

Chesapeake Chemist

*Maryland Section
American Chemical
Society*



September meeting at a glance:

**Dr. Robert L. von Tersch
Wednesday, September 12
College of Notre Dame**



"EDUCATING ANALYTICAL SCIENTISTS FOR OVER 40 YEARS"

MONDAY OCTOBER 1, 2001

Registration Opens 8 am
Oral Technical Sessions Begin 9 am
Poster Sessions Begin 11 am
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Employment Bureau Opens 10 am

TUESDAY OCTOBER 2, 2001

Registration Opens 8 am
Oral Technical Sessions Begin 9 am
Poster Sessions Begin 11 am
Exhibition Hours 10 am to 5 pm
Employment Bureau Opens 10 am
Special Symposium on the
Megan Kanka Homicide
Procter & Gamble Student Seminar on
Analytical Chemists in Industry

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 3, 2001

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Oral Technical Sessions Begin 9 am
Poster Sessions Begin 11 am
Exhibition Hours 10 am to 5 pm
Employment Bureau Opens 10 am

THURSDAY OCTOBER 4, 2001

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Undergraduate Poster Session
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The Chesapeake Chemist is published monthly September through May by the Maryland Section of the American Chemical Society. Send submissions to the editor in electronic format. Send advertising inquiries to the business manager; advertising copy must be provided in electronic format. The Maryland Section is not responsible for opinions expressed herein. Editorials express the opinions only of the authors. The editor is responsible for all unsigned material.

Council Meeting Minutes, ACS National Meeting, San Diego, California, April 4, 2001

Submitted by Merle Eiss

ACS president, Attila Pavlath opened the Council Meeting at 8:00 am. All four Maryland councilors, M. Eiss, D. Jones, D. Roswell, and C. Rowell, were in attendance. It was announced that the San Diego meeting had over 18,000 attendees, making it the second largest ACS meeting ever.

The council selected two candidates to run for president-elect in 2002, Elsa Reichmanis, Bell Labs, and William Carroll, Occidental Chemical Corp.

President Pavlath reported that he has visited 15 local sections to date this year and will visit many more sections before the year ends. He also mentioned that he is trying to place all interested councilors on ACS governance committees. To aid in that goal, the council voted to increase the size of six council committees from a maximum of 15 members to a maximum of 20 members.

In celebration of the 125th anniversary of the ACS, the president, executive director, and chair of the Board of Directors hosted a reception and dinner for presidents of international chemical societies. Twenty-eight presidents attended from Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The international presidents presented President Pavlath and the ACS with numerous outstanding gifts in honor of the occasion. President Pavlath gave each visiting president an ACS medal as a memento of the 125th anniversary.

Executive Director John Crum announced that the Board of Directors approved a new Strategic Plan for 2001-2003. The ten strategic thrusts of the society include information services, career development, science literacy and education, students and young chemists, women, under-represented minorities and persons with disabilities, underserved members working in industry, interdisciplinary activities, research funding, environmental issues, and public appreciation of chemistry.

ACS membership is over 163,000, making it the world's largest scientific society. To fund the strategic thrusts of the society and to maintain member services, the council voted to increase member dues \$4.00 to a total of \$112.00. There was no increase to dues in 2000 and only a small increase in 1999. Additionally, the Board of Directors approved the sum of \$300,000 over the next two years to help divisions and local sections in need.

The ACS Career Center had 849 job postings, and companies held over 4000 interviews with interested members. Also, to aid members with job searches and finding new career opportunities, ACS will launch a new website in June, www.jobspectrum.org.

The Committee on Professional Training announced that ACS has approved the chemistry curriculum of 619 colleges and universities.

The theme for National Chemistry Week 2001 is "Chemistry and Art."

A note from the editor: *After years of dedicated service, Ray Peterson has retired as editor of the Chesapeake Chemist. Upon taking over the task, I wanted to prepare the newsletter entirely on the computer and thought it might also be time for a new look. Stephanie Rowland Froberg of Rowland Designs conceived and executed our new masthead, which is still undergoing a little fine tuning, so expect a few more changes over the next several months. I hope you like the new look and will feel free to contribute your ideas and material to each issue.* Cindy Kronman

September Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, September 12, 2001

College of Notre Dame of Maryland, Doyle Formal Dining Room

Schedule

6:00-6:30 pm	Registration & Social
6:30-7:30 pm	Dinner (buffet)
7:30-7:40 pm	Local Section announcements
7:45-8:45 pm	Keynote: "Chemical Weapons Convention and Other Diplomatic Initiatives" Dr. Robert L. von Tersch Office of Chemical, Biological, and Missile Nonproliferation Bureau of Nonproliferation U.S. Department of State Washington, D.C. 20520

Cost: Members, \$18.00; Retired members and spouses, \$14.00; Students, \$10.00
For reservations, call Shirish Shah, 410-532-5712, e-mail: sshah@ndm.edu

Abstract

Chemical and biological weapons pose a threat to U.S. and Allied militaries as well as to innocent civilians, as the 1995 poison gas attack in the Tokyo subway showed. These weapons are attractive to countries or individuals seeking a mass-destruction capability because they are relatively cheap to produce and do not demand the elaborate technical infrastructure needed to make nuclear weapons. The Chemical Weapons Convention, the most ambitious treaty in the history of arms control, is a legally binding international standard outlawing the production, acquisition, stockpiling, transfer and use of chemical weapons. This treaty, which strengthens U.S. national security and contributes to global stability, is the first arms control treaty to widely affect the private sector. While the U.S. no longer manufactures chemical weapons, it does produce, process, and consume a number of chemicals that can be used to produce chemical weapons. The obligations incurred by this treaty will be discussed as will the commitments of an informal nonproliferation regime, the Australia Group. Additionally, the current status of a protocol to the Biological Weapons Convention will be briefly discussed.

Biographical note. Dr. von Tersch received his B.S. in chemistry from Fordham University under an Army ROTC scholarship and his Ph.D. in bioorganic chemistry from the University of Georgia. His graduate work involved the enzymatic synthesis of tyrosine derivatives. His other research interests are fluorinated amino acids and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy. Dr. von Tersch reported for active duty in 1992 and served as a research biochemist at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense, Aberdeen Proving Ground, where he did research to develop medical countermeasures to chemical warfare agents. A tour as assistant professor, teaching chemistry, biochemistry, and biology, at the U.S. Naval Academy followed. Since 1999 he has been assigned to the U.S. Department of State. At the State Department, he provides technical evaluations on items being proposed for export or control that are of concern because of their potential use in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; he has also served as a member of the U.S. delegation to the Biological Weapons Convention discussions in Geneva, Switzerland.

Catholic University chemist receives Helen M. Free Award

by Rodney Pearson

Chemist Diane M. Bunce of Anne Arundel County, Md., will be honored August 28 by the American Chemical Society for her efforts to promote a better understanding of chemistry among the general public. She will receive the 2001 Helen M. Free Award for Public Outreach from the world's largest scientific society at its 222nd national meeting in Chicago, Ill.

The Helen M. Free Award for Public Outreach is given each year to someone who makes a major effort to communicate to the public how the chemical sciences improve everyday life.

"Much of her success as a teacher is due to her ability to make chemistry not only understandable but also enjoyable, particularly for students who are not science majors," says John J. Convey, provost of Catholic University. "Diane Bunce makes chemistry come alive."

Dr. Bunce reaches out to an audience of students, teachers and parents through her chemistry workshops. These workshops consist of holiday lectures, experiments and hands-on demonstrations of how chemistry is "part of traditional celebrations in everyday life." Such workshops include "Chemistry of Egg Dyeing," "Come Dressed as Your Favorite Element for Halloween," "Chemistry of Your Thanksgiving Dinner," and "Chemistry of Hangovers for St. Patrick's Day."

Bunce also reaches out to lawmakers on Capitol Hill. She has testified before the House Committee on Science and the House Education and Workforce Committee to promote the professional development needs of science teachers. She also worked with the office of Representative Vernon Ehlers (R-MI) to sponsor an event during National Chemistry Week, a workshop in which approximately 50 legislative staff members participated.

"Outreach is not just a word to me. It's a way of life. Outreach defines a lot of who I am and what I do," Dr. Bunce said. "My version of public outreach encompasses everyone I come into contact with."

Diane Bunce is an associate professor of chemistry at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., where she has worked for 15 years. She received her B.S. in chemistry from Le Moyne College in 1972, M.A. in teaching (science education) from Cornell University in 1973, and Ph.D. in chemical education from University of Maryland College Park in 1984. She resides in Gambrills, Md., with her husband of 26 years and two sons.

The Nominating Committee reports the following slate of officers and councilors for 2002:

Chair:	Robert von Tersch	Members at large:	Saeed Khan
Vice Chair:	Walter Roy		Mark Banash
Chair-Elect:	Roslyn Powers		Demetrius Michos
Treasurer:	Angela Sherman		Jan Kolakowski
Councilors:	Charles Rowell		Sandra Young
	Merle Eiss		

2002 Esselen Award nominations requested

Judith Koob, 2002 Chair of the Esselen Award Committee

The Northeastern Section of the ACS invites nominations of candidates for the Gustavus John Esselen Award for Chemistry in the Public Interest. This award, which recognizes a chemist for outstanding achievement in scientific and technical work that contributes to the public well-being, consists of a \$5000 prize and a medal of recognition. The award ceremony is held in April at Harvard University, followed by a formal address by the awardee.

Any field of chemistry is valid as long as the scientific work has clearly contributed to the public well-being and its value to society has become apparent within the last five years.

To nominate a candidate, please provide statements from two co-sponsors as well as a brief biography of the candidate, a description of the work that has been recognized as communicating the positive values of the chemistry profession and copies of selected, pertinent articles. Popular news and feature articles should be included as an indication of public interest. Nominations and inquiries should be directed to Judith L. Koob, c/o Karen Piper, 19 Mill Road, Harvard, Mass., 01451. Joint nominations are acceptable

Deadline: Nominations should be posted no later than October 15, 2001. The committee will review the nominations, and the award recipient will be notified by the first of February.

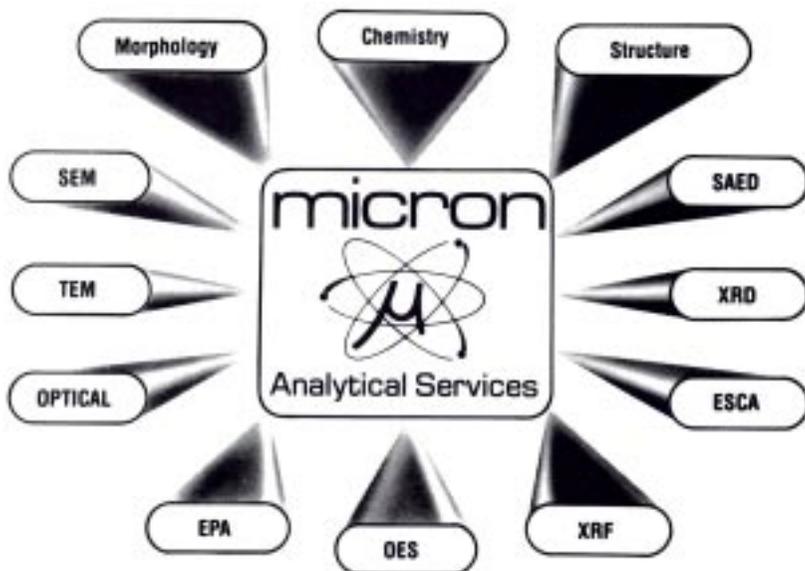
September Historical Events in Chemistry

by Leopold May, The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

- September 1, 1877 Birthday of Francis W. Aston, who introduced the mass spectrograph in 1919. He received the Nobel Prize "for his discovery, by means of his mass spectrograph, of isotopes, in a large number of non-radioactive elements, and for his enunciation of the whole-number rule."
- September 3, 1869 Birthday of Fritz Pregl, who was a researcher in microchemical analyses. He received the Nobel Prize in 1923, "for his invention of the method of micro-analysis of organic substances."
- September 5, 1892 Coca Cola Co. was incorporated.
- September 9, 1877 Birthday of Aleksandr E. Arbuzov, who studied organophosphorous compounds and the rearrangement of phosphite esters (Michaelis-Arbuzov reaction).
- September 11, 1894 Carl S. Marvel, who did research in organic chemistry and polymer synthesis, was born on this day.
- September 17, 1901 Peter Cooper Hewitt obtained a patent for mercury vapor lamp.
- September 22, 1791 Birthday of Michael Faraday. He discovered electromagnetic induction, specific inductive capacity, rotation of plane polarized light in a magnetic field and liquefied chlorine and other gases.
- September 23, 1915 Birthday of John Sheehan, who synthesized penicillin-V in 1957.
- September 27, 1818 Birthday of A.W. Herman Kolb, who was the first to use the word *synthesis*. He synthesized acetic and salicylic acids, proposed theory of radicals, and suggested the existence of secondary and tertiary alcohols.

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