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ADVANCE NOTICE

FEBRUARY MEETING
THURSDAY, February 16th, 2006
Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

See the FEBRUARY issue of the Catalyst for details, call the Section Office at (215) 382-1589, email PhilaACS@aol.com

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To start the year off, this January we are having a concurrent undergrad/graduate poster session with cash prizes AND a career workshop to help those entering or re-entering the chemical fields to polish their interviewing tools. For more information on either of these programs, contact Mrs. Libby Harper at 215-382-1589 or philaac@aol.com.

I have an ambitious program this year, but to make it work, I need you. For a complete listing of volunteer opportunities, contact me at PhilaACSchair@aol.com or Mrs. Libby Harper at the information above.

Remember—Enhance Your Career, Volunteer!

INTRODUCING OUR NEW CHAIR
Deborah E. Kilmartin

Deborah E. Kilmartin was born in Darby, PA located near the Philadelphia International Airport. A local girl, Deb grew up, went to school, and currently lives less than 2 miles from the place she was born. She graduated from Sharon Hill High School (now Academy Park) in 1973, Delaware County Community College in 1975 with an associate’s degree in Natural Science with a chemistry major and a French minor. She took a year and a half break from college to earn enough money to continue and then attended West Chester State College (now West Chester University).

She was active in the biology club (Darlington Biological Society) and the chemistry club (Alchemists’ Club) there as well as working various jobs, including work-study with the biology department and as a packer at Bullen Chemical Company packaging soaps, waxes, and detergents while taking a full course load.

Deb unknowingly began her career in Environmental Chemistry during her senior year by interning at the local health department testing water well. Her plan to continue her education and working in a health field was derailed when her mother was diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer. Deb completed her internship in June and went back to the chemical factory to work. When a laboratory technician position became available at the local sewage authority, DELCOR, she interviewed for it and was hired. She found she had the job on the same day she was told her mother was untreatable. Her mother passed away in November 1979.

She took plant operator’s training but was unable to become licensed because she “only worked in the laboratory.” Deb left DELCOR for a position as the plant chemist for Chem-Clear, Inc., a hazardous waste pretreatment facility under RCRA for about four and a half years. She then worked for AGES laboratories as a chemist for about two years. These last two companies went out of business after she left them. Deb worked for Drexel University for about a year as a laboratory technician while pursuing a graduate degree in environmental chemistry, and then for about a year as a research technician doing atmospheric research in Hawaii and Colorado with Drs. Alan Bandy and Donald Thornton. This is where her travel adventures began. It was here that she shared a condo with a graduate student and a snake that dropped in one weekend. Deb and the other researchers flew over Four Points and Lake Powell in Southwestern US and the erupting volcano in Hawaii, which is spectacular at night. They worked out of a NOAA station and toured the “scientists only” areas of the volcano observatory in Hawaii. She then transferred to the Health and Safety Department of Drexel and received her certification as a Hazardous Materials Manager (CHMM) in 1989.

From there, Deborah worked as a chemist for a contractor to EPA’s Superfund Program, called Halliburton NUS, which became Brown and Root Environmental, then Brown and Root Environmental Company, and a few other names and now is called TetraTech NUS. The office developed a mobile laboratory, and now she really began to travel, first locally in EPA’s Region III (PA, DE, WV, VA, and DC) and later around the country doing field chemistry. This was the work she loved best, with all sorts of adventures, including more snakes, getting shot at once and threatened several times on several military bases, working out of a trailer during hurricanes, and naked men. It was during this time that she threatened to write her (probable) best seller (if titles sell it), called “Snakes I Have Known and Other Naked Men Stories” based on these adventures. She is currently working on a mystery novel called, “Environmental Impact.” After years of technical writing, Deb’s only problem is figuring out why someone would want to kill another person when punching him or her in the nose is usually enough to reduce stress.

Deb left that company to take a temporary position at the Philadelphia office of the US Army Corps of Engineers, followed by a position at Environmental Standards, Inc. Deborah left that company due to health problems and graduated to a career of chemistry consulting for former companies. She was hired by GeoTrans, Inc. in 2001 part-time and then by the Malvern Retreat House as a sacristan in 2005, also part-time. She currently volunteers for the Philadelphia Section doing “Chemist in the Classroom” and the monthly program at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children. Because she enjoys making PVA slime with children, her family and kids all over often call her “Auntie Slim.” She has volunteered for RSVP doing environmental talks and programs, National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC), the Philadelphia Carcinoid Cancer Support Group, and others. She enjoys sleeping, reading, more sleeping, doing chemical presentations and chemical consulting, stained glass, and sewing, pretty much in that order.
JANUARY MEETING

The Philadelphia Section, American Chemical Society presents

Career Workshop Sessions
Targeting the Job You Want, Interview Do's and Don'ts and Review of Resumés
Dr. Valerie Kuck, American Chemical Society and the
Sixth Annual Graduate Student and First Annual Undergraduate Poster Sessions
Thursday, January 19th, 2006 5:30 - 9:00 PM
The Villanova Conference Center
601 County Line Road
Radnor, PA

Concurrent Workshop Sessions and Poster Presentations
Refreshments will be served.
Refreshments cost: $20; students with reservation and ID - $10.

The Section thanks the Villanova Chemistry Department for their generous support of this meeting.

RESERVATIONS should be made by calling Mrs. Libby Harper at the section office, (215) 382-1589, or emailing PhilaACS@aol.com by 5:00 PM on Thursday, January 12th. Cancellations, if necessary, cannot be accepted after NOON on Tuesday, January 17th. UNCANCELLER RESERVATIONS WILL BE BILLED.

AMPLE FREE PARKING is available at the Conference Center. (Note that the Conference Center is NOT on the campus.) For directions, see www.villanovaconfctr.com.

The Board of Directors will meet at 4:00 PM in Room 120.

NEWS ATOMS

Shelley Wilkes Goehr named director of communications and marketing at the Chemical Heritage Foundation. Luis Fernandez promoted to head of global architectural and functional coatings business of Rohm and Haas.

Faculty appointments in the chemistry department at the University of Pennsylvania include Tobias Baumgart and So-Jung Park as assistant professors of chemistry. Penn’s Larry G. Sneddon was named the Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn endowed term professor of chemistry.

HONORS

Michael J. Therien, professor of chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania, was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Robin M. Hoch-strasser, Donner professor of physical sciences at Penn, will receive the F. Albert Cotton Medal, sponsored by the ACS Texas A&M Section and the Texas A&M University in April. The honor recognizes his contributions in the areas of spectroscopy and molecular physics.

Judith Summers-Gates, chemist for the Food and Drug Administration, was a 2005 Louis Braille Award honoree. The recognition took place November 9th in Philadelphia and was sponsored by the Associated Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

The student affiliate chapter at the Community College of Philadelphia was sponsored by the Associated Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Have a contribution for News Atoms? Email Philcatalyst@aol.com.

DEATHS

Theresa Lillian Paradiso, pharmaceutical company executive, December 30th, 2003 at 62.

Warren F. Bartz, chemical engineer formerly with Rohm and Haas, October 14th, 2004 at 91. He first worked for the Barrett Division of Allied Chemical and moved to Rohm and Haas in 1943 where he worked on development and quality control. He retired in 1975. For many years he played clarinet in various bands and orchestras.

Jamal Ghoroghchian, professor of chemistry and researcher in the materials science center of West Chester University, June 9th, 2004 at 53. He was an analytical chemist who specialized in electrochemistry.

Michael Dymicky, research chemist formerly with USDA, February 7th, 2005 at 84. In addition to his 25-year career at the United States Department of Agriculture, he taught chemistry at Kutztown State University for six years.

Georganne K. Buescher, faculty member at Thomas Jefferson University, February 20th at 61. She held numerous positions at Jefferson Hospital beginning as a volunteer and then a technologist and supervisor in the clinical microbiology laboratory. She was eventually named associate dean of the college of graduate studies and then director of the master of science programs at the university. Buescher received the Lindback prize for distinguished teaching in 1993 and the university alumni association’s distinguished alumnus award in 2003. She was also chair of the advisory board for the medical laboratory technician program at the Montgomery County Community College.

Kenneth R. Hartzell, Sr., June 6th (no further details available).

William L. Van Horne, analytical chemist formerly with Rohm and Haas, August 17th at 91. He joined Rohm and Haas in 1940 where he worked on instrumental methods, oil additives evaluation, and oil additives research, retiring in 1976. He was a member of ACS for over 60 years.

Gerard E. Tarzia, executive with Rohm and Haas, September 13th at 45. He joined
Chemical Consultants Network
Visit our web page at www.chemconsultants.org

Four Secrets to Effective Communication

John Leslie, Shining Star Coach
Date & Time: Wednesday, January 11th, 2006. Networking, 5:30 PM; Dinner, 6:30 PM; Talk and Business Session, 7:30 PM.

Abstract: If you want to get your message across to your audience, it’s not sufficient to just “give ‘em the facts.” To get and keep their attention you need to do four things: Tell a Story, Make it Personal, Find the Conflict, and Use Humor.

Dinner Reservation: E-mail CCNReservations@aol.com or call the ACS office at 215-382-1589. Food and beverages is $35. Early Bird discount price is $25 if reserved by the Thursday before the meeting. No-shows will be invoiced.

Location: The Cynwyd Club, 332 Trevor Lane, Bala Cynwyd, PA.

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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY AND ABSTRACT

Valerie Kuck

Biography: Valerie Kuck recently retired from Bell Laboratories, Lucent Technologies where she worked for 34 years. She did both basic and applied research. Valerie has presented her findings at numerous technical conferences and in 40 publications. She has been awarded 21 US patents. Currently, she is a visiting professor in the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department and the Women’s Studies Program at Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ. Along with her colleagues at Seton Hall, she has received numerous grants to fund their studies on the under representation of women on research faculties in the sciences. She has had a parallel career in the American Chemical Society, where she played a leadership role in many activities. Several national and local section awards have recognized these efforts and her contributions. Most recently she was named the first recipient of the ACS Volunteer Service Award. Valerie developed a Job Club in the North Jersey Section in 1999, which has enjoyed considerable success. In addition, she is a career consultant and has presented a number of workshops at Clearing Houses held during national meetings.

Abstract: Job Hunting?? Do you need help with writing your resumé? Are things just not clicking at your interviews? Come to the Career Workshop.

Review Resumés - attendees should bring their resume on a transparency so that we can provide immediate feedback. Develop Personal Marketing Strategies - developing good answers to questions that have a high probability of being asked on a job interview. Topics covered at the cost-free workshops are:

• The latest techniques in resumé preparation
• Ways for improving a resumé
• Answers to frequently asked interview questions, and
• Conducting an effective job search.
This is the edited version of the minutes. A full copy of the minutes can be obtained from the Section Office.

Also: L. Harper.

Absense: R. Acchione.
Chair-Elect Kilmartin called the meeting to order at 4:25 PM.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:
Chair-Elect D. Kilmartin reported on the meeting to discuss the Ulyot lecture which included W. Golton and A. Thakray. The idea of a lecture aimed at the public still needs to be stressed. Marie Molina has been invited to be the Ulyot lecturer for 2007.

The Section received certificates recognizing the nominations it received for two Chem Luminary awards. The Local Section Activities Committee complimented the Section on its Annual Report.

Treasurer C.J. Bruner reviewed the two treasurer reports (June 30th and July/August) which had been distributed previously.

OTHER BUSINESS:
Chem Luminary M. Cichowicz reported on the Chem Luminary awards. The Section was a finalist in two categories: Best Performance: Large Section and Best Program Stimulating Membership Involvement. The two posters that Melissa prepared were shown and will possibly be posted to the Section’s website.

Poster Session The poster session planned for the January Section meeting at the Villanova Conference Center will be open to undergraduates as well as graduate students. V. Tortorelli mentioned that expanding to undergraduates may not be effective since many of these events already take place. The Board then discussed again whether the Poster Session is worth repeating, since participation and attendance is low. A minimum participation goal should be set, same as last year. If the goal is not met, the event should be cancelled.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:25 PM. Respectfully submitted, Carol Carr Secretary

57th BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ MEETING Thursday, October 20th, 2005 Swarthmore College Swarthmore, PA

This is the edited version of the minutes. A full copy of the minutes can be obtained from the Section Office.

Also: L. Harper.
Chair Cook called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:
Chair D. Cook reported on a communication from J. Burke re the ACS Matching Gift program: An ACS task force has recommended termination of this program due to the reduced funds available internally. External funding will be sought. Approximately $100,000 is still available for small projects.

Treasurer The report was distributed previously. The report was accepted by the Board.

OTHER BUSINESS:
National Chemistry Week A. DeMasi reported on the Section’s events including: Expand Your Horizons, Graduate School Forum and Poster contest. The Sally Ride Festival was quite successful. M. Cichowicz reported that there were 460 attendees and 50 volunteers. GlaxoSmithKline was a sponsor and had a booth.

Teller’s Report T. Straub distributed the election results. Voter participation was 9%, down somewhat from former elections. Possible reasons include: the late due date and a mail service error which resulted in 500 ballots not being mailed. The Board agreed that the mail service error should be investigated. A member expressed concern that signing the outside envelope risks identity theft. The Board discussed why this practice was started and whether it should be continued. This change will be put on the list of changes needed for the bylaws. For the next election cycle, changing this requirement should be considered as well as considering the possibility of electronic ballots. The Board accepted the Teller’s report after approving a change in the Director results. (D. Cichowicz must be replaced as a Director since he was elected Chair-elect. The person who received the next highest number of votes was Denise Thomas, who was approved to serve a one-year term in D. Cichowicz’ place.)

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM. Respectfully submitted, Carol Carr Secretary

DELAWARE VALLEY SCIENCE FAIRS
The Delaware Valley Science Fairs will be coming up shortly. Judges and mentors are always needed. Check the website www.dvsf.org for more information and to volunteer.

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January 2006 Page 11
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The 4th Annual Philadelphia Section, American Chemical Society

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING IN CHEMICAL SCIENCES
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The 15th Annual Philadelphia Section, American Chemical Society

AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN PRE-COLLEGE TEACHING

Nominations for 2006 will be accepted until Thursday, February 2nd, 2006. For details, see the November-December 2005 Catalyst, available online at http://membership.acs.org/p/philadelphia/catalyst/.

MARM 2006: REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Registration and abstract submission are now open for the 2006 Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM 2006) of ACS. A program filled with the latest chemical research will be held in the Conference Center of Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA, on June 4th-7th, 2006. Check the meeting website at http://www.marm2006.org for regular updates and registration. Abstracts can be submitted at: http://acs.confex.com/acs/marm06/cfp.cgi


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Dr. Robert Pasternack, Swarthmore College, receiving the Philadelphia Section Award plaque from Dr. Deborah Cook, Section Chair, on October 20th.

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<td>Holiday Inn, Bensalem, PA <a href="http://phillyspe.plastics.com/">http://phillyspe.plastics.com/</a></td>
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