

theCHEMICALbulletin

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FEBRUARY • 2007

CHICAGO SECTION AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

Joint Meeting With the American Institute of Chemical Engineers

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2007

European Crystal Banquet
& Conference Center
519 W. Algonquin Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
Parlor BC
847- 437- 5590

DIRECTIONS TO THE MEETING

From Chicago:

Take I-90 West. Exit at Arlington Heights Road and turn right (north). Go to the first stoplight, which is Algonquin Road. Turn left onto Algonquin and go 1/2 mile to European Crystal.

From Northern Indiana:

Take I-294 North to I-90 West. Exit I-90 at Arlington Heights Road and turn right (north). Then follow the directions given above.

From I-290/I-355 or Route 53:

I-290 & I-355 will merge with Route 53. Take Route 53 North to I-90 East. Exit at Arlington Heights Road and turn left (north). Then follow the directions given above.

PARKING: Free

Job Club: 5:00 - 6:00 P.M.

SOCIAL HOUR: 5:30- 6:30 P.M.
Cash Bar

DINNER 6:30 P.M.

Menu: Entrée choice of Brochette of Beef on Bed of Rice with Peppercorn Sauce, Broiled Whitefish with Rice Pilaf, or Vegetarian (Sauteed vegetables in Phyllo with Vegetable Puree); dinner includes soup, salad, and a medley of broccoli, baby carrots & rutabaga, rolls and butter, choice of beverage, and homemade cheesecake with cherry sauce for dessert.

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 **online** ([http:// membership.acs.org/C/ Chicago](http://membership.acs.org/C/Chicago)) by noon on Tuesday, February 20. The dinner cost is \$30 to Section members who have paid their local section dues, members' families, and visiting ACS members. The cost to non-Section members is \$32. The cost to students and unemployed members is \$15. Seating will be available for those who wish to attend the meeting without dinner. PLEASE HONOR YOUR RESERVATIONS. The Section must pay for all dinner orders. No-shows will be billed.

DONATION POP TOP RINGS

Save the environment and help the Ronald McDonald House at the same time. The Chicago Section American Chemical Society collects pop top rings, those little rings on top of your soda can. The section has a goal of collecting one million pop top rings.

Just a little trivia, one million pop top rings weigh 790 pounds.

What will we do with all those pop top rings? They will be taken to a collection site near Loyola University Medical Center and the money from the aluminum will be donated directly into the operating costs of the Ronald McDonald House. Ronald McDonald House provides a temporary "home away from home" for families of seriously ill or injured children who are in the hospital.

So, please help the cause by bringing your pop top rings to a monthly section dinner meeting and putting them in the jar at the registration desk.

GENERAL MEETING 8:00 P.M.



Dr. Bruce R. Cook, Senior Research Associate, ExxonMobil Research and Engineering Company, Annandale, NJ

Topic: "Chemistry of Gasoline Sulfur Reduction"

Abstract: Regulations to reduce the sulfur level in gasoline to less than 50 ppm by weight are in place or planned in many countries. The primary source of sulfur in gasoline is Fluid Catalytic

(continued on page 2)

NOTICE TO ILLINOIS TEACHERS

The Chicago Section ACS is an ISBE provider for professional development units for Illinois teachers. Teachers who register for this month's meeting will have the opportunity to earn up to 3 CPDU's.

(continued from page 1)

Cracking (FCC) cat naphtha, which contributes approximately 50 wt% of gasoline pool volume but nearly 95% of gasoline sulfur. Critical to the economics of any gasoline desulfurization process is the ability to effectively remove sulfur due to the sulfur-containing mercaptans, thiophenes, and benzothiophenes in FCC naphtha without saturating the important high octane olefins present.

ExxonMobil's SCANfining I and II processes have been developed to meet these goals and have seen broad commercial application. Three critical steps are typically part of most commercial FCC naphtha hydrodesulfurization (HDS) processes. The first of these is a step designed to react or remove the mercaptan sulfur found in the lightest fraction of FCC naphtha without saturating the large amount of important C5/C6 olefins in this boiling range. The second critical step is a selective HDS process to maximize the desulfurization of thiophenic sulfur, while minimizing the saturation of important C7/C8 olefins in intermediate or combined intermediate/heavy cat naphtha. The third critical process step involves minimizing mercaptan formation from the reaction of product H₂S with feed olefins (mercaptan reversion).

This talk will focus on the critical processes involved in producing gasoline and the chemistry of all three critical process steps for removing sulfur from gasoline.

Biography: Dr. Bruce Cook was born in Grand Rapids, MI. He received his B.S. degree in chemistry from Hope College, Holland MI in 1981 and his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1986. His thesis research, under the direction of Professor Kenneth Suslick, was on shape selective catalytic and photo-catalytic oxidations of hydrocarbons with metallo-porphyrin catalysts.

In 1986, Dr. Cook joined Exxon Research and Development Laboratories in Baton Rouge, LA where he was involved in exploratory research on catalytic reforming, fluid catalytic cracking (FCC), catalytic hydroprocessing and thermal cracking. In 1995, Dr. Cook moved to what is now ExxonMobil Corporate Strategic Research (EM-CSR) located in Annandale, NJ. At EM-CSR, Dr. Cook has pursued fundamental research in the areas of Fischer-Tropsch Wax hydroisomerization, selective FCC

naphtha hydroprocessing (SCANfining), and Fluid Catalytic Cracking. He is currently ExxonMobil Team Leader for Exploratory Fluid Catalytic Cracking Research.

Dr. Cook holds 30 US Patents and is the co-author of 17 publications. He is also a co-recipient of the 2001 ACS Southwest Region Industrial Innovation Award, the 2005 ACS Heroes of Chemistry Award, and the NJ R&D Council's 2006 Thomas Alva Edison Patent Award for his research leading to the commercialization of ExxonMobil's SCANfining Processes.

JOB CLUB

The next meeting of the **Chicago Section ACS Job Club will be held on Thursday, February 22 at 5:00 p.m. at European Crystal Banquet & Conference Center.**

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 \$15 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.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Many of the activities of the Chicago Section depend on the efforts of volunteers to be successful. In most cases, a contribution of a few hours on a single day will lead to the success of an event. **During 2007, we have at least four events that need volunteers in addition to the officers and members of the board.** The Spring ACS National Meeting will take place in Chicago on March 25-29. We need volunteers (volunteers do not have to register for the meeting) to staff the Hospitality Booth at McCormick Place and help fellow ACS members obtain information they need about Chicago. Members may want to know about interesting things to do in the city, how to get to specific destinations, or what restaurants a local resident might recommend. There will be some standard tourist information in the booth, so the volunteer's role would be to supplement or clarify information in these materials. Also, our community outreach program on Saturday, March 24, needs coordinators at each of the project sites.

On April 22, we will help to celebrate Earth Day; this is a relatively new activity for us. During August 10-19, our section joins the other Illinois ACS Sections in staffing a booth during the Illinois State Fair in Springfield. This is a great opportunity to educate a large number of people about how chemistry benefits our lives. We need several volunteers to work in the booth during the ten days of the fair. Finally, we continue to have an active program on Chemistry Day in October. Last year, we had to cancel our Chemistry Day event, so we want this year's event to be as good as it can be. If you have an interest and can volunteer for any of these events, please contact the section, either through our website at <http://chicagoacs.org> or by sending an email to the section office.

KEN FIVIZZANI

"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.

Note: This is the 150th installment of "ChemShorts for Kids"!!

Cooking with Copper Chemistry

Kids, did you know that whipping egg whites in a copper bowl gives different results from beating them in a glass, ceramic, or steel bowl? One common technique used in baking is to whisk egg whites in order to make especially light, airy or fluffy delicacies. When air is whisked into egg whites, the mechanical action starts to "unfold" the proteins in the whites. The scientific term for this is to "denature". The denatured proteins begin to stick together, (or "coagulate"), stiffening the foam and stabilizing the air bubbles. If the foam is overbeaten in a non-copper bowl, eventually the proteins become completely denatured and coagulate into clumps. This is not a good thing.

It turns out that, in copper bowls, the egg whites react with the metal in the bowl to produce a complex that gives the egg whites a golden color. Some copper ions migrate from the bowl into the egg whites. They become harder to overbeat and give long-lasting "peaks" (a cooking term used to describe shapes that can stand on their own). Copper bowls produce a yellowish, creamy foam that is harder to overbeat than the foam produced using glass or stainless steel bowls. The copper ions

(continued in column 3)

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form a yellow complex with one of the proteins in eggs, conalbumin. The conalbumin-copper complex is more stable than the conalbumin alone, so egg whites whipped in a copper bowl are less likely to denature (unfold).

If a copper bowl is used, then fewer protein molecules are free to denature and coagulate, because some are tied up in conalbumin-copper complexes. In addition to forming complexes with conalbumin, the copper may also react with sulfur-containing groups on other proteins, further stabilizing the egg proteins. Although the iron and zinc found in other metal bowls also form complexes with conalbumin, these complexes don't make the foam more stable. When glass or steel bowls are used, cream of tartar may be added to egg whites to stabilize the whites.

Try all of these things with an adult partner using several eggs, several different types of bowls, cream of tartar, and a mixer. Here is a meringue recipe to check out the different results of your experiments in something edible: 3 egg whites, 6 tablespoons sugar, 1/2 teaspoon vanilla. Beat eggs until frothy. Add sugar gradually and continue beating until stiff peaks form. Add vanilla. Place by the tablespoon onto a cookie sheet and bake at 325° for 15 to 20 minutes. Do your meringue cookies look or taste different based on your cooking variations? Enjoy!

SUBMITTED BY
KATHLEEN A. CARRADO

Reference:
<http://chemistry.about.com/od/howthingswork/faqs/f/copperbowl.htm>

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

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VIDEO CONFERENCING SUPPORT OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES IN METRO CHICAGO

In 1976, I was assigned to bring IITV into existence at IIT. That meant getting on top of the technology, designing and mounting a marketing effort, and arranging for IIT faculty to offer their on campus courses in studio classrooms so we could share their courses for credit with remotely sited students in real time and audio interactively.

Seventeen months later we had 17 subscriber receiving sites, and had doubled our capacity from two TV channels to four. And our growth was such that we had become self supporting. We had joined forces with the National Technological University (NTU) a cooperative where some 40 engineering schools shared some of their TV delivered courses, via satellite, with a footprint covering the entire United States. Thus NTU students enjoyed the crème de crème of the faculty from each of those engineering schools for which they were happy to pay a premium to enjoy. We also organized a national conference on how professional societies conducted continuing education for their memberships. (That earned "three atta boys".)

That outreach included getting the interest and cooperation of the then Director of Argonne National Laboratory, Bob Sachs, who not only committed Argonne to become a receiving site but who also agreed to the potential of sharing some of the many high level visiting scientists visiting Argonne by shipping the signal from the Argonne seminar rooms to the top of the Sears Tower from which IIT was broadcasting with an outreach of 50 miles.

Another aspect of marketing IITV was that a cold call to Walter Cherry, owner of Cherry Electrical Products in Waukegan led to an expanding relationship where Walt became an important benefactor of IIT and in the process benefited himself from that association.

Yet a third aspect was realized when I called on the President of the College of Du Page regarding becoming a receiving site for IITV to better serve his community. His Provost noted there was a recently vacated building where we could not only house receiving sites for each of our channels but to rent regular classrooms and office space as well. Thus was born IIT West. After five consecutive semesters of course enrollment doubling IIT was able to make the case for receiving a land grant from the Rice Foundation to build its own space in Wheaton, the so-called Rice Campus

that continues to flourish as one of our satellite campuses

With the emergence of the internet and the World Wide Web, distance learning was enhanced and IIT augmented IITV with that technology where now outreach became international with courses being delivered for credit to students in 100 countries.

Of course video conferencing has also entered the scene. Argonne became the origin of Access Grid (Google the term) whereby multipoint video conferencing supports sight and sound exchange of information by small groups of people engaged in a common venture concurrently at different sites. For example staff at Argonne communicate in that mode with chemists at Northwestern University. Indeed, Access Grid has become a separate commercial venture that supports such interconnections all over the world.

Finally we should note that all it takes is a small complement of equipment (video camera, video projector, PC with software support (for example from Microsoft), and a modem to set up a minimal node) whereby video conferencing can support several sites concurrently such as might be used by a professional society like the Chicago Section so that programming for its 4,600 members spread over a seven county area in NW Indiana and NE Illinois. Perhaps a consortium of engineering and science professional societies can share the cost of creating and maintaining such a live programming distribution system supporting a small number of sites each supporting a small subgroup of participants.

Second city indeed!

PETER LYKOS
Oak Park, IL

CALL FOR SCHOLARS PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

The American Chemical Society Scholars Program is now accepting applications for the 2007-2008 academic year. Information and the applications documents can be found on our web site at <http://chemistry.org/scholars>. Applicants can now apply ON-LINE at the same web site!

Alternatively, interested individuals can contact us by e-mail at scholars@acs.org; they can call toll-free 1-800-227-5558, extension 6250; or they can write to:
American Chemical Society
Scholars Program
1155 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

DEADLINES FOR CHEMICAL BULLETIN

Please submit all *Chemical Bulletin* copy to the editor before the deadlines listed below for each issue. Articles can be emailed to the editor, Cherlyn Bradley, cbrad1027@aol.com.

Since we like the Bulletin to be as timely as possible, we need the lead time indicated. You can help by early planning and submission of your information or articles.

2007 Issue	Deadline
April	February 23
May	March 23
June	April 27
September	July 13
October	August 24
November	September 21
December	October 12

Note: Next month's issue will be the special National Meeting in Chicago issue. IT WILL ALSO CONTAIN THE REGULAR MARCH MONTHLY DINNER MEETING INFORMATION.

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DUPAGE AREA ENGINEERS WEEK EXPO: CELEBRATING SUSTAINABLE ENGINEERING

Events for the 23rd Annual DuPage Area Engineers Week will be held **Thursday, February 22 and Saturday, February 24, 2007** at the Illinois Institute of Technology's (IIT's) Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Campus at 201 East Loop Road in Wheaton. The 2007 Expo celebrates Sustainable Engineering: Engineering the Future. Representatives from various engineering societies will be on-site to demonstrate the many fields of engineering. While the Expo's target age group is middle school, people of all ages will enjoy the displays and presentations.

The Engineers Week Expo features a building full of hands-on activities and demonstrations to allow young people to experience and explore the fields of engineering. The 2007 Expo will be held Saturday February 24th, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the IIT's Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Campus. Presentations are directed toward introducing students of all ages and their parents to the current state of technology and advances being made throughout industry. The cooperation of the professional engineering societies, academic organizations and industry provide a comprehensive overview of the current state-of-the-art as well as generating an interest in the sciences among the program's visitors. The Saturday event is free and is open to the public.

In addition, there will be a presentation and discussion on Thursday evening, February 22, 2007 at IIT's Rice Campus in Wheaton. The speaker will be discussing intelligent prosthetics. The speaker's forum is designed for adults, and is open to the public. For more information on the speaker's forum, visit the website at www.rice.iit.edu/engineersweek.

The first DuPage Area Engineers Week Open House was held in 1985 at Midwest College of Engineering in Lombard, Illinois. In 1986 Midwest College merged with the Illinois Institute of Technology to form a new, west-suburban campus called IIT West, now the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Campus. For approximately twenty years, the west suburban campus of the Illinois Institute of Technology has hosted the annual Engineers Week celebration.

Please join us for one or more of these activities. And check out the Web site from time to time to see what's new: www.rice.iit.edu/engineersweek. For more information on the DuPage program, call 630-682-6040 or kozi@iit.edu.

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INTERACTION BETWEEN ACS AND AIChE

The following is a condensed version of an article written in 2005 by Ressano De Souza-Machado, member of the subcommittee on local section alliances of the ACS Local Section Activities Committee.

At the 227th ACS meeting in Anaheim, CA, held in March 2004, ACS Councilors were briefed on the status of partnership efforts that had been initiated between the ACS and AIChE, (American Institute of Chemical Engineers). The ACS and AIChE had begun exploring programmatic, membership and operational alliances that would more fully serve the needs of their members and the chemical enterprise, while enhancing both organizations' abilities to achieve their missions.

The ACS has about 160,000 members and a \$400m annual budget, whereas the AIChE has about 45,000 members with a \$20m budget. About 8,000 members of the ACS are common to AIChE. While no merger or acquisition is planned, the two organizations have pledged to work collectively and cooperatively for the long term in several areas. In one such area, then Board Chair James Burke reported that both organizations could strive to enhance the chemical sciences by more frequent co-programming at local, divisional, regional, and national events.

Chemistry is now the central science where scientists and engineers associating themselves to other disciplines now work at the molecular level. The boundaries between traditional disciplines have become blurred, and multi-disciplinary approaches are likely to be the means to scientific advances and breakthroughs.

What does this all mean for us? The typical involvement of an ACS member does not extend much beyond the local section. Nevertheless, that involvement does carry a responsibility. We are the ones that can demand programming at the local section level that may involve AIChE thus meeting the goals of the national ACS. If there is no AIChE section nearby, perhaps an interaction involving the ACS and some other scientific organization is in order! After all, if multi-disciplinarity is the goal of the day, why not foster the approach at the local section level? The end result could be rewarding for all participants, even to the point of the ACS increasing its membership and generating further amicable interactions and collaborations between scientists and engineers.



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ALMA E-NEWS

Solvent Extractions Safety

This month's safety issue deals with solvent extractions. Refluxing extractions are so common and have been performed safely so many times in most labs that analysts tend to become complacent about the potential for accidents when bringing highly flammable liquids in contact with a heat source. This is a good area to perform a safety audit to make sure that the equipment is in good shape and that appropriate precautions are taken. Examine the glassware to make sure that there are no scratches that can cause it to break on heating.

Also, consider the consequences if the flask does break during the procedure -- some labs continue to use heating mantles where the hot solvent would come in contact with the hot filament. This happened in my lab a few years ago and we replaced all of our heating mantles with a heating apparatus that isolates the heating elements and contains most of the solvent if the flask breaks.

Although extractions are usually performed in a well-ventilated hood, you should still consider the potential for igniting vapors. For example, make sure that Powerstats, outlet strips, or other potential sources for an electrical arc are located outside the hood or well away from the extraction area. And, as always, make sure that the analyst uses the appropriate personal protective equipment when performing the procedure.

Also related to solvents, you might check the electrical grounding of your waste disposal containers. These containers are commonly grounded to prevent electrostatic discharge from igniting vapors during solvent transfer. A recent check in my lab found some of the containers with ground wires attached to painted surfaces that did not provide the required conductivity. To be sure that these containers are properly grounded, check continuity with a multi-meter.

If you have any comments, cost saving suggestions, or opinions, contact me at the email address below.

Past ALMA (Analytical Laboratory Managers Association) e-News articles by Dr. Wayne Collins, a former ALMA President, are available at the website <http://www.labmanagers.org/>. This article is from the June 2000 edition.

WAYNE COLLINS
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THE ELECTRONIC AGE

We need your e-mail address in order for the Chicago Section to better communicate with you, our members. The Chicago Section is investigating ways to reduce the Section budget so more money can be used in member's programs such as education, community outreach, and other program areas. Two areas that the Section is considering changing are the *Chemical Bulletin* to an electronic version and moving to electronic balloting. This does not mean it will happen tomorrow or there will not be a paper version of the *Chemical Bulletin* or ballot if you request one. The idea is to reduce our printing cost, paper usage and mailing cost.

Please send your e-mail address with your name and phone number to the Section office at chicagoacs@ameritech.net. Remember we do not share this information with other organizations.

FRAN KRAVITZ
BUDGET DIRECTOR

The mission of the Chicago Section of the ACS is to encourage the advancement of chemical sciences and their practitioners.

2007 DIRECTORY OF EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITIES

Each year, the ACS Experiential Programs in Chemistry (EPIc) activity produces the Directory of Experience Opportunities. This valuable resource lists internships, co-op programs, summer work, and fellowships for undergraduates in the chemical sciences.

The 2007 edition of the Directory contains a wide variety of opportunities in academia, industry, and government. It

also contains a guide to ethical behavior for interns and new hires, which details behaviors to avoid during an internship and gives tips about appropriate business conduct for the inexperienced professional. To search for positions, go to <http://acswebapplications.acs.org/applications/epic/epicmain.cfm>. Or, purchase your personal copy for \$10 by e-mailing oss@acs.org.

For more information or to list a program in the on-line edition of the Directory, e-mail epic@acs.org.

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CALENDAR

February 22: Chicago Section's monthly dinner meeting held jointly with AIChE. Note that this meeting is on a Thursday. Dr. Bruce Cook, Exxon Mobil Research, is the after-dinner speaker.

February 24: DuPage Engineers Week at IIT's Rice Campus, Wheaton, IL, beginning at 11:00 a.m. **See details in this issue.**

February 25 - March 2: PittCon Conference and Expo, McCormick Place, Chicago, IL. For information, go to www.pittcon.org.

February 27-March 1: Northwestern University Department of Chemistry's annual Charles D. Hurd Lecture Series, Technological Institute, Lecture Room 2, 2145 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL (for the Feb. 27 and 28 lectures) and at the Center for Nanofabrication and Molecular Self-Assembly, Room 4003, 2190 Campus Dr., Evanston (for the Mar. 1 lecture). Additional information can be viewed at <http://www.chem.northwestern.edu/resources/summerseminars/>

March 16: Chicago Section's Public Affairs dinner meeting at Café La Cave.

March 20: Two-day Lab safety Short Course hosted by the Laboratory Safety Institute, Naperville, IL. For details, go to <http://www.labsafety.org>.

March 25-30: The 233rd ACS National Meeting, Chicago, IL.

April 20: Chicago Section's monthly meeting. Gabriela Weaver, Purdue University, is the speaker. This will be a LUNCH MEETING.

April 22: Chemists Celebrate Earth Day - The theme is "Recycling - Chemistry Can"

May 18: Chicago Section's Gibbs Award banquet and meeting.

June 21: Chicago Section's monthly dinner meeting held jointly with YCC. Note that this meeting is on a Thursday. Ruth Ann Armitage, Eastern Michigan University, is the after-dinner speaker.

August 10-19: ACS Illinois Sections' cooperative tent project at the Illinois State Fair. For further information on this activity, contact the section office at (847) 647-8405.

September 28: Chicago Section's monthly dinner meeting. Roald Hoffmann, Cornell University, is the after-dinner speaker.

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

NOTE: The March issue will be the special National Meeting in Chicago issue. IT WILL ALSO CONTAIN THE REGULAR MARCH MONTHLY DINNER MEETING INFORMATION.

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