

theCHEMICALbulletin

<http://chicagoacs.org>

SEPTEMBER • 2007

CHICAGO SECTION AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

Jointly with the Chemistry Department

of Loyola University

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2007

Loyola University
6525 North Sheridan Road
Chemistry Department/Flanner Hall
Chicago, IL
(773) 274-3000

DIRECTIONS TO THE MEETING:

Flanner Hall is located at 1068 West Sheridan Road on the Lake Shore campus of Loyola University, near the intersection of West Sheridan Road and Winthrop. **See page 2 for directions and parking.**

REGISTRATION 4:30 - 6:30 P.M.
Flanner Hall lobby

POSTER SESSION 4:30 - 6:30 P.M.
Loyola chemistry student research
Flanner Hall lobby

JOB CLUB 5:00 - 6:00 P.M.

PRE-DINNER TALK 5:00 - 6:00 P.M.
"Merck KGAA Case" presented by
Lawrence Steingold, patent attorney
and chemist

Mr. Steingold will talk about the Merck case and other Supreme Court decisions affecting chemical research and the ACS.

RECEPTION 5:30 - 6:30 P.M.
for **Roald Hoffman**, Nobel Laureate
Flanner Hall lobby

DINNER 6:30 P.M. sharp
Simpson Living Center

An excellent dinner will be in the nearby Simpson Living Center and will be served cafeteria style. The cafeteria provides a large variety of items on an all-you-can-eat basis. A portion of the cafeteria will be reserved for ACS attendees. Dinner admission tickets are

obtained at the ACS registration table in Flanner Hall for \$10.00 per person. No discounted dinners for students, retirees or unemployed.

Dinner reservations are required and should be received in the Section Office via **phone** (847-647-8405), **fax** (847-647-8364), **email** (chicagoacs@ameritech.net) or **website** (<http://chicagoacs.org>) by noon on Wednesday, September 25. PLEASE HONOR YOUR RESERVATIONS. The Section must pay for all dinner orders. No-shows will be billed.

GENERAL MEETING 8:00 P.M.

General Meeting Speaker



Dr. Roald Hoffmann, Frank H.T. Rhodes Professor of Humane Letters, Dept of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Cornell University, Baker Lab, Ithaca, NY

Title: "More about Mme. Lavoisier than M. Lavoisier"

Abstract: Marie Anne Paulze Lavoisier led a remarkable life -- from a privileged family, marrying Antoine Laurent Lavoisier at age 13, studying chemistry, English, art to help her husband, participating in his work, drawing the plates for his most important treatise, engraving them, losing her husband and father in one day to Jacobin terror, marrying (in a disastrous marriage) Count Rumford, another scientists, living on into the Empire. In the process of telling her story, we will learn a good bit about France at the time of the Revolution, and of M. Lavoisier's work on the foundations of modern chemistry. Mme. Lavoisier's accomplishments as an artist are traced through her work and letters in the Cornell University Libraries. Was she a chemist?

Speaker's Information: Roald Hoffmann was born in 1937 in Zloczow, Poland. Having survived the war, he came to the U. S. in 1949, and studied chemistry at Columbia and Harvard Universities (Ph.D. 1962). Since 1965 he has been at Cornell University, now as the Frank H. T. Rhodes Professor of Humane Letters. He has received many of the honors of his profession, including the 1981 Nobel Prize in Chemistry (shared with Kenichi Fukui).

(continued on page 2)

NOTICE TO ILLINOIS TEACHERS

The Chicago Section-ACS is an ISBE provider of professional development units for Illinois teachers. Teachers who register for this month's meeting will have the opportunity to earn up to 4 CPDU's.

(continued from page 1)

"Applied theoretical chemistry" is the way Hoffmann likes to characterize the particular blend of computations stimulated by experiment and the construction of generalized models of frameworks for understanding that is his contribution to chemistry. The pedagogical perspective is very strong in his work.

Notable at the same time is his reaching out to the general public; he participated, for example, in the production of a television course in introductory chemistry titled "The World of Chemistry," shown widely since 1990. And, as a writer, Hoffmann has carved out a land between science, poetry, and philosophy, through many essays and three books, *Chemistry Imagined* with artist Vivian Torrence, *The Same and Not the Same* (translated into six languages) and *Old Wine, New Flasks: Reflections on Science and Jewish Tradition*, with Shira Leibowitz Schmidt.

Dr. Hoffmann is also an accomplished poet and playwright. He began writing poetry in the mid-1970s, eventually publishing the first of a number of collections, *The Metamict State*, in 1987, followed three years later by *Gaps and Verges*, then *Memory Effects* (1999), *Soliton* (2002), and most recently, in Spanish, *Catalista*. He has also co-written a play with fellow chemist Carl Djerassi, entitled *Oxygen*, which has been performed worldwide, translated into ten languages. A second play by Roald Hoffmann, *Should've*, had its initial workshop production in Edmonton, Canada in 2006.

Unadvertised, a monthly cabaret he runs at the Cornelia Street Café in Greenwich Village, "Entertaining Science," has become the hot cheap ticket in NYC.

THE ACS INTERNATIONAL E-NEWSLETTER

The ACS Office of International Activities publishes bimonthly in electronic form the AC&CS International E-Newsletter. It is designed to provide information on activities, networks, resources, products and services related to international aspects of chemical sciences, technology, engineering and innovation. For information on international meetings and conferences, visit <http://chemistry.org/meetings> to search and view opportunities. Should you have questions, comments or suggestions for content, please contact the ACS Office of International Activities at intlacts@acs.org.

DIRECTIONS TO THE MEETING:

By public transportation:

Take the CTA Red Line train to the Loyola stop.

From Downtown Chicago:

Take the Outer Drive north to its end. Follow Sheridan Road north until it turns west at 6500 N. Follow directions below to parking.

From the West and O'Hare Airport:

From O'Hare take I-294 North to the Touhy Avenue East exit (This is the very first exit after toll plaza.)

Proceed East on Touhy to Talcott, the first stoplight. Turn right onto Talcott and go to Devon (first stoplight after passing high school). Turn left on Devon and continue on to Caldwell. Turn right on Caldwell (this road becomes Petersen) to Western. Turn north on Western to Devon. Turn east on Devon and continue east to Kenmore Avenue.

Turn left on Kenmore to the Loyola campus.

See parking information below.

From North and Edens Expressway (I-94):

Take I-94 (Edens Expressway) to the Peterson Avenue East Exit. Take Peterson east to Western Avenue. Turn left on Western (North) to Devon and go east. Continue going east to Kenmore Avenue.

Turn left on Kenmore to the Loyola campus.

See parking information below.

SEE ALSO DETAILED MAPS ON OUR WEBSITE

PARKING: Enter the campus at the intersection of Kenmore and Sheridan Road and bear to the left. Parking is available at the parking deck next to Flanner Hall for \$6.00. Enter the garage at the entrance marked "Faculty, Students, Guests, Visitors." When leaving the garage, first purchase an exit parking ticket at the pay station machine located near the garage stairs and elevators.

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"CHEM SHORTS" For Kids

The Elementary Education Committee of the Chicago Section ACS presents this column. They hope that it will reach young children and help increase their science literacy. Please cut it out and pass it on to your children, grandchildren, or elementary school teachers. It is hoped that teachers will incorporate some of the projects in this column into their lesson plans.

Static Power

Kids, can you imagine being able to bend water with static electricity? When two objects are rubbed against each other, some of the electrons from one object jump to the other. The object that gains electrons becomes negatively charged; the one that loses electrons becomes positively charged. The opposite charges attract each other in a way that you can actually see.

One way to collect charge is to comb your hair with a nylon comb or rub it with a balloon. The comb or balloon will become attracted to your hair, while the strands of your hair (all the same charge) repel each other. The comb or balloon will also attract a stream of water, believe it or not, because the water stream carries an electrical charge.

Here is what to do:

1. Comb your dry hair with a nylon comb or rub it with an inflated latex balloon.
2. Turn on the tap so that a narrow stream of water is flowing (1-2 mm across, flowing smoothly).
3. Move the balloon or side of the comb close to the water (not in it). As you approach the water, the stream will begin to slightly bend.

Experiments: It is fun to test these questions and try these variations. Does the amount of 'bend' depend on how close the comb is to the water? If you adjust the flow, does it affect how much the stream bends? Do combs made from other materials work equally well? How does a comb compare with a balloon? Do you get the same effect from everyone's hair or does some hair release more charge than others? Can you get your hair close enough to the water to repel it without getting it wet?

Tip: This activity works better when the humidity is low. When humidity is high, water vapor catches some of the elec-

trons that would otherwise jump between the rubbed objects. For the same reason, your hair needs to be completely dry when you comb it.

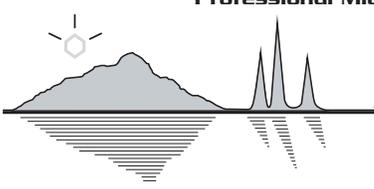
References: Anne Marie Helmenstine at <http://chemistry.about.com/od/chemistryexperiments/ht/bendwater.htm>

EDITED BY K. A. CARRADO,
ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY

All past "ChemShorts": <http://membership.acs.org/C/Chicago/ChmShort/kidindex.html>

September, 2007 Vol. 94, No. 7.
Published by the Chicago Section of
The American Chemical Society,
Editorial Staff: Cheryl Bradley, Editor;
Fran Kravitz, Associate Editor;
Fadwa Al-Taher and Richard Trep-
tow, Proofreaders; Frank Jarzembowski,
Publications Business Manager. Address:
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Frequency: monthly-September through June.

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THE CHEMICAL BULLETIN ADVERTISING RATE SCHEDULE

The official newsletter of the Chicago Section American Chemical Society, The Chemical Bulletin, publishes news and information of interest to the Section's 4,600 members, who are professional chemists and others in related professions in industry, academia and government throughout greater Chicago.

SIZE	DIMENSIONS	RATE
Full Page	7.5" wide x 10" depth	\$700
2/3 Page (2 columns)	4.917" wide x 10" depth	\$530
1/2 Page	3.75" wide x 10" depth	\$500
1/3 Page (1 column)	2.333" wide x 10" depth	\$360
1/2 Column	2.333" wide x 5" depth	\$190
Business Card	3.5" wide x 2" depth	\$95

We accept ads sent in jpg, tif, pdf, or quark formats. For more information, contact chicagoacs@ameritech.net or call 847-647-8405. Fax insertion orders to 847-647-8364.

TWENTY YEARS OF NATIONAL CHEMISTRY DAY/WEEK

In 1986, ACS President George Pimentel envisioned a National Chemistry Day (NCD) and the first celebration was held in 1987. It included a parade in the streets of Washington, DC and the participation of 173 ACS local sections. The July 2007 issue of the *Journal of Chemical Education*, pages 192-3, has an article summarizing the history of this important community outreach program.

The opening two paragraphs of the *JChemEd* article well summarize what NCD/W is all about:

"This year marks the 20th anniversary of National Chemistry Week (NCW). Each year NCW, a program of the American Chemical Society (ACS), informs millions of people about the positive contributions of chemistry to everyday life. The program is designed to reach the public, especially elementary and secondary school children, with positive messages about chemistry. Thousands of ACS volunteers, teachers and students celebrate NCW in their communities and schools.

"During the fourth week of every October, these NCW enthusiasts can be found organizing hands-on activities and demonstrations at malls, museums, schools, stores, and neighborhoods, to name a few. Their passion for celebrating chemistry each year has captured the attention of thousands of children who anxiously await for the exciting and fun hands-on activities relating to NCW's theme."

A different theme is selected every year by the ACS Committee on Community Activities, the oversight committee for NCW. The theme provides a focus for the celebration and emphasizes the enormous range of applications and benefits due to the creativity and effort of chemists.

NCW continues to be one of the main outreach programs of local sections. After 20 years, according to the *Journal of Chemical Education* article, over 80% of the approximately 190 local sections participate. Approximately 40% of those participating are non-ACS members.

Since the creation of NCW, the Chicago section, one of the original five pilot local sections that began celebrating in 1986, has sponsored celebrations. The first one was conducted November 1, 1986 at the Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry. There was an attendance between 300-500 people. The keynote speaker at the opening ceremony was then ACS President-elect Mary Good. Awards were presented to outstanding chemistry students and

there was a chemical demonstration show by Professor Mark Ratner of Northwestern University. A report from the day's activities written by then chair, Louis Sacco, says that it was "highly entertaining and painlessly educational. Young people were fascinated and watched transfixed. It was all free and the public loved it".

In 1989, IIT hosted NCD and photographs of exhibits displayed at that event in Wishnick Hall are accessible at chicagoacs.org. Note that the slogan (now widely used in national periodicals), "Chemists are the Human Element", was created at IIT for that event.

The Chicago section-sponsored celebrations have occurred at the Museum of Science and Industry, the Shedd Aquarium, Loyola University of Chicago and University of Illinois at Chicago.

Can Our Section Do More?

Analysis of the seven million people who populate the seven counties in the Chicago section's geographical domain suggests that we have 800,000 students in grades five through 12. The Chicago section's annual NCD Saturday event draws 600 to 1000 students and teachers. Thus, we are attracting only about 0.1 % of the potential audience.

Not generally known is what other NCD/W celebrations happen in metro Chicago. Given that the Chicago section has almost 5,000 members, one of the larger ACS local sections, and that it contains many colleges, universities and high schools with space conducive to mounting such celebrations, the possibility exists that multiple celebrations, selected on a rotating basis or even happening concurrently, could be conducted. Furthermore, events could be coordinated in collaboration with local chemistry-based industry. Many more students could be accommodated if there were multiple celebration sites. Aspects of appropriate sites would include location, capacity, proximity to expressways and public transportation. A major effort would need to be made regarding adequate publicity as well as recruitment of volunteers.

So chemists of metro Chicago, are we ready to raise our sights and to realize much more of our potential to students?

PETER LYKOS
(with JUDITH JANKOWSKI, Manager of Office of Community Activities, ACS)

2007 BASOLO MEDAL GOES TO RICHARD R. SCHROCK

Northwestern University will honor **Professor Richard R. Schrock**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and 2005 Nobel Laureate, with the Basolo Medal for recognition of work in inorganic chemistry. Named for Northwestern University chemistry professor Fred Basolo, the award is given by Northwestern University and cosponsored by the ACS Chicago Section. Professor Schrock will deliver the award lecture at the Northwestern University Technological Institute, Evanston, IL, on October 19.

The Medal presentation will follow the lecture at the Chicago Section's meeting. Meeting information and additional details may be found at the section's website, www.chicagoacs.org. Reservations may be made on-line or by calling (847) 647-8405.

POP TOP RINGS COLLECTION

Instead of throwing away those pop top rings from your pop cans, please bring them to the dinner meeting so we can donate them to a program at Ronald McDonald House.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

In August, the Chicago Section joined with the other ACS Illinois Local Sections to sponsor a booth at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield. I want to thank all of the Chicago Section members, their families, and friends who volunteered to support this activity. Special thanks go to Fran Kravitz and Cherlyn Bradley for leading this outreach project over the last several years.

The Chicago Section's 2007 elections are in progress; the Nominations Committee and the Board have put together a strong list of candidates. Take a few minutes to vote for the candidates of your choice; every vote is important.

Our September section meeting will be on Friday, September 28. The speaker for this meeting is Professor Roald Hoffmann from Cornell University, who received the 1981 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. His research interests are in the electronic structure of stable and unstable molecules, and of transition states in reactions. A chemist and teacher with a wide range of personal and professional interests, Professor Hoffmann is frequently asked to be a keynote speaker. His presentation will be one of the highlights of our section meetings this year. Please join us for what promises to be a wonderful evening.

Remember that Chemistry Day is taking place on Saturday, October 20 at IIT. We need volunteers for our program that day. Check the section website for details on these events and other section activities.

KEN FIVIZZANI

NEXT ISSUE

will be for the
October 19
Basolo Medal Award
Lecture, Dinner
and Presentation

WCC COLUMN

Members of the Chicago Section's Womn Chemists Committee (WCC) are developing outreach plans for Chicago Area section members and the community. These plans include a column in *The Chemical Bulletin* covering topics such as networking, career development, and vignettes of women in science, particularly chemistry. This month's topic is about **Barbara McClintock**.

JUMPING GENES!

Barbara McClintock (1902-1992) developed an interest in genetics while attending Cornell University where she earned her B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. After graduation, her job prospects were bleak. In 1935, she wrote, "No sign of a job has turned up for me as yet. I can't say that it makes me very peppy to still be in the unemployed list." In the spring of 1936, she accepted a position at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Each spring, Barbara McClintock would plant her corn in an experimental plot of ground at UMC. In the summer, she de-tasseled the corn and cross-pollinated selected plants, a process to produce genetic changes. Subsequently, she planted the corn seeds and studied the genes and 10 chromosomes in the root stems of the corn plants. Keeping meticulous laboratory records, the decades of research led to the revolutionary hypothesis that the genes can move around from one chromosome to another—they were transposable. The idea that genes could move did not seem to fit with what was known about genes before the 1960s.

After moving to Cold Spring Harbor in 1941, she began using X-rays to look for genes in fruit flies, maize and other organisms. The X-rays caused mutations and the geneticist could experi-

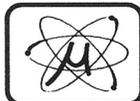
mentally map the mutation to a particular chromosome or site thereon. She discovered the "breakage-fusion-bridge" cycle of maize chromosomes (*i.e.*, a mechanism of genetic transposition) and reaffirmed her status as one of the great figures of maize cytogenetics. The new concept of genetic transposition led to new theories on genetic control. Initially, theories of genetic controlling elements and regulators of gene expression faced tremendous skepticism because, at that time in history, genetic material was believed to be static and unchanging as it passed from one generation to the next. As historian Evelyn Fox Kerrer has written, McClintock's work was greeted with "stony silence." The reality was puzzlement on how to integrate the startling discoveries into a coherent scheme.

The skepticism began to moderate in the 1960s after Francois Jacob and Jacques Monod published theories of genetic regulation. In the 1970s, other geneticists reported finding genetic transpositions in bacteria, viruses and yeast. In medical applications, genetic transpositions conferred resistance to drugs used to treat bacterial, viral and yeast infections. Genetic transpositions also had important implications for cancer, immunology and genetic engineering.

McClintock's research was validated after there was a biochemical explanation of genetic transpositions. In the 1970s, McClintock received widespread recognition of her early work in 1940-60. Her accolades were numerous throughout the 1970s. Major awards in 1981 included the first MacArthur Foundation "genius" Grant and the Albert and Mary Lasker Award. In 1983, at the age of 81, she received the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine for her work on "mobile genetic elements," *viz.*, McClintock's discovery of genetic transposition and jumping genes. McClintock was the first woman to receive an unshared Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine.

Read more on the web, including a biographical memoir by Nina V. Fedoroff (<http://books.nap.edu/html/biomems/bmclintock.html>) and Evelyn Fox Keller's 1983 book, *A Feeling for the Organism*.

SHARON J. NORTHUP



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SECTION DUES

Members are urged to pay the \$15 Section dues when you get your annual ACS membership dues statement. The Section needs this revenue to help support its activities.

JOB CLUB

The next meeting of the **Chicago Section ACS Job Club** will be held on Friday, **Sept. 28 at 5:00 p.m. at Loyola**. The meeting will include a review and discussion of some of the tools that a chemist can use to conduct a job search.

The Job Club provides a continuing opportunity for unemployed members of the Section to meet with one another, share their experiences and develop a network that may help in identifying employment opportunities. Bring plenty of resumes and business cards to distribute to your colleagues. Be prepared to talk about the kind of job you are seeking.

Several participants have received outsource help with resume preparation and marketing strategies to present their best attributes to prospective employers. The group has critiqued some individual resumes and made suggestions for improvements in a positive way!

The Job Club is also for employers seeking chemists. Employers need to be prepared to describe the positions to be filled and requirements for these positions.

Should you wish to attend the Section's dinner meeting following the Job Club, the cost is \$10 and you can continue your networking activities. Please call the Section office for reservations and indicate that you are eligible for a discount.

Also, the Chicago Section's website has a link to the Job Club's yahoo job forum group. If you can't attend the Job Club, you can still find out about job openings and other information.

THE GREEN CHEMISTRY RESOURCE EXCHANGE

The Green Chemistry Resource Exchange is a new, web-based, dynamic database hosted by the ACS Green Chemistry Institute. The resource exchange links researchers with green chemistry information, examples, tools and resources. Search and Browse the resource exchange with a keyword or select from a list of over 60 search categories at:

www.GreenChemEx.org

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LOCAL STUDENTS AT THE 2007 USNCO STUDY CAMP

The ACS Chicago Section announces the names of two outstanding high school chemistry students, **Ari Frankel** (Chicagoland Jewish High School) and **Jonathan Thirman** (New Trier High School), who became members of the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad team that competed in the 39th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) in Moscow, Russia, July 15-24, 2007. Ari and Jonathan were among the top twenty students from the USNCO National Exam who qualified to attend the USNCO Study Camp in Colorado.

The IChO involves a series of theoretical exams, laboratory exercises, and other activities aimed at identifying the best chemistry students from participating nations from around the world. This was the twenty-third year of participation. In 2006, the U.S. team was awarded three silver medals and one bronze medal. A total of 254 students represented 66 countries at the 2006 IChO in Gyeongsan, Republic of Korea.

Congratulations to those ACS Chicago Section students who scored in the top 150 (Honors ranking) and top 50 (High Honors ranking) on the National USNCO Exam held at Loyola University.

Honors:

Richard Kahn, Chicagoland Jewish HS
 Cory Smith, Walter Payton HS
 Alex Schneider, Highland Park HS
 Sarah Shareef, IMSA
 Dennis Kreiter, Glenbrook South HS

High Honors:

Vamsi Aribindi, Naperville North HS
 Ari Frankel, Chicagoland Jewish HS
 Winston Luo, Glenbrook South HS
 Jonathan Thirman, New Trier HS

Special thanks to Dr. David Crumrine and Loyola University for hosting the 2007 Local and National USNCO Exam.

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OLD ATHLETIC SHOES NEEDED

The Chicago Section ACS is collecting used athletic shoes for a community project being performed by Steven Edelman, son of Fran Kravitz. The project is called Nike-Reuse-a-Shoe. Nike recycles shoes of any brand and donates the Nike Grind material for new sports surfaces like playgrounds for kids who wouldn't otherwise have access to high-performance sports surfaces to play on.

Athletic shoes will be collected at the Chicago Section ACS dinner meetings through October. Won't you please help others by giving your used athletic shoes of any brand to this worthwhile project?

CALENDAR

September 5: Chicago Chemists' Club will have a tour of the Evelyn Pease Tyner Interpretive Center at 2400 Compass Road, Glenview, IL at 5:15 p.m., led by Evelyn Tyner. Following the tour, we will meet at 6 p.m. at the Brave Cucina Italiana Restaurant at 2600 Navy Blvd. Glenview, IL. After dinner Evelyn will show nature slides and talk about her work to bring about a better environment.

September 16-20: The 121st AOAC International Annual Meeting and Exposition, Hyatt Regency Orange County, Anaheim, CA. For more information, visit <http://www.aoac.org>.

September 20: Chicago Section Board Meeting, 7173 N. Austin Ave., Niles, IL. Call the Section office at 847-647-8405.

September 28: Chicago Section's dinner meeting at Loyola University. Patent attorney, Lawrence Steingold, is the pre-dinner speaker. Roald Hoffmann, Cornell University, is the after-dinner speaker. **See details in this issue.**

October 5: Microchemical Methods course, McCrone Research Institute, 2820 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago. Go to www.mcri.org for more information or call (312) 842-7100.

October 11: Chicago Section Board Meeting, 7173 N. Austin Ave., Niles, IL. Call the Section office at 847-647-8405.

October 19: Basolo Medal Award joint dinner meeting of the Chicago Section ACS and Northwestern University.

October 20: Chemistry Day, IIT. Call the section office at (847) 647-8405 for more information and visit www.chicagoacs.org.

October 30 - November 1: 2007 CHEM SHOW featuring the latest equipment, technologies, trends and materials for the chemical process industries from leading manufacturers worldwide will be held in New York City, Jacob K. Javits Convention Center. For further information, visit the CHEM SHOW web site at www.chemshow.com for complete information or contact Show Manager Mark Stevens at the International Exposition Company (203-221-9232 ext. 14 or mstevens@iecshows.com).

November 7-10: ACS Midwest Regional Meeting, Intercontinental Hotel, Country Club Plaza, Kansas City, MO. For further information, go to <http://membership.acs.org/m/mwrm2007>

November 8: Chicago Section Board Meeting, 7173 N. Austin Ave., Niles, IL. Call the Section office at 847-647-8405.

November 16: Chicago Section's Education Night dinner meeting. Zafra Lerman, Columbia College Chicago, is the after-dinner speaker.

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