



THE

CHESAPEAKE CHEMIST

MARYLAND SECTION
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

VOL. LVI

NOVEMBER, 2000

NUMBER 8



LINDA M. SWEETING

Council Meeting Report

Washington, D.C.
August 23, 2000



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The Council of the American Chemical Society met during the national meeting in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, August 23. The meeting began at 8 am and lasted until about 11:30. All four Maryland councilors were present.

After the opening call to order a resolution was read and a moment of silence observed in honor of deceased councilors. The minutes of the previous meeting in San Francisco were then approved.

The Council then moved to undertake what was to be one of its major tasks in the meeting. After the Committee on Nominations and Elections presented the candidates, elections of Councilors to the Committee on Committees, the Council Policy Committee and the Committee on Nominations and Elections were held. One of our own Councilors (Charles Rowell) was re-elected to the Council Policy Committee, which he currently serves as vice chair. Another of our own, Merle Eiss, is also a member of that committee.

Oral reports from the elected officers and the executive director followed. Of particular note was the announcement of a newly formed alliance between ACS and the Green Chemistry Institute. The ACS board has committed two million dollars over five years to support this alliance. Membership retention continues to be one of the other strategic thrusts as indicated from those reports. The goal set in 1998 is to increase membership in the Society to 161,000 and have a 94% retention rate. The 161,000 goal has been met, but retention is currently 93.5%. Clearly, to retain members the society needs to be very attentive to member needs and to provide programs that facilitate career development. Financially the ACS is in excellent shape with revenues exceeding projections and expenses being maintained at or below budget levels. Last year's contribution to reserves was seven million dollars.

Following officers' reports, standing committees presented reports and presented some petitions for council action. A petition for urgent action on an amendment to the by-laws increasing the size of council standing committees was withdrawn. It will be voted on at the meeting in San Diego. A petition to change terminology in the constitution and by-laws from 'region' to 'district' and 'regional direction' to 'district director' was passed by voice vote. It is hoped that these changes will do away with confusion between regions for regional meetings and "regions", now to be "districts" for the purpose of electing board members. The required amendments to the constitution now require membership approval (your vote) and the by-law amendments would then need to be confirmed by the board.

One of the more controversial items was a request from the Committee on Meetings and Expositions (M&E) that the council support M&E's recommendation for an increase in meeting registration fees. The increase being recommended was part of a plan by M&E to balance revenues and expenses at national meetings, approved by the council in 1999, but some councilors are clearly having second thoughts and are concerned that meeting costs are too high. In the end the council agreed to support the recommendation, but not before many had a say about their concerns. Attendance at the national meeting in Washington was quite good, close to 14,000 and the exposition was sold out.

A proposal to change meeting registration categories was also discussed as part of M&E's report. After discussion, that petition was recommended and will come up for action at the San Diego meeting.

No subsequent reports led to significant discussion and, there being no further business, the council adjourned.

Respectfully submitted for the Maryland councilors,
Merle Eiss, Don Jones, David Roswell, Chuck Rowell

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Shekar Munavalli Linda Sweeting

The Chesapeake Chemist is published monthly September through May by the Maryland Section of the American Chemical Society. Address editorial comments to the Editor. Send advertising copy and inquiries to the Business Manager. The Maryland Section is not responsible for opinions expressed herein. Editorials express the opinions only of their authors. The Editor is responsible for all unsigned material.

What Should Chemists Know about Ethics?

In recent years, there have been too many examples of misrepresentation of data to the public, particularly in complex, multi-authored biomedical research projects. The safety and efficacy of drugs have become suspect and the image of scientists as truth-seekers has been tarnished. Although chemists have not often been involved in such fiascos, they have other problems with their public image, such as the public's association of "chemical" with "unnatural", "toxic" and "spill". A thoughtful person will recognize that, although chemistry has provided much good for mankind, it could have done so in a more benign manner. Chemists are thus not excused from awareness of ethical issues in their science. This evening's meeting will present the basic ethical issues in science and involve the attendees in discussions of situations in which chemists have moral choices about their work.

Linda M. Sweeting earned her B.Sc. in Honours Physics and Chemistry and M.A. in Organic Chemistry from the University of Toronto. In an attempt to combine travel with study, she earned her Ph.D. at the University of California, Los Angeles in Organic Chemistry. After a year as a temporary faculty member at Occidental College, she joined the faculty at Towson University (then Towson State College). During her tenure at Towson she has also spent a over a year each at the National Science Foundation as a Program Officer, at the National Institutes of Health as a Guest Worker, and at Harvard University as a Visiting Scholar. She has spent most of her classroom time at Towson teaching Organic Chemistry, and is currently known world-wide for her web study guide for this course. She has developed two important courses for the department - Chemistry for Non-Scientists and Professional Ethics for Scientists. Her scientific research is at one of the interfaces between organic chemistry and solid state physics, namely the phenomenon of triboluminescence, the emission of light by materials like WintOGreen Lifesavers when they are broken. As a result of her interest in ethics, she has organized symposia (the first for ACS and BCCE?), given short courses and shared her collection of books and papers; details of her course and an annotated bibliography with over 600 references can also be found on her web site at <http://www.towson.edu/~sweeting>.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Please complete the following ballot for the election of 2001 officers, alternate copuncilors and members-at-large of the Executive Committee and mail it to Dr. Shirish Shah, Chemistry Dept., College of Notre Dame of Maryland, 4701 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21210 by November 30. Please sign the envelope, but not the ballot itself, so that membership can be verified.

Chair	Tom Brewer	_____
Vice chair		_____
Chair-elect	Robert von Tersch	_____
Secretary	Mya L. Morton	_____
Treasurer	Angela Sherman	_____
Alternate Councilor	Shekar Munavalli	_____
(elect three)	Linda Sweeting	_____
	Joseph Topping	_____
Members-at-large	Mark Banash	_____
(elect five)	Saeed Khan	_____
	Jan Kolakowski	_____
	Demetrius Michos	_____
	Walter Roy	_____

NOVEMBER MEETING

DATE & PLACE: Thursday, November 9, 2000
College of Notre Dame of Maryland

AGENDA: 3:30 to 6:30 pm College students celebrating National Chemistry Week in the new chemistry laboratories of Knott Science Center (sponsored by the CND Chemistry Club and the faculty and staff of the CND Chemistry Department).

6:00 to 7:15 pm Social and Picnic Style Buffet

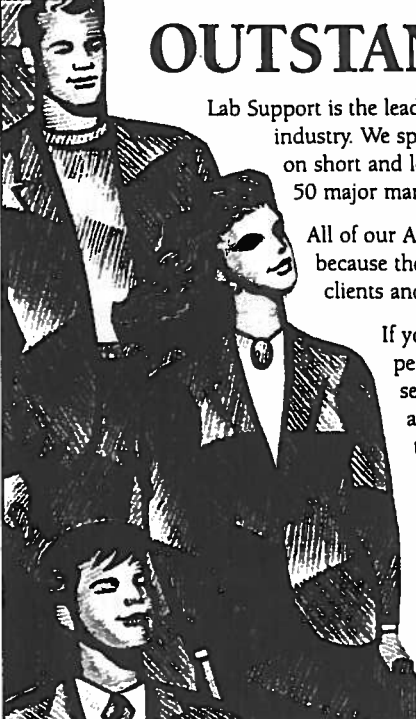
7:15 to 7:30 pm Introductions of awardees

7:30 to 8:45 pm Dr. Linda Sweeting, "Chemistry and Ethics"

Dinner price is \$13.00 for members, but spouses and retired members may attend for \$11.00; students may attend for \$6.00.

Make reservations by mailing checks, payable to Maryland Section of ACS, to Dr. Shirish Shah at the chemistry department of CND, 4701 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21210 by November 2. Reservations may also be made by calling Dr. Shah at 410-532-5712 or by e-mail at sshah@cndm.edu; payment at the door will also be accepted. You may attend the lecture without attending the dinner.

The College of Notre Dame is located approximately four miles south of the beltway on Charles Street. If you are coming from the north on Charles St. go to Homeland Ave. intersection and turn left. The first right on Homeland will be to the parking lot. From the south on Charles St. you pass the intersection of Cold Spring Lane and the next intersection will be Homeland Ave. Turn right on Homeland and the first right will be the campus parking lot. The dinner meeting is in Doyle Formal.




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THE CHEMIST'S CODE OF CONDUCT

The American Chemical Society expects its members to adhere to the highest ethical standards. Indeed, the federal Charter of the Society (1937) explicitly lists among its objectives "the improvement of the qualifications and usefulness of chemists through high standards of professional ethics, education, and attainments..."

Chemists have professional obligations to the public, to colleagues, and to science. One expression of these obligations is embodied in "The Chemist's Creed," approved by the ACS Council in 1965. The principles of conduct enumerated below are intended to replace "The Chemist's Creed." They were prepared by the Council Committee on Professional Relations, approved by the Council (March 16, 1994), and adopted by the Board of Directors (June 3, 1994) for the guidance of Society members in various professional dealings, especially those involving conflicts of interest.

CHEMISTS ACKNOWLEDGE RESPONSIBILITIES TO:

THE PUBLIC

Chemists have a professional responsibility to serve the public interest and welfare and to further knowledge of science. Chemists should actively be concerned with the health and welfare of co-workers, consumers, and the community. Public comments on scientific matters should be made with care and precision, without unsubstantiated, exaggerated, or premature statements.

THE SCIENCE OF CHEMISTRY

Chemists should seek to advance chemical science, understand the limitations of their knowledge, and respect the truth. Chemists should ensure that their scientific contributions, and those of their collaborators, are thorough, accurate, and unbiased in design, implementation, and presentation.

DECEMBER MEETING — The Maryland Chemist Award meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 13, 2000 at the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

THE PROFESSION

Chemists should remain current with developments in their field, share ideas and information, keep accurate and complete laboratory records, maintain integrity in all conduct and publications, and give due credit to the contributions of others. Conflicts of interest and scientific misconduct, such as fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism, are incompatible with this Code.

THE EMPLOYER

Chemists should promote and protect the legitimate interests of their employers, perform work honestly and competently, fulfill obligations, and safeguard proprietary information.

EMPLOYEES

Chemists, as employers, should treat subordinates with respect for their professionalism and concern for their well-being, and provide them with a safe, congenial working environment, fair compensation, and proper acknowledgment of their scientific contributions.

STUDENTS

Chemists should regard the tutelage of students as a trust conferred by society for the promotion of the student's learning and professional development. Each student should be treated respectfully and without exploitation.

ASSOCIATES

Chemists should treat associates with respect, regardless of the level of their formal education, encourage them, learn with them, share ideas honestly, and give credit for their contributions.

CLIENTS

Chemists should serve clients faithfully and incorruptibly, respect confidentiality, advise honestly, and charge fairly.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Chemists should understand and anticipate the environmental consequences of their work. Chemists have responsibility to avoid pollution and to protect the environment.

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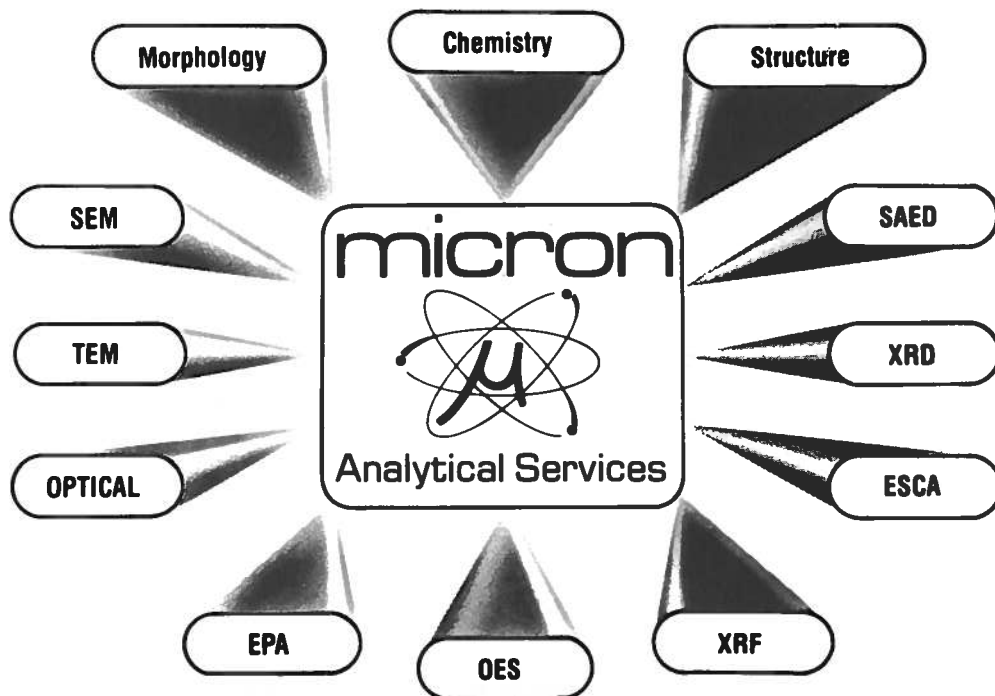
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Professional Analysis and Consulting Services, Inc. (PACS) has announced its 2001 schedule for courses and conferences. Courses provided cover: Mass Spectral Interpretation, LC-MS, Atomic Spectroscopy, Gas Chromatography, Quality Assurance of Chemical Measurements, ISO 9000, Environmental Data Validation, Toxicology, OSHA Laboratory Safety Standard, and Activated Carbon Adsorption.

To obtain your copy of the 2001 schedule please write or call. In addition to courses and conferences, PACS provides laboratory testing and consulting services.

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