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# the Catalyst

*A Publication of the Philadelphia Section of the ACS*

<http://membership.acs.org/p/philadelphia>

**September 2008**

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# *the Catalyst*

Official Publication of the Philadelphia Section, American Chemical Society

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Volume 93, No. 8

September 2008

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## ADVANCE NOTICE

### OCTOBER MEETING

Philadelphia Section Award  
Dr. John J. Baldwin, Vitae Pharmaceuticals

Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008

See the October *Catalyst* for details,  
call the Section Office at 215-382-1589, or email PhilaACS@aol.com



1955-2008

## CELEBRATING DEB KILMARTIN

For most of us it is only once in a lifetime that we have the honor of knowing and working with a person like Deb Kilmartin. This month I would like to designate our meeting as a celebration of her life and her commitment and contribution to our Section, the ACS, and chemistry in general. Over the months since her death there have been numerous printed and voiced recognitions of her contributions, so I will not attempt to repeat them here. Rather I want to invite all Section members to join us at our September meeting as we celebrate her life.

Deb worked tirelessly and could always be counted on to ensure any program was successful. But she did not want public recognition for those efforts. Deb did like to have fun! Indeed I think part of her definition of success was that an event should be fun.

So, the focus for this meeting is to gather so that we all can have fun “Deb style.” “Deb style?” you ask. For one thing, Deb loved to wear brightly colored shirts – also known in some circles as Hawaiian shirts. Therefore, I encourage everyone to wear a Hawaiian shirt to the meeting. This should set the tone for an entertaining evening and ensure that we are all in a festive mood. In keeping with “Deb’s style,” we are planning some other fun activities – you will have to join us to see what they are.

Deb was really responsible for the choice of venue for this meeting, suggesting that we hold a meeting at the Victory Brewing Company. She even went with me last year for the initial planning visit. We both agreed that a meeting there could be great fun.

Victory Brewing is planning to give us a talk covering raw ingredients, the brewing process, and fermentation, followed by a tour of their brewery. Dr. Tim Wadkins, Director of QA at Victory, will be our host for the talk and tour. If you enjoy beer, this is definitely the meeting for you. Even if (like me) you are *not* a beer aficionado, this still promises to be an interesting – maybe even fascinating, talk. This is a great opportunity to learn all you ever wanted to know about brewing, but were afraid to ask. A buffet style meal is planned that will feature a selection of Victory’s exciting menu items. Included in the meal cost is one beer for each attendee. If desired, additional beer can be purchased. In order to ensure we will have exclusive use of Victory Brewing’s newly renovated meeting space, **I have changed the date of this meeting from Thursday to Wednesday of the same week.** I sincerely apologize for any negative impact this date change may have to any of our members. I believe this will be a great meeting and hope to see you there.

I am excited to announce that the Board of our Section has voted to change the name of the Section Service Award to the Deborah Kilmartin Philadelphia Section Service Award. The first of these awards will be given at the December meeting.

As we turn the calendar page to September, I realized that my term as your Chair is quickly drawing to a close. I have truly enjoyed every meeting and event this year and hope that you have had a chance to join us for at least one of them. As we continue through the year, check out the local Section calendar of events in this issue of *the Catalyst* and mark your calendars to save the dates. Keep your eye on *the Catalyst*’s announcements, this column, and our local Section web site for additional forthcoming details - <http://membership.acs.org/p/philadelphia>.

As 2008 winds down and we begin to look forward to 2009, I once again invite you to personally get involved with **your** Section. You can participate on one of the several Section committees, participate in a Section outreach event (especially National

Chemistry Week celebrations), or you can simply attend monthly meetings.

Please get in touch me if you have questions or suggestions for future events. You can send me an email at: [philaacschair@aol.com](mailto:philaacschair@aol.com). In any event, I look forward to seeing and meeting with many of you before 2008 ends.

Ella L. Davis  
2008 Chair  
Philadelphia Section ACS

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## NEWS ATOMS

**Brian F. Watson** was named manager for toll manufacturing services at Richman Chemical.

The University of Pennsylvania noted the following honors. **Marsha I. Lester**, professor of chemistry, was named a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. **Robin Hochstrasser**, Donner professor of physical sciences, was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. **Michael Atchison**, professor of biochemistry and director of the VMD-PhD program in the School of Veterinary Medicine, received the Lindback award for distinguished teaching.

Also at Penn, undergraduate **Phillip Benedetti** was awarded a Barry M. Goldwater scholarship for research in chemistry and biochemistry. **Tobias Baumgart**, assistant professor of chemistry, was named Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow for 2008.

The Penn Genome Frontiers Institute issued grants to **Anna Kashina**, assistant professor of biochemistry in the School of Veterinary Medicine with **Sergei Vinogradov**, assistant professor of biochemistry and biophysics in the School of Medicine; and to **Samuel Lamitina**, assistant professor of physiology with **Barry S. Cooperman**, professor of chemistry.

## DEATHS

**James W. Graham**, December 7, 2007 at age 87. He was a 40-year member of ACS.

**John Simon**, past ACS member, December 28, 2007. No further details were available.

**Simon Lifshatz**, February 10, 2008 at 87. He was a 64-year member of ACS.

**Gerald Jenson Risser**, retired chemical engineer formerly with DuPont, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 93. He was director of field engineering in the engineering services division when he retired in 1977. Risser was an avid musician, and chaired building committees for his country club, church, and school district.

**George F. Nordblum**, retired research chemist, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 94. During World War II he worked on ammunition development at Frankford Arsenal. In 1956 he joined Foote Mineral, and then worked as senior research chemist with Electric Storage Battery Company, retiring in 1978. He developed special batteries for Jet Propulsion Laboratory to be used in space.

**Ronald L. Magolda**, vice president of Wyeth, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 54. He worked in the pharmaceutical division of DuPont for 18 years and then joined Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals in 1999. From 2003 until time of death he was vice president of medicinal chemistry at Wyeth Pharmaceuticals.

**Theodore W. Blickwedel**, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 84. He was employed by GTE Sylvania, Exide, the Rose-Hulman School, Iowa State University, and Villanova University. He was a 59-year member of ACS.

**Leonard S. Gilbert**, retired chemist formerly with the USDA, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 86. He worked at the Eastern Regional Research Laboratories.

**Irving Kloth**, retired chemical engineer, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 84. Born in Berlin, he fled Germany in 1941. He worked for Lederle Laboratories in the field of animal-feed additives. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, he returned to his native city and helped develop the Jewish High School of Berlin.

**Gunther Stent**, retired biochemist June 12<sup>th</sup> at 84. Born in Berlin, he escaped to the United States in 1939. He served on the faculty of the

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University of California at Berkeley for 40 years. He worked alongside James Watson at the California Institute of Technology. When Watson and Crick discovered the double-helix structure of DNA, he conducted experiments with bacterial viruses that confirmed their results.

Stent helped develop the departments of virology and molecular biology at UC-Berkeley. He published a number of books and his interests later turned to neurobiology. He was a member of the American Philosophical Society.

**Newton Nathaniel Goldberg**, retired chemist formerly with Westinghouse, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 80. He was a 57-year member of ACS.

**A. Gregory Morris**, retired research chemist, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 84. He worked for RCA where he helped develop color television and heat-seeking equipment to detect aircraft. In 1957 he joined Foote Mineral Co. where he worked with high purity germanium for semiconductor use.

In 1967 Morris was one of the original faculty members of Penn State's Delaware County campus. He and his wife established Technological Data, Inc., and in 1973 they indexed the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act for government contractors. He retired in 1988, and was listed in *American Men of Science*.

**James Karr**, retired analytical chemist formerly with Elf/Total, June 26<sup>th</sup>. He worked for Elf/Total for 32 years and received the firm's innovator of the year award. He

was active in the Association of Official Analytical Chemists, the Delaware Valley Chromatography Forum, the International Formulation Pesticide Analytical Council, and the Collaborative International Pesticides Analytical Council.

**G. Richard Worrell**, retired chemical engineer formerly with Arco, June 29<sup>th</sup> at 81. During WWII he taught radar and radio repair in the Navy. In his 39-year career with Atlantic Refining (later Arco Chemical), he wrote many technical papers and developed 17 patents in petroleum engineering. He also taught several years at the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel University.

**John E. Morin**, a biochemist with Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, June 30<sup>th</sup> at 56. He joined Wyeth in 1984 where he screened chemicals for medicinal potential. He was a voracious reader of science fiction.

**Thomas Roosevelt Punnett, Jr.**, biochemist and professor emeritus at Temple University, July 4<sup>th</sup> at 82. He taught at the University of Rochester for seven years before joining Temple in 1963. He retired in 1999 for health reasons.

**Note:** News Atoms seeks to report on people in the field of chemistry in the greater Philadelphia area. If you have news about new hires, significant promotions, honors and awards, and those who have recently passed away, send it by email to [philcatalyst@aol.com](mailto:philcatalyst@aol.com) or by mail to the Philadelphia Section ACS.



**2008 Fifty-year Members at the June Luncheon:** Front row, left to right: Ronald Pieringer, Stuart Michelson, Ara Dermarderosian, and Wolfgang Gunther. Rear, left to right: Katie Hunt, ACS Immediate Past Chair, Marshall Phillips, Alan Warren, Marjam Behar, Gordon Moore, Helen Ebert (60-year member), Donald Koestler, William Novis Smith and Wilford Mendelson.

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# SEPTEMBER MEETING

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The Philadelphia Section, American Chemical Society

presents

## A CELEBRATION FOR DEB KILMARTIN

**Victory Brewing Company  
420 Acorn Lane  
Downingtown, PA 19335**

**NEW DATE  
WEDNESDAY, September 17, 2008  
5:30 PM**

Talk by Tim Wadkins, PhD  
Directory of Quality Assurance

Followed by Brewery Tour and Dinner

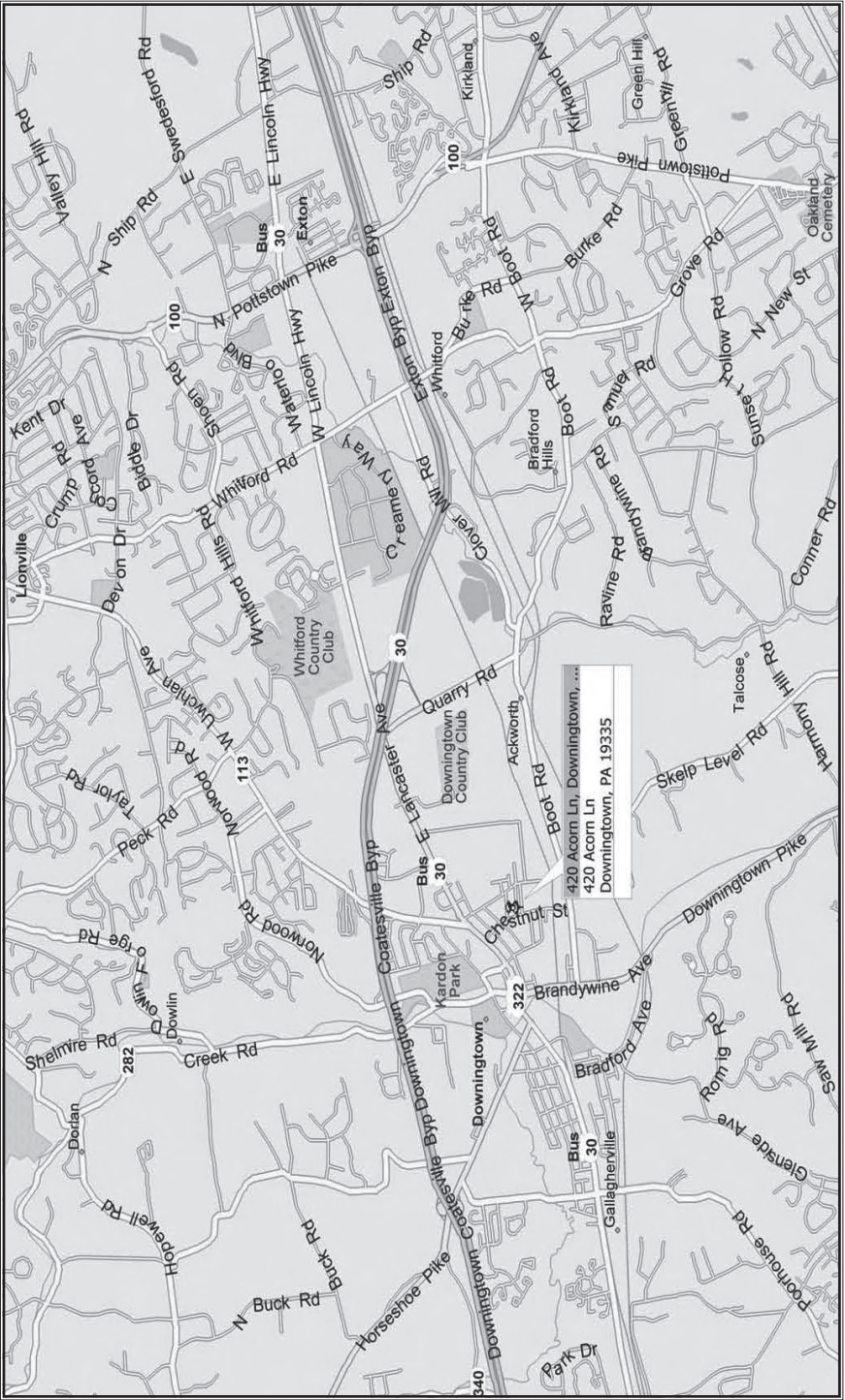
**Dinner Cost:** \$25; students with reservation and ID: \$13

**DINNER RESERVATIONS** should be made by calling Mrs. Libby Harper at the Section Office, 215-382-1589, or emailing [PhilaACS@aol.com](mailto:PhilaACS@aol.com) by **5:00 PM** on **WEDNESDAY, September 10<sup>th</sup>**. **Cancellations**, if necessary, cannot be accepted after **NOON** on **Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**. **UNCANCELLED RESERVATIONS WILL BE BILLED.**

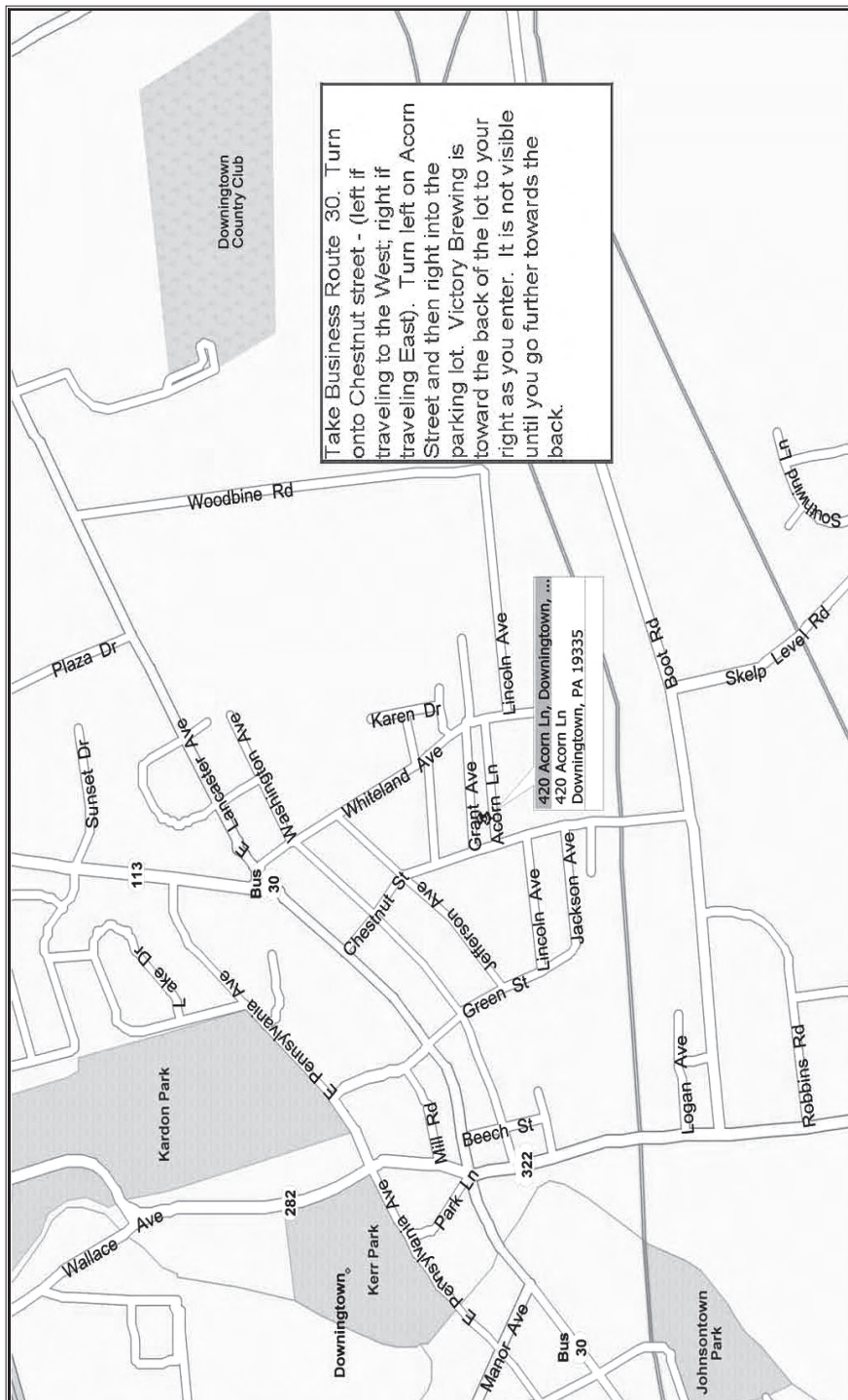
**DIRECTIONS:** See directions and maps on pages 144-145 or visit [www.victorybeer.com/home.html](http://www.victorybeer.com/home.html).

The Board of Directors will meet at 4:00 PM at the brewery.

Victory Brewing Downingtown, PA



# Victory Brewing Downingtown, PA



## 50-YEAR HONOREE

*John R. Reehling*

Upon graduation from Alexandria High School, Alexandria, IN, I attended Purdue receiving a BS ChE degree. I then spent over four years on active duty in the US Air Force in Air Force Personnel and Administration (the needs of the USAF came first).

Upon separation from the USAF I went to work for the New York Central Railroad in the Technical Research Department in Collinwood, OH. I did a lot of testing involving radiation and radiation chemistry. Attended ORINS (Oak Ridge Institute for Nuclear Studies). Received a certificate in Electrical Engineering from the railroad training program. Joined ACS while at the Research Department in 1958. Did a lot of radiography using Cobalt-60 and Cesium-137 to view interior of welds and castings.

Moved to New York in 1963, NYC Mechanical Department where lubricants, coatings, fuels and metallurgy were involved as well as equipment mechanical items. Stayed with the railroad through Penn Central and Conrail, retiring in 1990. Represented the railroad on various Association of American Railroads committees involving radiation, dangerous chemicals, metallurgy, and tank car design and construction. Represented Conrail on the American Railway Engineering Association regarding Maintenance of Way items including weed sprays, chemical cleaners, coatings, and lubricants.

I still do consulting work for the AAR as well as private railroad car owners.

**Abstract:** In civil and criminal cases alike, an expert witness can play a pivotal role in deciding the outcome of a trial. As lawsuits have proliferated so have the number of experts whose testimony can make or break a case in court. To take full advantage of an expert's potential, the attorney must work with the expert to effectively deliver to the trier-of-fact opinion testimony that is clear and convincing. The forensic scientist must not only be proficient in applying science, but he/she must be skilled at communicating in the courtroom.

**Biography:** A forensic science consultant, Dr. Richard Saferstein has testified in over 1,000 cases. He retired as Chief Forensic Scientist of the NJ State Police Laboratory in 1991. Prior to coming to the NJ State Police, he was employed as a forensic chemist with the Treasury Department and as an analytical chemist with Shell Chemical Co. The author of numerous technical papers, Dr. Saferstein has also written two widely used textbooks on the subject titled *Criminalistics: An Introduction to Forensic Science* - 9<sup>th</sup> edition (Prentice-Hall, 2007), and *Forensic Science: An Introduction* (Prentice-Hall-2008). Dr. Saferstein has edited leading professional reference texts dealing with important forensic science topics. Dr. Saferstein serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Forensic Identification* and has served on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Forensic Sciences* and *Microchemical Journal*. He received his PhD in Chemistry from City University of New York. Dr. Saferstein is a member of ACS and numerous professional forensic societies.

**Location:** The Cynwyd Club, 332 Trevor Lane, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004. See the website for directions and a map.

**Reservations:** To make or cancel a dinner reservation, e-mail [CCNReservations@aol.com](mailto:CCNReservations@aol.com) or call the ACS office at 215-382-1589. Fee, including food and beverages (wine, beer & sodas), is \$35. Early Bird discount price is \$25 if reserved by Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. There is no charge for talk only; registration is suggested using contact information above.

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## CHEMICAL CONSULTANTS NETWORK

Visit our web page at [www.chemconsultants.org](http://www.chemconsultants.org)

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>  
Networking, 5:30 PM; Dinner, 6:30 PM; Talk  
and Business Session, 7:30 PM.

**Speaker and Topic:** Dr. Richard Saferstein—*The Role of the Expert Witness in the Courtroom*.

## CANDIDATES IN THE 2008 ELECTION

**Chair-Elect:** Judith Summers-Gates  
John Tierney

**Treasurer:** Carol Jean Bruner  
Michael Prushan

**Directors:** Kishore Bagga  
David Cichowicz  
Melissa Cichowicz  
Tony Dent  
Rick (William) Ewing  
Marge Matthews  
William Smith  
Thomas Stambaugh  
Patrick Sullivan  
Victor Tortorelli  
Kendra Yoder

**Councilors:** Carol Jean Bruner  
Deborah Cook  
John Crawford  
Judith Currano  
Mark Forman  
Robert Levis  
Cheryl Martin  
Marge Matthews  
John Nikelly  
Robert Pascoe  
Russell Phifer  
Kathleen Thrush Shaginaw  
Peter Wade

A ballot is mailed September 1<sup>st</sup> to every Section member. If you do not receive your ballot by September 15<sup>th</sup>, please get in touch with the Section Office for a replacement. (PhilaACS@aol.com or 215 382-1589).



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## SEPTEMBER HISTORICAL EVENTS IN CHEMISTRY

*Leopold May*

The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC

September 5, 1892	Coca Cola Company was incorporated on this day.
September 7, 1829	150 years ago in 1858, F. August Kekulé described the quadrivalence of carbon and structural theory of organic chemistry. In 1865, he conceived the ring structure of benzene and synthesized acetylene in 1864. He was born on this date.
September 9, 1858	150 years ago, Carl Auer von Welsbach was born. He was a researcher in rare earths who discovered neodymium and praseodymium in 1885, and in 1907, lutetium with Georges Urbain. An invention of his was the incandescent mantle (Welsbach Mantle or Auerlicht).
September 10, 1775	John Kidd, who discovered naphthalene in coal tar in 1819, was born on this day.
September 12, 1897	75 years ago in 1933, Irène and Frédéric Joliot-Curie produced artificial radioisotopes. In 1935, they shared the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in recognition of their synthesis of new radioactive elements. She was born on this date.
September 13, 1945	B. B. Cunningham and L. B. Werner isolated the first microscopic amount of a compound of americium at the wartime US Metallurgical Laboratory, University of Chicago, on this date.
September 14, 1961	Analtech, Inc., manufacturer of products for thin layer chromatography, was founded as Custom Service Chemicals on this date. Name was changed in January 8, 1965 to Analtech, Inc.
September 16, 1970	Great Lakes Chemical Co. was incorporated on this date.
September 20, 1842	James Dewar, who invented the vacuum flask (Dewar flask) in 1892, was born on this date. He was the first to liquefy hydrogen in 1899 and showed that many common substances phosphoresce at liquid air temperature.
September 24, 1874	Alexander Findlay, an authority on phase rule, was born.
September 25, 1866	75 years ago, Thomas H. Morgan, one of the founders of modern genetics, received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1933 for his discoveries concerning the role played by the chromosome in heredity. He was born on this date.
September 26, 1886	Archibald V. Hill who did research on oxygen consumption of muscular action was born on this day. He received the Nobel Prize in 1922 for his discovery relating to the production of heat in the muscle and shared with Otto F. Meyerhof for his discovery of the fixed relationship between the consumption of oxygen and the metabolism of lactic acid in the muscle.
September 28, 1852	Henri Moissan, who was born on this day, discovered fluorine in 1886 and invented an electric furnace in which he prepared metal carbides and silicon carbides. In 1906, he received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in recognition of the great services rendered by him in his investigation and for the adoption in the service of science of the electric furnace called after him.



## Conferences on the Discovery, Development & Production of Pharmaceuticals and Therapeutics

### 2008 FALL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

#### PK/PD for Medicinal Chemists

Sept 7 – 9, 2008 • Cambridge, MA

14 case studies from big pharma and biotech companies on PK/PD in Immunology and Metabolic Diseases, PK/PD in CNS and Oncology, and PK/PD in Exploratory Development. Each session will be highlighted with a case study from the medicinal chemistry perspective that demonstrates the value of understanding PK-PD relationships in the design of better drug molecules.

#### Process Chemistry in the Pharmaceutical Industry

Sept 28 – 30, 2008 • Cambridge, MA

Case studies from big pharma, sessions on: what pharma can learn from crop protection process R&D; the engineering aspects of process R&D, including kinetics, process parameters, process analytical technology, and green chemistry; and recent advances from academia.

#### Translational Biomarkers: Pathways to Phase II Survival

October 5 – 7, 2008 • Philadelphia, PA

Sessions on: translatable target engagement biomarkers (imaging and non-imaging biomarkers); mechanism biomarkers, including safety; and clinical biomarkers, including disease biomarkers and regulatory acceptance. In each session, four speakers will present case studies and provide their perspective on the topic. Also, speakers from the NIH Biomarkers Consortium, the CDER/FDA and FDA.

#### Topics and Tactics in Current Drug Design

Oct 19 – 21, 2008 • Cambridge, MA

Sessions topics: optimizing drug-target interactions; reducing drug metabolism and avoiding metabolic activation; circumventing off-target sources of drug failure; and pharmaceutical properties and tactics for enhancing oral drug delivery. Each session will provide a comprehensive synopsis of the kinds of tactics and strategies that have led to the optimization of drug-target interactions against the backdrop of enhancing drug safety and compound delivery in vivo.

#### Organic Reactions and Syntheses

October 26 – 28, 2008 • Philadelphia, PA

Speakers: E. Jacobsen, G. Fu, F. Fang, C. Senanayake, T. Rovis, A. Pfaltz, J. Bäckvall, T. Zhang, M. O'Brien, A. Charette, E. Carreira, R. Waltemire, J. Hawkins, A. Smith III, A. Wells

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**600<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Thursday, April 17, 2008**  
**The Cynwyd Club**  
**Bala Cynwyd, PA**

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

**Present:** D. Cichowicz, E. Davis, D. Cook, A. DeMasi, C.J. Bruner, J. Falcone, Jr., M. Falcone, R. Gates, J. Summers-Gates, S. Miller, C. Petucci, K. Thrush-Shaginaw, T. Straub, D. Thomas, J. Tierney, V. Tortorelli, K. Yoder.

**Excused:** C. Rulli, M. Cichowicz.

**Also Present:** L. Harper, H. Whalen, S. Haynie, J. Cohen.

The meeting was called to order at 4:14 PM by Chair Davis. The minutes for the March 2008 meeting were approved as amended. All were in favor.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Education (T. Straub):** It appears that attendance at the National Exam for Chemistry Olympiad selection may be low because there is a conflict with graduation events if students get selected to attend the camp.

**Council Affairs (A. DeMasi):** Tony Addison will make a report for *the Catalyst* concerning the National meeting.

**OFFICERS' REPORTS:**

**Chair (E. Davis):** Deb Kilmartin sent a thank you to the Board for the gift of a fruit basket.

Chair Davis informed the Board that action on the travel funds request from students from St. Joseph's University was still pending. The board will communicate to the students that they need to supply receipts and paperwork for payment.

Chair Davis also indicated that the request for speakers at a symposium at the fall national meeting from the ACS Younger Chemists Committee be sent out again: Chris Petucci has already responded positively to the ACS Younger Chemists Committee.

A 'Hospitality Suite' has been requested by T. Addison for the National ACS meeting. A discussion indicated that the Hospitality Committee needed to meet to discuss the National Meeting in Philadelphia.

**Chair-Elect:** R. Gates indicated that nominations were received for the ACS Philadelphia Section award for 'Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.' No K-12 nominations were received.

The Awards Committee proposed to award Ron Hess, Ursinus College, the ACS Philadelphia Section award for 'Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.' Approved unanimously.

Speakers for next year's meetings are still being lined up – one definite speaker from Drexel University.

**Secretary (J. Tierney):** No report.

**Treasurer (C.J. Bruner):** Amended February and March reports are now available.

The MARM account was reopened. The account will not be settled until G. Cowperthwaite sends the completed paperwork. An unresolved bill will be resolved in the near future.

The allotment of funds from National ACS has finally arrived. The money has been placed in a 'Money Market' account in order to gain interest.

Sheldon Miller requested that a budget be set now for undergraduate students going to the National Meetings next year. C.J. Bruner responded that the budget was set based on the typical number of students requesting funds. Tom Straub added that because the second meeting is in Philadelphia this year, the budget was lower than usual.

The treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

V. Tortorelli sought input about what to do with the profit received from the MARM. He, in conjunction with Sharon Haynie and Jim Falcone, has met to discuss this issue. Some further discussion ensued. The profit would generate approximately \$2,000 if invested and could be used to fund the teaching awards. It is felt that there is a need to look at all Section awards and elevate the status of those awards accordingly. There should be increased stipends for the Edgar Fahs-Smith, K-12 teaching and the Philadelphia Section Award. The Ulliot Award also needs to be reviewed along with the aforementioned awards. Merck will be approached again to see if they will continue funding for the undergraduate teaching award.

J. Falcone indicated that a separate "budget and finance" committee (although there was uncertainty to the exact name of the committee) had been proposed by G. Cowperthwaite to oversee monies in place for Section awards. V. Tortorelli indicated that any changes to the administration of Ulliot funds would require extreme sensitivity on the part of the Board. Ella Davis immediately reiterated this requirement.

L. Harper indicated that all the rules for disbursement of funds for awards were on file and available.

V. Tortorelli indicated that we needed to be 'good stewards' of monies for awards, particularly the Ullyot Award.

D. Cook indicated that funding was cut by Governor Corzine for her program in New Jersey. She requested that the Board allow her access to the e-mail list of members in Camden and Burlington counties, NJ. The request was made in order to get people in those counties to lobby Governor Corzine to reinstate the money for the program. The discussion that followed indicated that in light of the fact that another request for e-mail information had recently been refused, this would probably not be allowable. Others came up with alternative ideas to allow people to opt in for a "Legislative Action Network" from a mailing via National or that Alan Heldon might have an appropriate list to use. Cook indicated that she would want an e-mail list under the "right protocols." In light of the short time frame she decided that she would contact Alan Heldon.

A final comment was made that the National ACS may want to address situations like this for the future, where government actions have a negative impact on any area of chemistry.

S. Haynie indicated that she had secured funding for a "Science Café" at the National meeting. A second "Science Café" in the suburbs would be a good idea and appropriate venues are being sought.

Finally R. Gates wished to know how 'award winners' were notified. Libby indicated that she has the appropriate form letter on file.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted, John Tierney

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## **601<sup>st</sup> Board of Directors Meeting**

**Thursday, May 15, 2008**

**Ursinus College**

**Collegeville, PA**

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

**Present:** E. Davis, A. DeMasi, C.J. Bruner, J. Falcone, Jr., M. Falcone, Sheldon Miller, C. Petucci, K. Thrush-Shaginaw, John Tierney, V. Tortorelli, K. Yoder.

**Excused:** D. Cichowicz, M. Cichowicz, D. Cook, C. Rulli, D. Thomas.

**Absent:** P. Cao, R. Gates, T. Straub, J. Summers-Gates.

**Also Present:** L. Harper, S. Haynie, T. Addison.

The meeting was called to order at 4:18 PM by Chair Davis. The minutes for the April 2008 meeting were approved as amended.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Nominations (L. Harper for D. Cichowicz):**

The slate of nominations has not been completed but will be ready for the June meeting.

**Council Affairs (A. DeMasi):** All the councilors were in attendance at the councilor's meeting and the 'talking points' under discussion will be forwarded to the board.

### **OFFICERS' REPORTS:**

**Chair (E. Davis):** The passing of Deb Kilmartin has been a great loss to the ACS and the Philadelphia Section. Jim Burke suggested that the Section initiate a Project Seed endowment in her name; the Section would need to raise a minimum of \$50,000. Chair Davis indicated that the board should cosign a solicitation letter in order to begin the process and there was no expectation that the Section would be obligated to make up any shortfall in funding. T. Addison added that in case the target amount is not reached, then a backup plan would be to have the money used for a prize at the Section's undergraduate poster session to honor her in perpetuity. Both possibilities for the money should be made clear in any solicitation letter. V. Tortorelli indicated that it might be a good idea to get J. Burke to spearhead the Project Seed endeavor to honor Deb Kilmartin. V. Tortorelli indicated that a third potential honor for Deb Kilmartin would be to name the 'Philadelphia Section Service Award' after her. T. Addison expressed some pessimism at the ability of the Section to acquire \$50,000 based on prior situations, so the fall back positions to honor Deb Kilmartin make very good sense. A. DeMasi spoke highly of the idea of attempting to raise money for Project Seed in honor of Deb Kilmartin. There will be an obituary for Deb in the June 2008 issue of *the Catalyst*. A. DeMasi indicated that everyone should think over the ideas expressed to honor Deb Kilmartin and email their thoughts to Chair Davis. Chair Davis indicated that the ideas would be further discussed at the June meeting.

Chair Davis continued that we should all come to the September meeting dressed in Hawaiian shirts – the site for the meeting was suggested by Deb Kilmartin and the attire was her wish for the party following her memorial service. T. Addison suggested that we ask the Brewery to, at least for a short while, name a beer in her honor – Kilmartin’s Red was suggested. Kathleen Thrush-Shaginaw indicated that an obituary had also been sent to *C&E News*.

Moving on, Chair Davis indicated that J. Falcone had sent in his membership list for ‘Finance and Budget - II’ committee (not to be confused with the Section’s already established Finance, Budget and Audit committee) that was mentioned in the minutes of the April Board meeting. Falcone indicated that he would look at the charge of the committee after reviewing information supplied by L. Harper and arrange a meeting. Falcone said that the ‘Investment Board’ needs to remain active; however, there is no mandate in the bylaws – the bylaws need to be reviewed. Chair Davis commented that a group was supposed to be looking at the bylaws; she would check to see if the group was active.

The ‘Finance and Budget - II’ committee is V. Tortorelli, C.J. Bruner, T. Straub, S. Haynie and J. Falcone.

Chair Davis concluded by saying that the June meeting to honor the 50-year members will be held at the William Penn Inn on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Chair-Elect (R. Gates):** No report

**Secretary (J. Tierney):** No report.

**Treasurer (C.J. Bruner):** The last bill for the MARM was paid in April and there is approximately \$199 remaining in the account. The account proceeds are to be split equally between the MARM steering committee and the Section. C.J. agreed to place the Section’s MARM proceeds in a separate ACS account called “the award fund” as quickly as possible.

A motion to accept the treasurer’s report passed unanimously.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

S. Miller proposed an idea to generate a list of industry/academic and private research institutions that could be used as a data base for students seeking practical lab experience on ‘real world research problems’ outside of their own academic institutions. The institutions would provide position information to the database in an ongoing manner. Much discussion ensued as how

to promote and facilitate this idea. Chair Davis proposed that Sheldon write up a summary of the idea to share with the board at the June meeting to see how the board could act on the idea and move forward. K. Thrush-Shaginaw added that the proposal should include costs for details like time required post to the Section’s web site, etc.

T. Addison brought up that there was approximately \$85,000 in the money market account. This was not the best method of investing the money. V. Tortorelli indicated that the excess funds generated from the MARM should be placed in a separate account – the money should be used towards Section awards and the interest should be maximized. Much discussion ensued as to how the Section can invest their funds to optimize interest yield under the parameters of the ACS regulations.

T. Addison asked if the Section is looking into revising the bylaws in order to have electronic ballots for elections. The National office has mandated that this should happen; however, it is a mandate without a deadline. It is normal for the local sections to follow the lead of the National office.

K Thrush-Shaginaw asked who is now in charge of the Section website? L. Harper presently is sending materials to the webmaster. C.J. indicated the website contract was sent to G. Cowperthwaite for review. Does the chair of the Publications Committee have to be a member of the Section? Chair Davis indicated that the Chair has to be a member of the Section. L. Harper indicated that an affiliate member can serve in any non-elected position and cannot run for office according to the bylaws. V. Tortorelli indicated that the chair of the Publications Committee must be approved by the board. K. Thrush-Shaginaw asked what is being done to prepare for the August ACS meeting? Chair Davis responded that a committee meeting has been planned.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted, John Tierney

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### **THOUGHT TO PONDER**

We wish to find the truth, no matter where it lies. But to find the truth we need imagination and skepticism both. We will not be afraid to speculate, but we will be careful to distinguish speculation from fact. — *Carl Sagan*

## BOOK REVIEW

*Origin of Life: Chemical Approach*, ed. Piet Herdewijn and M. Volkan Kisakürek. 430 pages, 6 3/4 by 9 1/2 inches, case bound, Wiley VCH, Weinheim, Germany 2008. ISBN 10-3-906390-50-0, \$190 from J. Wiley, 111 River St., Hoboken NJ 07030.

The book consists of articles by over 50 authors and co-authors, whose original texts appeared in the journal *Chemistry & Biodiversity*. After attempting to define "what is life" in terms of evolution, the authors focus on the roles of chemistry in the evolutionary process. Two chapters examine reactions of the HCN tetramer. Another discusses chemistry and selection, and the formation of RNA molecules.

One approach is a study of the "pioneer organism" consisting of inorganic and organic components that emerged with volcanic activity. Evolution proceeded through the

laws of carbon fixation on transition-metal catalysts and by genetic mechanisms.

Other authors seek a consensus scheme to unite the "replication first" and "metabolism first" theories, and the influence of UV irradiation. Further topics include synthetic biology, prebiotic replication and catalysis, possible evolution of essential molecules, the study of carbonaceous meteorites, formamide chemistry and the derivation of informational polymers, precursors and the generation of RNA, and the potential non-enzymatic replication from monomers, among others.

The book reviews much of the work of the last two decades that has revealed many chemical approaches to understanding the origins of life. However, it also underscores that much more work still needs to be done.

—Alan Warren

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Committee details can be found at:  
<http://www.membership.acs.org/p/philadelphia>

or by calling Mrs. Libby Harper at  
the Philadelphia section office  
215-382-1589.

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## PHILADELPHIA SECTION, ACS 2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Sept. 8	Delaware Valley Mass Spectrometry Discussion Group: Dan Fabris, University of MD, Baltimore: <i>New Approaches for Performing Electrospray Ionization Mass Spectrometry of Less Than Ideal Samples</i> <a href="http://science.widener.edu/svb/msdg/">http://science.widener.edu/svb/msdg/</a>	Villanova University Villanova, PA
Sept. 10	Chemical Consultants Network: Dr. Richard Saferstein: <i>The Role of the Expert Witness in the Courtroom</i> <a href="http://www.chemconsultants.org">www.chemconsultants.org</a>	Cynwyd Club Bala Cynwyd, PA
Sept. 16	Chromatography Forum of the Delaware Valley: Janusz Pawliszyn, University of Waterloo, Canada: <i>New Developments in Solvent-less Sample Preparation Techniques</i> , <a href="http://cfdv.org">http://cfdv.org</a>	D'Ignazio's Towne House Media, PA
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>		
Sept. 17	<b>Victory Brewing Company Tour</b>	<b>Downingtown, PA</b> <b>NOTE CHANGE OF DATE</b>
Sept. 25	Philadelphia Organic Chemists Club: Ann Weber, Merck <a href="http://www.pocclub.org">www.pocclub.org</a>	University of Pennsylvania Philadelphia, PA
Oct. 7	DuPont Marshall Lecture: W. E. Moerner Stanford University <a href="http://www.chem.upenn.edu/chem">www.chem.upenn.edu/chem</a>	University of Pennsylvania Philadelphia, PA
<b>Oct. 16</b>	<b>Philadelphia Section Award</b>	<b>TBA</b>
Oct. 18	Expand Your Horizons Program for Sixth-Grade Girls	Chestnut Hill College Philadelphia, PA
Oct. 22	Philadelphia Organic Chemists Club Award Symposium to honor Professor Scott Sieburth, Temple University <a href="http://www.pocclub.org">www.pocclub.org</a>	Registration deadline Oct. 10
<b>Nov. 20</b>	<b>Ulliot Lecture: Bernard Bigot</b> <b>Commissariat à l'énergie atomique</b> <b>France</b>	<b>Chemical Heritage Foundation</b> <b>Philadelphia, PA</b>
<b>Dec. 13</b>	<b>Herb Bassow Memorial Chemistry Demonstrations and Hands-on Activities</b>	<b>TBA</b>



Dr. Ronald Hess of Ursinus College receiving a plaque as part of the 2008 Philadelphia Section, ACS, Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in Chemical Science. Section Chair Ella Davis (left) presented the plaque at the May meeting with Madeleine Jacobs, ACS Executive Director and CEO, looking on.