



November/December 2016

A Joint Publication of the Southern California and San Gorgonio Sections of the American Chemical Society



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A Joint Publication of the Southern California and San Gorgonio Sections of the American Chemical Society

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Number 7

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION 2016 OFFICERS

Chair: Michael Morgan Chair Elect: Armando Rivera Secretary/Treasurer: Barbara Belmont

Councilors: Rita Boggs, Brian Brady, Robert de Groot, Virgil Lee, Eleanor Siebert, Barbara Sitzman

SAN GORGONIO SECTION 2016 OFFICERS

Chair: Dennis Pederson Chair-Elect: Secretary: David Srulevitch Treasurer: Larry Mink Councilors: Eileen DiMauro, Ernie Simpson

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Southern California Section



Chair's Message

This will be my last column as Chair of your section. I am very particular that I refer to it as **your** section. It does not belong to any one member, it belongs to all of us, it does not serve any one member, it serves all of us, and most importantly, it is not run by any one member but by all of us. This section is what you make of it. With that in mind I hope to point out how I have tried to make

SCALACS more useful to our members.

This year we had a strong push to expand into the realm of Social Media. Our future lies in the hands of those younger then me! We must reach out to that demographic and involve them much more than they are currently involved. Alexander Alschuler who chairs our Younger Chemists Committee has been working very hard to draw more of our younger members. Heather Mott has been reaching out to them as our social media contact, and I have tried to focus my energies on our very youngest, our future members. We have had several excellent college based lectures this year with outstanding speakers and have expanded our reach to where we hold these talks. I see lots of success with them and hope to help keep putting more of these together for the future.

As always one of the events closest to my heart is the Chemistry Olympiad and the annual awards banquet that celebrates it. We had an amazing awards banquet this year with Harry Gray from Cal Tech, representatives from Alpha Chi Sigma, and the American Association of Chemistry Teachers. My hope was to reach out to anyone in the room no matter what their age and level of involvement and show them that ACS is what they make of it. If we are going to keep our section (and ACS in general) successful we must focus on our youngest members and get them involved.

I am very grateful to all the individuals that have helped me this year. There are too many to mention by name but you will find a list of our section volunteers in this issue. Most importantly I must emphasize to everyone how important Nancy Paradiso is to this section. Before I decided to run for Chair I asked Nancy to commit to staying with ACS throughout my time in office and she agreed; I hope she stays with the section for a long time to come. She truly keeps this section running and I truly appreciate her for it.

Thank you for all of your support.

- Best, Michael Morgan

Call for Nominations 2016 Richard C. Tolman Medal

The Tolman Medal is awarded each year by the Southern California Section of the American Chemical Society in recognition of outstanding contributions to chemistry. These contributions may include achievements in fundamental studies; achievements in chemical technology; significant contributions to chemical education; or outstanding leadership in science on a national level. The nominee need not be a Southern California resident; however, most of the award-related accomplishments must have been made in this area.

The Southern California Section of the American Chemical Society and the Tolman Award Committee are now seeking nominations for the 2016 award. There is no official nominating form for this award; nominations are accepted from any member of this section or of neighboring sections. The nomination package should include:

- an up-to-date curriculum vitae or resume of the candidate
- letters of support from colleagues in the profession describing the • candidate's major achievements
- if the candidate is being considered for outstanding teaching, letters of support from former students should be included.

Please submit nomination packages electronically to the Chair of the Tolman Committee at office@scalacs.org. Rather than submitting copies of publications, a list of representative publications would suffice. The deadline for receipt of nominations is December 15, 2016. Inquiries should be directed to the Chairperson at (310) 327-1216 or via e-mail at office@scalacs.org. A list of winners appended here demonstrates the caliber of awardee sought by the committee.

- 1960William G. Young1979Harry B. Gray1998Kendall N. Houk1961Anton B. Burg1980Herbert D. Kaesz1999Peter Dervan1962Ernest H. Swift1981Paul D. Boyer2000William A. Goddard1963W. Conway Pierce1982Donald T. Sawyer2001Peter M. Rentzepis1964A.J. Haagen-Schmidt1983James N. Pitts2002Robert H. Grubbs1965Thomas Doumani1984Donald C. Cram2003Arieh Warshel1966Arthur W. Adamson1985Arnold O. Beckman2004Christopher Reed1967Ulric B. Bray1986M. Frederick Hawthorne2005Fred Wudl1968Francis E. Blacet1987Clifford A. Bunton2006G. K. Surya Prakash1969Robert Vold1988John D. Baldeschwieler2007Barbara Finlayson-F1970Robert Vold1989Mustafa A. El-Sayed2008Joan S. Valentine1971Roland C. Hansford1990Linus Pauling2009Richard B. Kaner1972James Bonner1991George A. Olah2010Dennis Dougherty 1972James Bonner1990Linus Pauling1973Howard Reiss1991George A. Olah1974John D. Roberts1993Charles L. Wilkins1975Corwin Hansch1994Jacqueline K. Barton1976F. Sherwood Rowland1995Christopher S. Foote1977Sidney W. Benson1996Larry R. Dalton1978Thomas C. Bruice1997Ahmed H. Zewail
 - 2000 William A. Goddard III 2006 G. K. Surya Prakash 2007 Barbara Finlayson-Pitts 2010 Dennis Dougherty 2011 Karl O. Christie 2012 John E. Bercaw 2013 Mark E. Thompson 2014 William J. Evans 2015 Michael E. Jung

Thanks to all 2016 Volunteers

programs and services that your Section provides The many are accomplished by the volunteers of the various committees. We would like to acknowledge and thank all of you who volunteered your time and talents during this vear.

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Elected Members of Executive

- Committee: Alexander Alschuler
- Gary Arevalo Deborah Bennett April Jewell Krishna Kallury Derek Marin Thomas Mathew Heather Mott Bruce Weiller Ron Weiner

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Alternate Councilors:

Henry Abrash Deborah Bennett Veronica Jaramillo Joe Khoury Tom LeBon Sofia Pappatheodorou

Meeting Speakers:

Harry Gray, Caltech Michael Jung, UCLA Ron Weiner, Molecular Imaging Center speaker

Expanding Your Horizons

Eleanor Siebert. Coordinator Sylvine Deprèle Danica Manalo Desarev Morales Illeana Dullas Elizabeth Shokova Melissa Martinez Vanessa Quintero Jocelyne Ordellana Mahak Virlley

Teacher's Meeting

Michael Morgan, Chair Deborah Bennett Chris Cranev Paul Groves Caroline Morgan Ken Mukai Evan Thompson Edve Udell Larry Walker

Educational Affairs— William Evans, UC Irvine High School Teacher of the Year

Michael Morgan, Chair Alexander Alschuler **Richard Erdman** Larry Walker

Chemistry Bowl Veronica Jaramillo. Chair

PCC Chem. Club Alexander Alschuler Rosario Amado Eunice Choi **Richard Erdman** Kerin Huber Gayane Godjoian Seah Kim Michael Morgan Jennifer Portillo Anthony Varelas

High School Olympiad

Gerald Delker, Chair Henry Abrash Barbara Belmont Deborah Bennett Paul Groves Michael Morgan Dean Papadakis Eleanor Siebert Barbara Sitzman

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Southern California Section

Thank You List (Continued from Page 4)

Community Activities: NCW. CCED & others Robert de Groot, Chair Henry Abrash Michael Afzali Alexander Alschuler Barbara Belmont Brian Brady Chris Craney Gerald Delker Keith Frogue Rida Harmeen Andrea G. Hsu Veronica Jaramillo Juanita Juarez (CSC) Ben MacDonald Derek Marin Michael Morgan Sofia Pappatheodorou Alexandr Pikelny Armando Rivera-Figueroa Eleanor Siebert Barbara Sitzman Winston Vuona Ron Weiner

Organizations Supporting Section Community Activities:

 Student Chapter at El Camino College
 ACS Student Chapter at Pasadena City College
 WISH Organization at Mount St. Mary's University

Organizations (Continued)

- Science Society-Cal. State Dominguez Hills - Priory of Biology & Chemistry at ELAC -ACS Office of Public Affairs - ACS Office of Volunteer Support - California Science Center - East Los Angeles College Chemistry - L. A. Trade Tech **Chemistry Department** - Pasadena City College - Occidental College. Department of Chemistry - Molecular Imaging Center - Smog City Brewery

Nominations & Elections Brian Brady, Chi

Brian Brady, Chair Gary Arevalo

Project SEED Frank Gomez, Chair

Publication Committee

Harold Goldwhite Dennis Pederson, SG Keith Orso Eleanor Siebert Social Media Heather Mott, Chair

Tolman Award

Dr. Chris Vanderwal, Chair. Confidential committee, but you know who you are!

Undergraduate Research Conference

Henry Abrash, Chair Chris Brazier, CSULB

Webmaster

Barbara Belmont

Women Chemists Committee

Veronica Jaramillo, Chair

Younger Chemists

Alexander Alschuler, Chair

It takes a lot of people's time and efforts to make our programs work. We as a Section, and the community at large, sincerely appreciate the dedication of these people and invite you to participate if you haven't already! This Section would be nothing without your volunteer efforts.

We tried to get everyone on the list, if we missed you, please accept our thanks for a job well done!

Call for Nominations Paul Shin Memorial High School Chemistry Teacher of the Year Award

If you know of a local high school chemistry teacher who is making a difference, please make the effort to show how important his/her work is to you and the students. Self-nominations from those who feel they fit the requirements are accepted as well. It's teachers like the recipients of this award who make learning chemistry rewarding. Plus, there is a financial component of \$500. The \$500 will be an unrestricted award directly to the teacher. The winner of the Section Award will also be entered at the National ACS level for the James Conant Bryant Award and the Western Regional High School Teacher of the Year Award. Having won a previous award does not necessarily exclude a nominee; however, the nomination would need to be based on different criteria than the first award.

Nomination Package should include: Biographical sketch of nominee with date of birth, list of any publications, statement (no more than 1,000 words) of nominee's achievements as a high school chemistry teacher including quality of teaching, effective methods, nominee's ability to challenge and inspire students, extracurricular work (science fairs, clubs, etc.). Seconding letters are not essential, but up to five may be included. Nominating documents should be submitted via email to office@scalacs.org. Note that signed documents that have been scanned are acceptable.

The deadline for nominations is **November 15th, 2016**. Please feel free to contact Michael Morgan of the Educational Affairs Committee at mmorgan@lausd.net if you have any questions.



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Insights Into IP Law Keith Orso*, Irell & Manella LLP

KOrso@irell.com

The United States recently transitioned from a first-to-invent patent system to a first-to-file patent system. The previous installment of this column addressed differences between the two systems, and some of the arguments made for and against the systems. This installment explores one significant change in U.S. patent law that was ushered in by the transition: a change to the definition of "prior art."

Some background is necessary to understand this change, and why it accompanied the transition. Future editions of this column will explore the various bases for patent invalidity challenges in more detail, but for now, it suffices to use, as an example, the intuitive rule that a patent should not issue if it claims subject matter that is not actually new. Patents, after all, are supposed to be novel. The term "prior art" essentially describes the information against which the subject matter of a patent claim is compared in order to determine whether that subject matter is, for example, novel.

Prior art includes journal articles, books, papers, patents and other materials that have been made accessible to the public. The patent laws set forth various different categories of prior art. Materials dated after a patent application is filed are not "prior" and do not constitute prior art, but not all materials dated before a patent application is filed qualify as prior art either.

Before the transition to the first-to-file regime, some categories of prior art were defined relative to the date that the claimed subject matter was invented. For example, patents and printed publications constituted prior art against a claimed invention if they were publicly accessible "before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent." So if Fred invented a new chemical compound on March 17th and filed a corresponding patent application on May 1st, then a journal article published on February 14th (before the invention date) qualified as prior art under the old regime, but a paper published on April 1st (after the invention date), would not qualify as prior art.

Under the old regime, the date of invention was presumed to be the filing date of the patent application, but the patent applicant/owner could rebut that presumption by submitting evidence establishing an earlier date of invention. Doing so would remove as "prior art" any materials dated after the invention, so long as those materials were not dated more than one year before the filing date of the patent. Tune in next time for more on prior art and how it is defined in the new first-to-file regime.

* The author earned engineering and chemical engineering undergraduate and graduate degrees, and is a patent attorney and partner at the law firm of Irell & Manella LLP. This column does not constitute legal advice and does not necessarily reflect the views of the firm or its clients.



This Month in Chemical History Harold Goldwhite, California State University, Los Angeles hgoldwh@calstatela.edu

The holidays are coming or perhaps there's a birthday – even your own – on the horizon. I have a gift suggestion for anyone interested in the history of chemistry: a new book. And buying it won't break the bank. (Disclaimer: I have no financial involvement with either author or publisher. In fact in a tangential way this book could be considered a competitor of one of my own works.) The book is called simply "The Chemistry Book" by Derek B. Lowe, published by Sterling in 2016. The title is misleading; it could better be called "The History of Chemistry Book in 250 one page summaries arranged in chronological order from 500,000 BCE to 2030(!)". The subtitle is "From gunpowder to graphene; 250 milestones in the history of chemistry". One of the book's most attractive features is that each one page article is accompanied by a full page illustration, mostly in color, relevant to the milestone described.

I will just pick out a few of my favorite milestones for comment. My own leaning is towards the earlier history of chemistry, so this is a slanted selection. 3300 BCE is Bronze, with an illustration of an ancient Chinese bronze bell. The production of bronze in the Bronze Age probably began with an accidental discovery that the addition of certain "stones" in the smelting of naturally occurring copper minerals like malachite produced a harder and more useful metal than copper itself. Isotopic analysis of bronze objects from around 2000 BCE suggests that tin ores from Cornwall in the west of England were being traded that early to places around the Eastern Mediterranean. That trade continued for over 3900 years.

1200 BCE is devoted to Purification, and the author suggests that the earliest recorded "chemist", immortalized in a Babylonian tablet, is the perfume maker Tapputi. She extracted pleasant smelling raw materials like balsam and myrrh with water, filtered the suspension, and distilled the solution to concentrate the vapors as perfumes. But unnamed workers probably anticipated her work by over 1000 years. Egyptian tomb bas-reliefs show women extracting perfume from lilies.

Ca. 450 BCE brings us to the golden age of Greek philosophical and scientific thought, and to the long-lasting concept of the four elements: earth, air, fire, and water. These were the bases of a theory of matter sketched by Empedocles, adopted and embroidered by Plato and *(Continued on Page 9)*

This Month in Chemical History (Continued from Page 8)

Aristotle, and added to by Arabic alchemists in the 8th. century and later. The theory was so engrained into scientific thinking, despite the atomistic ideas of Democritus that were suggested at around the same time, that in 1662 Robert Boyle, of gas law fame (and so much more!) devoted much time and energy to the writing of "The Skeptical Chemist" (spelling modernized) attacking the ancient four elements concept.

Ca. 60 CE brings us Natural Products. Not that humankind had not been using natural products for millennia before that. But in the year cited the Greek physician Dioscorides, wrote the first comprehensive book on the use of natural products in medicine: "De Materia Medica". As a doctor to the Roman army Dioscorides traveled widely around the Mediterranean collecting plants and the local folklore that assigned them curative powers. In a sense he can be described as the father of natural product and medicinal chemistry.

Chemical warfare in Europe probably began around 670 with Greek Fire. Described by Theophanes in "Chronographia" (ca. 814) he attributes the invention to an unnamed architect from Heliopolis. An illustration from a 12th. century Sicilian manuscript shows a ship with a tube at its bow shooting out fire at an enemy ship. The composition of Greek Fire is an object of speculation. At the time of its introduction it was a closely held state secret. It probably contained crude petroleum products and perhaps pine resin. Petroleum seepages around the Black Sea have been known for millennia. The distinguished historian of chemistry, J.R. Partington wrote a book on Greek Fire and related subjects.

"The Chemistry Book" is informative, engaging, well-written, and attractive. It might make a good Christmas or holiday present for your chemically inclined friends!

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November/December 2016

San Gorgonio Section

Chair's Message



As the year draws to a close it is time to both look back and ahead. The year 2016 has been a good one for the San Gorgonio Section with several successful events being held. Over 70 persons attended the February Wine/Beer Seminar, a record number of high schools and high school students participated in the Chemistry Olympiad, and the year was capped off with a record number of honorees and attendees at the annual 50 and 60-year member recognition luncheon. I wish to express my appreciation to Eileen Dimauro, David Srulevitch, and Ernie Simpson for all their help this year. I wish to add extra thanks to Ernie for his verv successful efforts in promoting the Section's activities. An additional note of appreciation goes to Dr. Stacie Eldridge at Riverside Community College and the College's administration for providing the site for the second round of the Chemistry Olympiad.

Now, on to the looking ahead part. We plan to build on this year by continuing the increase in Chemistry Olympiad participation, by providing meetings with topics of interest to both chemists and a more general audience, and by enhancing the level of communication with Section members. Your feedback and input is invaluable in all of this and I encourage you to respond to the Section Survey you will be receiving and to contact me directly (dpedersn@csusb.edu or 909 886-2196) with your ideas. AsI said in my last message there are very many ways for you to become involved in Section activities, ranging from attending events, assisting with the Chemistry Olympiad, serving as a liaison for Section members at a university, college, government laboratory, or industrial site, helping to plan an activity, or by serving as a member of the Section's Board. Nearly any one of these would mean a time commitment of **only a few hours** during the year.

The final event of the year will be our Annual Meeting. Once again this will be held at the site of the Section's founding, the University of California, Riverside. We will be taking any (Continued on Page 13)

San Gorgonio Section

San Gorgonio Section Annual Meeting

Wednesday, November 30, 2016 7:00 p.m.

Chemical Sciences Bldg, Room 231 University of California, Riverside

900 University Avenue Riverside, CA 92521

Come help celebrate this year and help plan the new year! Misael Tovar-Diaz, one of our two Project SEED participants this year will describe his project and we will discuss the future of this successful program. Bioanalytical Chemistry, the separation, detection; identification, and quantification of biological samples, is becoming more important as we seek to understand fundamental life processes. Several UCR faculty are active in this area and two of them will give a brief overview of their current research. The upcoming election for 2017 officers will be discussed and nominations solicited. Food (sandwiches, fruit, cheeses, water, and soda) will be provided. There will also be drawings for a variety of door prizes.

Meeting Agenda: Door prize drawings throughout the evening!

Welcome Misael Tovar-Diaz, Project SEED participant Bioanalytical Chemistry at UCR Overview of planned 2017 Section activities High School National Chemistry Olympiad Science Café: Chemistry and Harry Potter Project SEED National Chemistry Week Brainstorming: What are possible future directions and activities for the Section? Upcoming election of officers for 2017 Adjournment (Continued on Page 12)

San Gorgonio Section

Annual Meeting (Continued from Page 11)

Reservations: Please RSVP to <u>edimauro@mtsac.edu</u> or <u>dped-ersn@csusb.edu</u>, **no later than** Friday, November 25. There is no cost, but we need to know how much food to buy! We must also submit names of anyone who will need a parking pass for the meeting.

Parking: The UCR Chemistry Department will pick up the parking cost for participants at this meeting; THANK YOU! Carpools are encouraged. Get to the campus and go to the main information kiosk at the main entrance on West Campus Drive. Tell the parking person that you are a participant in the ACS meeting in the Chemical Sciences Bldg. and obtain a parking permit and directions to the meeting site, the Parking Lot where you are to park, and a campus map.

Directions: UCR is located off the 215/60 freeways in Riverside at the University Avenue exit. Consult the campus website for a detailed area map, showing various ways of getting to the campus. http:// campusmap.ucr.edu/imap/index.html.

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Chair's Message (Continued from Page 10)

additional nominations for Section officers, hearing a presentation by one of this year's Project SEED participants, learning more about plans for next year, and learning about some of the exciting research going on at UCR. Complete details regarding this event are to be found on page 11 in this issue of SCALACS.

I close with sending best wishes to you and yours for all of the upcoming holidays and the new year. Let's all work to make 2017 an even better year for the San Gorgonio Section.

- Dennis Pederson Chair SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY 14934 S. FIGUEROA STREET GARDENA, CA 90248

IMPORTANT Do Not Delay!

Contains Dated Meeting Announcement

PERIODICAL

Bi-Section Chemists' Calendar For more information on these events, please check our website at www.scalacs.org <u>November</u> 5 Deadline for SC High School Teacher of the Year Award—see page 6 30 SG Annual Meeting at UC Riverside—see page 11 <u>December</u> 15 Deadline for the 2016 Tolman Award nominations—see page 3 We wish you a very Happy Holiday Season!