November 14th Dinner Meeting

Nadia Drake and Peter Aldhous

The Metamorphosis: Turning Science into News in a Changing Media Landscape

Abstract:
Most research isn’t born being “news” – that transition requires work from both scientists and journalists. As an omnivorous science reporter who’s been assigned to cover several, completely unrelated beats, I’ve found that some scientific fields seem to spawn news much more easily than others. So, what does it take to transform an elegant experiment into an accurate, engaging news story?

Biography:
Nadia Drake is a science journalist at WIRED, reporting on materials science, marine mammals, and mega-spiders. Before that, she covered astronomy for Science News, based in Washington, DC. She has written news and features for Nature, New Scientist, Nature Medicine, Proceedings of

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Chair’s Message

This month is filled with the Western Regional Meeting (WRM) and several outreach events. Planned for more than two years in conjunction with the California section, the WRM brings the excitement and feel of an ACS National Meeting to Silicon Valley. Featuring invited speakers, special events, almost 500 scheduled papers plus a poster session for students, the meeting starts October 3 at the Hyatt in Santa Clara. While you’re in the exhibition, meet other Santa Clara Valley section volunteers at our exhibit table.

The annual Teach the Teachers Workshop takes place on October 5 at Mission College. Chemistry teachers from all around the Bay Area gather for presentations by mentors with long careers in teaching. Volunteer to help and meet some very dedicated and enthusiastic teachers.

October is time for National Chemistry Week (NCW). On October 19, volunteers from our section will be at the MLK Library in San Jose to interact with students and parents demonstrating the fun of chemistry with simple experiments.

Last but not least, the Bay Area Science Festival takes place at AT&T Park on November 2. In conjunction with the California Section, volunteers will meet crowds of kids and parents interested in science. Our chemical experiments are designed to quickly convey the wonders of chemistry to the hundreds of visitors expected.

How does all of this happen? Volunteers. Join in and meet them and the public that is eager to know more about why we like chemistry.

There is so much going on this month that we won’t have a dinner meeting in October. In November, our dinner meeting is at the Basque Cultural Center on the 14th of November, two weeks before Thanksgiving. Join us for a joint presentation featuring two Bay Area science writers.

November Dinner Meeting

Date: Thursday, November 14, 2013
Time: 6:00 p.m. Social Hour
7:00 p.m. Dinner
8:00 p.m. Presentation
Speakers: Nadia Drake and Peter Aldhous
Location: Basque Cultural Center
599 Railroad Avenue
South San Francisco, CA
www.sfbcc.us/content2.asp?id=13
Cost: $30.00, Duck Legs Confit or Breast of Chicken Chasseur or Vegetarian Pasta
Reservations: www.scvacs.org or Sally Peters 650-854-4614
Reservations should be made by November 7th stating your name, address, company/school affiliation, number of people in party. Watch the web site for more information. If you are unable to honor your reservation and do not cancel by Monday, November 11th, you will be invoiced following the dinner meeting.
and science provides rich material. At the
time, the cozy business models of
print journalism have collapsed. I’ll talk
about the opportunities and challenges,
from the point of view of a old-school sci-
ence journalist who’s embracing new skills
including web development, and a teacher
preparing science communication students
to enter a fast-changing working environ-
ment.

Biography:

Peter Aldhous is San Francisco bureau
chief with New Scientist magazine and
reports on biology, medicine, social sciences
and the environment — from genetics and
stem cells, through ecology and conservation,
to psychology and psychiatry. He also teaches in
the Science Writing Program at the
University of California, Santa Cruz. He is espe-
cially interested in inves-
tigative and computer-assisted reporting,
and he’s fascinated by data visualization. See
his website at www.peteraldhous.com for articles and his data images.

Peter got his break in journalism
in 1989 as a reporter for Nature in London,
fresh from a PhD in animal behavior. Later
he worked as European correspondent for
Science and as news editor for New
Scientist. Prior to moving to California in
October 2005, he spent five years as chief
news and features editor with Nature. His
articles have won awards from the
Association of British Science Writers, the
Association of Health Care Journalists, the
UK Guild of Health Writers, the Society of
Environmental Journalists, the Royal
Statistical Society and the Wistar Institute.
When the opportunity arises, he loves to
combine work with travel. Over the years
he’s reported from countries including
Cameroon, Cambodia, China, Indonesia,
Mexico, Russia and Vietnam.
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Position Title: Assistant Professor in Physical Chemistry

Job Description: Establish an externally funded and productive undergraduate research program in experimental physical chemistry, contribute to departmental research and teaching objectives, and demonstrate the ability to teach physical chemistry and general chemistry effectively. Specific responsibilities are posted at www.scu.edu/hr/careers/faculty.cfm

QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED:

Education: A Ph.D. and postdoctoral experience in physical chemistry or a closely allied field are required.

Experience: College teaching experience is highly desirable, and experience in teaching a diverse student population is preferred.

LOCATION, SALARY, EMPLOYER:

Job Location: Santa Clara, California

Salary: Competitive, depending on experience

Employer: Santa Clara University, located in Silicon Valley, is a highly ranked Jesuit Catholic institution with an ACS-approved undergraduate program and a housing program. It is an EO/AA employer committed to excellence through diversity, and welcomes applications from women, persons of color, and members of historically underrepresented groups.

Application Instructions: For complete instructions and list of required application materials, please visit http://www.scu.edu/hr/careers/faculty.cfm. All materials should be sent in electronic form (Word and/or PDF format) to ChemApp@scu.edu. Completed applications must be received by October 11, 2013.
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FUTURE MEETINGS

Oct 19  National Chemistry Week
Handson Science
M.L. King Library
San Jose State University
contact: akennedycali2007@yahoo.com

Oct 23  BioScience Forum
www.biosf.org/programs.htm

Nov 2  Bay Area Science Festival
AT&T Park, San Francisco, CA

Nov 2-3  SPLASH-Stanford Learning Program for 7th-12th grade students
www.stanfordesp.org

Nov 5, 12, 19  San Jose State University Chemistry Seminars
www.sjsu.edu/chemistry/Seminars

Nov 14  Science in the News with editors from New Scientist and Wired
Basque Cultural Center
South San Francisco, CA

Jan 16  Mosher Award Dinner
Biltmore Hotel & Suites
Santa Clara, CA

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