eric C. Bigham, Manager, Discovery R&D, GlaxoSmithKline, Research Triangle Park, NC

Dr. Gregory H. Robinson, Franklin Professor of Chemistry, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA

I want to take this opportunity to remind you that there should be no articles published covering their activities and viewpoints through the end of the election period in November. This ban does not include publication of scientific research articles or coverage of noteworthy scientific news events. Please contact me if you are aware of any potential articles or editorials that do not comply with this

request. Extenuating circumstances will be reviewed by the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E) on a case-by-case basis. If you receive any phone calls or correspondence from a candidate requesting assistance or information pertaining to the election, please refer them to me or Denise Creech, the Assistant Staff Liaison.

We are providing this information, as a reminder to assure that no undue publicity will be given to a candidate running for national office and to assure that the "Fair Election Procedures" are adhered to according to ACS Bylaws.

If you are a staff liaison to a committee and would like to invite candidates to attend or speak at your committee meeting during the ACS national meeting in Boston, you must extend the same privilege to ALL candidates running for that position to be in compliance with ACS Bylaws. It is optional for any candidate to participate; however it is mandatory that all candidates running for the same position be invited. N&E requests that a copy of your invitation to the candidates be provided to me for filing in their election folder for reference. You can send it via e-mail to me at the above address, and also copy Liz Beckham at l_beacham@acs.org.

In order to insure a "fair and equitable" election, N&E asks that staff become familiar with ACS Bylaw

V, Sect. 13, a and b which states:

Sect. 13, a. "No funds of the SOCIETY, its Local Sections, or its Divisions shall be used to support or to oppose the candidacy of an individual or group of individuals. No facilities, such as office space, equipment, or supplies; official letterhead; or mailing permit of the SOCIETY, its Local Sections, or its Divisions shall be used to support or oppose the candidacy of an individual or group of individuals, except as provided in this Section.

Sect. 13, b. "If space in a SOCIETY, Local Section, or Division publication, other than a paid advertisement at commercial rates, be used to support or to oppose the candidacy of an individual, space must be made available simultaneously and equally to support or to oppose the candidacy of every other candidate for the same office."

N&E has published a set of "Guidelines on Campaigning and Communication" which can be accessed at <http://chemistry.org/nominations> (click on "Mission"). Please make sure you are familiar with these guidelines, and if you have any questions or concerns regarding candidates or national election procedures, please contact me, Denise, or Liz.

We appreciate your assistance.

Flint Lewis
Staff Liaison to the Committee
on Nominations and Elections
f_lewis@acs.org

E-mail/Address Changes?

Sometimes we need to update our contact information due to changes in our personal circumstances. The ACS provides a way to do this on the internet, by phone or by mail. ACS members are encouraged to register with chemistry.org* and include their ACS member number. After this, you then need only to log onto chemistry.org and click on the "Edit my profile" link in the left-hand column of the home page. Changes you enter in this form are incorporated into our member record system. You can also forward a request to our Member and Subscriber Services Department at service@acs.org*; telephone them Monday through Friday (except holidays) from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm ET at 800-333-9511; write to them at PO Box 3337, Columbus, OH 43210; or access our online address change form*.

* To access, highlight this hyperlink, right click on the highlighted hyperlink, then left click Open Hyperlink.

Volunteers Needed for Middle School Science Education

Project RE-SEED (Retirees Enhancing Science Education through Experiments and Demonstrations) is a program to enhance the teaching of earth and physical science at the middle school level (grades 6 through 8). To maintain and expand RE-SEED programs at more schools in the San Francisco Bay Area, volunteers who are willing to apply their knowledge and experience in fostering understanding and appreciation for science and engineering are very much needed.

At a minimum, the program influences basic understanding of science. Ideally, it helps to prepare middle school students for careers in science, engineering, and technology. Those of us who have been involved in the program value the experience among the most meaningful in our lives.

The program began in the San Francisco Bay Area in 2000 with the training of retired engineers from the IEEE organization. It has continued with scientists and engineers from a number of professional organizations. Volunteers help in various ways in the classroom. Some have developed curriculum relevant experiments for hands-on experience by the students. Others work to improve experiments and demonstrations that the teacher has used in the past. We answer students' questions and often provide some students with one-on-one help to keep up with the pace of the class. The goals are to support the teachers, including help with their content, understanding whenever necessary, and to spark the interest of students in science.

Some volunteers work in pairs while others work solely with the teacher. The volunteering commitments are quite flexible and range from innovative demonstrations once per month to daily participation on laboratory experiments carried out with the students. There are also math tutoring opportunities. Volunteers find their work in the classrooms intellectually stimulating and emotionally rewarding. Most retirees spend eight to ten hours per week at school while others devote additional hours each week toward building equipment, searching the Internet for interesting teaching aids, and otherwise preparing for their day in school.

Teachers say RE-SEED volunteers are an invaluable resource because they provide realistic contexts for the school curriculum and model what scientists do and how

they think. Teachers also appreciate the extra pair of skilled hands and highly schooled minds.

The ultimate benefactors of RE-SEED are students. It has been documented that the project's mature, well-trained scientists and engineers are helping to guide students to learn science concepts and facts as well as the scientific habits of mind and ways of thinking. Also, real world relationships seem to become clearer to the students because of the deep appreciation for relevance that the project's retirees have acquired over their professional careers.

RE-SEED began several years ago at Northeastern University under Christos Zahopoulos, a professor in the Physics Department, together with a colleague from the College of Education. It is now part of a larger effort in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education (www.stem.neu.edu).

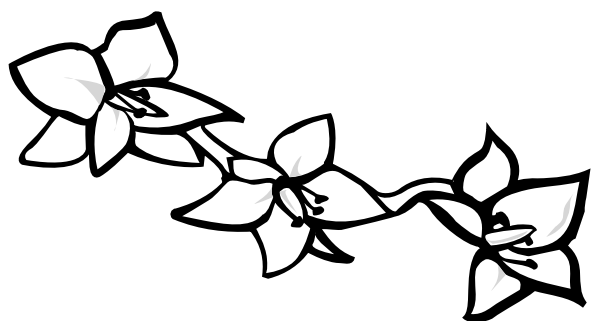
In the San Francisco-San Jose area, the funding for the program came from the National Science Foundation as a Math Science Partnership with several school districts on the Peninsula and both the Hewlett Packard and Synopsis Corporations. This is called Partnership for Student Success in Science (PS3). The Principal Investigator of this grant is Professor Kurt McMullin from the San Jose State University Civil Engineering Department. This grant provides mainly for professional development for middle school science teachers and placement of volunteers. It also provides for a 4-day training session where volunteers learn how to apply many hands-on activities to engage middle school students and their teachers.

To obtain more information about this rewarding program contact:

Peter K. Mueller, Ph.D.

RE-SEED Coordinator
TropoChem

3801 Magnolia Drive
Palo Alto, CA 94306-3232
e-mail: pklausm@mac.com
telephone: (650) 856-1255
cell: (650) 303-6893



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More on Silver Circle Groups

Let's Start Silver Circle Groups

A "silver" member is one who has valuable experience and knowledge, whether or not that person is retired. Such a person is a great resource to the section and its locale.

There are many activities that a Silver Circle group can do. The following list contains some suggestions:

- Organize a science café for discussions of science over coffee, wine or whatever, with local residents and scientists, as well as experts
- Shared meals, such as breakfast, lunch or dinner (with or without talks)
- Book club
- Public outreach
- Help with National Chemistry Week, Chemistry Olympiad, section meetings, etc.

- Mentor young chemists
- Write local chemistry histories about persons, industries, etc.
- Present or participate in career forums
- Social activities, such as picnics, bowling, parties, etc.
- Field trips and tours
- Be a resource for local teachers, reporters and officials
- Pot luck meal with each participant explaining the chemistry of his/her preparation
- Volunteer – Habitat for Humanity, local technical museums, etc.
- Community service
- Topical subgroups
- Use your imaginations to generate other ideas

Please contact me if you are interested in forming a Silver Circle group. A group can be formed for areas smaller than the whole Section. Joe Bunnett is testing the waters for the Santa Cruz County area, including Monterey Bay and Salinas areas. Others of us could form a group for the Palo Alto area, the San Jose area and/or south Santa Clara County with San Benito County. Let me know what you think.

Bruce Raby
Brida954@comcast.net
408-294-6718



CHEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACTS SEPTEMBER 2007

CHEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACT 3894

Position Title: Assistant Professor, Organic Chemistry

Job Description: The selected candidate will be expected to initiate a vigorous and productive undergraduate research program, including participating in our summer NSF-REU program, pursuing external funding for individual and departmental research and teaching objectives, and demonstrating the ability to excel in teaching organic chemistry lectures and laboratories, lower-division general chemistry, and courses for non-science majors.

QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED:

Education: A Ph.D. in organic chemistry is required.

Experience: Postdoctoral research and college teaching experience are highly desirable. Experience in teaching a diverse student population is preferred. Candidates who can contribute to the university strategic goal of achieving greater diversity among faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to identify their strengths, experiences, or interests related to achieving this goal in the cover letter.

LOCATION, SALARY, MAIL ADDRESS:

Job Location: Santa Clara, California

Salary: Please call for details

Employer Description: Santa Clara University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer, committed to excellence through diversity, and welcomes applications from women, persons of color, and members of underrepresented groups.

Application Instructions: Send CV, undergraduate and graduate transcripts, three letters of recommendation, statements of teaching philosophy and research plans, and a cover letter to Prof. Brian McNelis, Organic Chemistry Search Committee, Chemistry Department, 500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA 95053 by October 19, 2007.

CHEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACT 3895

Position Title: Associate Scientists I/II (2 positions) - Chemistry

Job Description: ChemoCentryx, a pharmaceutical company located in Mountain View, CA, seeks a highly motivated, hands-on professional to carry out the synthesis of drug candidates for lead optimization in support of the medicinal chemistry research team.

QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED:

Education: BS/MS in Chemistry

Experience: A strong background in organic synthesis and hands-on experience using modern chromatographic and spectroscopic techniques such as NMR, MS and HPLC. Minimum of 5 years of experience with BS or 2 years of experience with an MS degree. Industrial experience within a medicinal chemistry environment is preferred.

LOCATION, SALARY, MAIL ADDRESS:

Job Location: Mountain View, California

Salary: DOE

Employer Description: ChemoCentryx is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on discovering, developing and commercializing orally-administered therapeutics for autoimmune diseases, inflammatory disorders and cancer.

Application Instructions: Email resume & cover letter to:

hiring@chemocentryx.com or FAX to: (650) 210-2910. No calls please. EOE
www.chemocentryx.com

Annual Family Picnic and Awards Ceremony

Saturday, July 14, 2007 Stanford University

Photos courtesy of Lois Durham







SANTA CLARA VALLEY SECTION
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ChemPloyment Abstracts

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FUTURE MEETINGS

- Sep 11** Section Dinner Meeting
Robert Blackledge
Santa Clara, CA
- Oct 6** The Many Faces of Chemistry
Children's Discovery Museum
National Chemistry Week Event
San Jose, CA
- Oct 9-13** Western Regional Meeting
www.wrmacs.org
San Diego, CA
- Oct 17** Section Dinner Meeting
Diabetes Epidemic
Dr. Helen Free
Santa Clara, CA
- Oct 27** Drugs, Bombs, and CSI: Your
Future Career in Chemistry
National Chemistry Week Event
De Anza College
- Nov 13** Section Dinner Meeting
Chemical Magic from the
Grocery Store
Dr. Andy Sae
Santa Clara, CA



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