



# SCALACS

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October 2011

A Joint Publication of the Southern California and  
San Gorgonio Sections of the American Chemical Society



**Southern California Section  
Hosts the Western Regional  
Meeting at the Westin in  
Pasadena  
November 10-12, 2011**

***100 Years of Outstanding Chemistry in  
Southern California!***  
**Centennial Banquet  
November 11, 2011**

See Page 3

**San Gorgonio Section  
Celebrate Mole Day during National Chemistry  
Week with  
A Family Science Festival**

**October 22, 2011**

See Page 16

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A Joint Publication of the  
Southern California and San Gorgonio Sections of the  
American Chemical Society

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## Southern California Section



### Chair's Message

#### The Main Event

Have you have already registered for the Western Regional Meeting to be held November 10th – 12th in Pasadena? This is the main event in our yearlong celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the founding of our local section. There is something for everyone, including the Beckman Symposium Thursday evening, the technical sessions, special symposia, and the fabulous undergraduate program on Friday, the Centennial Banquet on Friday evening, followed on Saturday by a teachers program and the unique “So You Want to Start a Company” workshop. Please go to [www.wrmacs.org](http://www.wrmacs.org) for details and registration. ***A meeting like this comes once in a century!*** Did I mention the fabulous undergraduate program planned by Professors Armando Rivera, Veronica Jaramillo and the students at East Los Angeles College? “Discover Your Chemical Pathway: Exploring Your Future in Chemistry!”

#### Work Done in the Spirit of Service

The vision of the ACS states that we are committed to “Improving people’s lives through the transforming power of chemistry” (no kidding—check out the website if you don’t believe me), and our mission is “to advance the broader chemistry enterprise and its practitioners for the benefit of Earth and its people.” On those occasions when I do approach my job with a spirit of service (which I need to do way more often), I may be contributing toward this lofty vision. Why not give some kid the same opportunity? Over the past few decades, SCALACS has helped tens of thousands of high school students think about chemistry more deeply through the Chemistry Olympiad. And more recently we have started helping a few of them experience chemistry research through the Project SEED Program. But up to now, it is only a very few. When I ask for “the courage to change the things I can,” I think about this program, which has a profound effect on the young lives it touches. Please contact us to find out how you can help us to grow Project SEED.

Speaking of work done with the spirit of service, have I mentioned the fabulous undergraduate program? You’re right, I already did. But have you?

- Joe Khoury, Chair

## Southern California Section

### Section Dinner Meeting

### Centennial Banquet and Panel Discussion

Friday, November 11, 2011

at

**Westin Hotel**

**Fountain Ballroom**

191 North Los Robles

Pasadena, CA, 91101

Check-in: 7:30 pm

Dinner: 8:00 pm

Panel Discussion immediately following dinner

The Southern California Section of the American Chemical Society is hosting the 43rd Annual Western Regional Meeting at the Westin Hotel in Pasadena November 10-12, 2011. We will be celebrating our 100th anniversary as a Section with a banquet and a panel discussion led by distinguished Southern California chemists. The discussion will provide personal insights on the people, organizations and events in recent decades which exemplify chemistry in our region. The panel participants are Herb Kaesz (UCLA), J. D. Roberts (Caltech), Rudy Marcus (Caltech), and Arthur Riggs (City of Hope).

The banquet is preceded by the Undergraduate Poster Session and Reception. Please note that if you are not registered for the meeting, you may not attend this reception (free to meeting attendees). Registration is available at [www.wrmacs.org/registration11.html](http://www.wrmacs.org/registration11.html). Early registration closes October 21st.

**Cost:** There is a choice for dinner of Slow Roasted Prime Rib of Beef, or Salmon Provencal. The cost is \$65 including salad, dessert, tax, tip and wine with dinner. Vegetarian entrée available upon request.

**Reservations:** Please call Nancy Paradiso in the Section Office at 310 327-1216 or email [office@scalacs.org](mailto:office@scalacs.org) by Friday, November 4, 2011.

**Directions:** The hotel is located right off the 210 freeway on South Los Robles Avenue. Driving directions are available at <http://www.starwoodhotels.com/westin/property/area/map.html?propertyID=1453>

## Southern California Section



### *Celebrating 100 Years of Outstanding Chemistry in Southern California!*

**43<sup>rd</sup> Western Regional Meeting**

**November 10-12, 2011**

**Pasadena Westin Hotel, Pasadena, CA**

*Sponsored by the Southern California Section*

[www.wrmacs.org](http://www.wrmacs.org)

#### ***Legacy of Arnold Beckman Symposium (Thursday evening)***

Our celebration of Arnold Beckman's lasting impact on chemistry begins on the Caltech campus near the Beckman pH Meter National Chemical Historic Landmark. With generous support from the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation, WRM2011 and Caltech's Beckman Institute invite you to a complimentary reception and buffet, followed by a historical overview by Gerald Gallwas and a report on the latest progress toward personalized medicine by Leroy Hood (Inst. Systems Biology)

#### ***Technical Program and Special Events (Thursday afternoon through Saturday)***

- Symposia and technical sessions will span all areas of chemistry, ranging from protein structures, to novel materials, atmospheric chemistry of several planets including our own, and retrospectives on the remarkable achievements of Southern California chemists since 1911.
- Plenary lectures by David Tirrell (Caltech) and Mark Thompson (USC)
- Undergraduate Program including career advising, research posters and a graduate school fair
- Symposium on computational chemistry led by Kendall Houk, 2010 Cope Award Recipient

#### ***SCALACS Centennial Banquet (Friday Evening)***

Help celebrate the Southern California Section's first one hundred years. A panel of distinguished scientists will share their experiences of people, projects and institutions in the region involved in ground-breaking science and technology.

#### ***Saturday Program***

- Teaching chemistry at the elementary through college/university level
- "So You Want to Start a Company?"
- Intellectual property and business law workshops (continuing legal ed credit for attorneys)
- Vendor workshops
- Survey of NSF-sponsored undergraduate research programs

*(Continued on Page 5)*

## Southern California Section

Western Regional Meeting (Continued from Page 4)

***Make your plans now—  
a meeting like this comes once a century!***  
**www.wrmacs.org**

**Early registration ends October 21:**

(<http://www.xpressreg.net/eReg/?ShowCode=RDWE111>),

**Hotel reservations:** <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/ACSMMeeting2011>  
(group rates available through October 14)

**Please visit the PACS website** (<http://abstracts.acs.org>)  
for online abstract submissions through September 23, 2011.

**Exhibitors/Workshop Presenters:**

<http://www.wrmacs.org/exhibitors&workshops.html>

**Sponsors:**

<http://www.wrmacs.org/sponsorship.html>

- Chris Brazier and Bob de Groot,  
Co-chairs of the 2011 Western Regional Meeting

## LECTURER POSITION IN BIOCHEMISTRY

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at UCLA seeks applications for a lecturer in the area of Biochemistry for a full time position starting in the winter quarter (January) of 2012. Responsibilities will include lecturing, conducting regularly scheduled office hours, writing and grading exams and problem sets, and supervising teaching assistants. Qualified candidates will have a Ph.D. in biochemistry or related field and have significant prior experience in teaching large biochemistry courses at the college level. Candidates should provide a *curriculum vitae* and a statement of teaching philosophy (ca. 1 page), and should arrange for 3 letters of reference to be sent separately. The materials should be sent to:

Biochemistry Lectureship Search Committee  
Office of the Chair  
UCLA, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry  
Box 951569  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1569

OR as a single PDF file via email to [jobs@chem.ucla.edu](mailto:jobs@chem.ucla.edu).

Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. *The University of California is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.*

## Southern California Section

### Section History Project Part Five: Present Day 2001-2011

It is now 2011, the 100 year anniversary of the commencement of the Southern California Section of the American Chemical Society. We've been holding our collective breath since September 11, 2001, waiting for the next explosive shoe to drop. The world is in turmoil, weather is whacky, and we are enduring the Great Recession brought on by the collapse of the nation's financial sector and housing bubble in 2008. The employment outlook for graduating chemists is bleak nationwide, let alone in Los Angeles County.

Los Angeles county population is nearly 10 million, having increased 10-fold since the first chemists and assayers of the Los Angeles Chemical and Metallurgy Club began meeting in the early 1900's. Chemists who have jobs work in the pharmaceutical, petroleum, and biotechnology industries, the nascent nanotechnology and green catalysis industries, or in chemical sales, service, consulting or education sectors.

In the past 20 years, the Los Angeles public transportation system has diffracted into a rainbow of routes – the Blue, Red, Green, Gold, Purple, Orange, and Silver Lines – encircling and looping through the major metropolitan areas. Still, it is difficult to go many places without an automobile, and there are so many automobiles on the road that it is difficult to go any place at all. California's strict air pollution control laws help keep smog levels lower than they were in the 1960's, but in the past decade the East San Gabriel Valley has experienced a significant increase in the number of days the ozone concentration has exceeded Federal Health Standards.

The Southern California Section membership has hovered around 2600 people since 1996, when our northernmost territory set out on its own as the Los Padres Section. SCALACS Magazine was briefly reunited as a tri-section publication with Orange County and San Gorgonio Sections. Our latest claim to Nobel Laureate among our members is Robert Grubbs (2005). Our most recent moment of pride is the news that Joe Tung of Whitney High School won a Gold Medal at the International Chemistry Olympiad this past summer.

Section volunteers are inspired and motivated by youth and hope, and promote an active community outreach program to bring the message of science to children of all ages. From Project SEED for economically disadvantaged high school students, to Expanding Your Horizons and the Sally Ride Festival for middle school girls, SCALACS people encourage youth to embrace math and science. As we recruit our future scientists in these uncertain times, we take to heart the lesson this author learned from an impulsive dig through our Section's boxes of artifacts 10 years ago: history isn't much different from the present.

## Southern California Section

### Reflections

Some particular and perhaps peculiar observations came to mind this past year as I was piecing together the facts about the history of the Southern California Section. I thought I would share them with you.

I was surprised to learn just how "advanced" Los Angeles was back in the early 1900's. I had never imagined that industry and culture could be sophisticated without the technology I grew up with. Despite its reputation for its danger and roughness, Los Angeles attracted a lot of people, and business followed. I found myself admiring the early adventuresome chemists of Los Angeles, who, by virtue of having no other means, were forced to figure a market for their skills. Nowadays, how many of us would move to a new frontier without being assured that a job was waiting? Lesson learned: People thrive and prosper, even in uncertain times and dangerous places.

Another thing I noticed during my archival dig was that even as early as 1915 or so, Section Elders were putting out the call for fresh young volunteers. (Of course, the soliciting phrase was "looking for young men to help with...", but that's another story.) Evidence upon evidence suggests that the majority of very active Section volunteers throughout these past 90 years have been in the...um...mature chemists demographic. Despite this obvious sociological pattern of volunteerism, we've never succumbed to the idea that it was hopeless trying to engage younger chemists. When one comes along to help or participate, we feel like we've really succeeded in outreach. Lessons learned: People don't give up even if it seems hopeless, and youth invigorates our mission.

The final observation I want to share is about the chemists who plied their trade and joined in on the activities bandwagon during the heyday of Los Angeles chemistry in the late 1940's and early 1950's. Our long-term members frequently and fondly recount those days of professional pride, and camaraderie, and wonder if the enthusiasm of those days will ever be recaptured. Some people say that the business and cultural environments have changed so much that the heyday will never come back. That may be so, but I think that there was a different reason for the momentum of those days. I suggest that those chemists in that post-war era were caught up in the solidarity, common experiences, and euphoria of being or knowing survivors and heroes. Sort of like the high-fiving that accompanies the people exiting an adrenaline-filled roller coaster ride. Lesson learned: People come together in times of common hardship and rejoice together when it is over.

*(Continued on Page 8)*

## Southern California Section

### Reflections (Continued from Page 7)

The Southern California Section celebrates its 100 year anniversary this year. In the years to come, I will apply the lessons I learned from an impulsive dig through our Section's boxes of artifacts to my own life experiences, and hope that you do the same. In these uncertain times, as our nation responds to the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks on our country, we can seek comfort from these lessons: We thrive even in uncertain times. We support one another during hardship. We don't give up hope. What goes around comes around.

- Barbara Belmont, Treasurer &  
Part-time SCALACS Historian

### Call for Nominations OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL CHEMISTRY TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

If you know of a local high school chemistry teacher who is making a difference, please make the effort to show how important his/her work is to you and the students. Self-nominations from those who feel they fit the requirements are accepted as well! It's teachers like the recipients of this award who make learning chemistry rewarding! Plus, there is a financial component of \$250! The \$250 will be an unrestricted award directly to the teacher plus possible supplies from our generous vendors that will go to the chemistry program at the school of this teacher. The winner of the Section Award will also be entered at the National ACS level for the James Conant Bryant Award and the Western Regional High School Teacher of the Year Award. Having won a previous award does not necessarily exclude a nominee.

Nomination Package should include: Biographical sketch of nominee with date of birth, list of any publications, statement (no more than 1,000 words) of nominee's achievements as a high school level chemistry teacher including quality of teaching, effective methods, nominee's ability to challenge and inspire students, extracurricular work (science fairs, clubs, etc.). Seconding letters are not essential, but up to five may be included. **Nominating documents may be submitted via email to [office@scalacs.org](mailto:office@scalacs.org).** Note that signed documents that have been scanned are acceptable. Nominating documents may also be submitted via snail-mail. Send 3 copies of the package to:

Outstanding Chemistry Teacher Committee  
Southern California ACS  
14934 S. Figueroa St.  
Gardena, CA 90248

The deadline for nominations is **November 15th, 2011**. Please feel free to contact Dr. Gerald Delker of the Educational Affairs Committee at [delker@earthlink.net](mailto:delker@earthlink.net) if you have any questions.

## Southern California Section

### Call for Nominations 2011 Richard C. Tolman Medal

The Tolman Medal is awarded each year by the Southern California Section of the American Chemical Society in recognition of outstanding contributions to chemistry. These contributions may include achievements in fundamental studies; achievements in chemical technology; significant contributions to chemical education; or outstanding leadership in science on a national level. The nominee need not be a Southern California resident; however, most of the award-related accomplishments must have been made in this area.

The Southern California Section of the American Chemical Society and the Tolman Award Committee are now seeking nominations for the 2011 award. There is no official nominating form for this award; nominations are accepted from any member of this Section or of cooperating Sections. The nomination package should include:

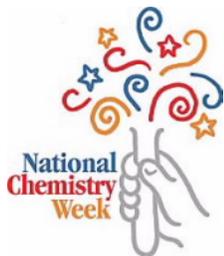
- an up-to-date curriculum vitae or resume of the candidate
- letters of support from colleagues in the profession describing the candidate's major achievements
- if the candidate is being considered for outstanding teaching, letters of support from former students should be included.

It is preferred that nomination packages be electronically transmitted to the Chair of the Tolman Committee at [office@scalacs.org](mailto:office@scalacs.org). We are also deleting the requirement for copies of publications. Rather, a list of representative publications would suffice. **The deadline for receipt of nominations is December 15, 2011.** Inquiries should be directed to the Chairperson at (310) 327-1216 or via e-mail at [office@scalacs.org](mailto:office@scalacs.org). A list of winners appended here demonstrates the caliber of awardee sought by the committee.

1960 William G. Young	1977 Sidney W. Benson	1994 Jacqueline K. Barton
1961 Anton B. Burg	1978 Thomas C. Bruce	1995 Christopher S. Foote
1962 Ernest H. Swift	1979 Harry B. Gray	1996 Larry R. Dalton
1963 W. Conway Pierce	1980 Herbert D. Kaesz	1997 Ahmed H. Zewail
1964 A.J. Haagen-Schmidt	1981 Paul D. Boyer	1998 Kendall N. Houk
1965 Thomas Doumani	1982 Donald T. Sawyer	1999 Peter Dervan
1966 Arthur W. Adamson	1983 James N. Pitts	2000 William A. Goddard III
1967 Ulrich B. Bray	1984 Donald C. Cram	2001 Peter M. Rentzepis
1968 Francis E. Blacet	1985 Arnold O. Beckman	2002 Robert H. Grubbs
1969 Robert Vold	1986 M. Frederick Hawthorne	2003 Arieh Warshel
1970 Robert L. Pecsok	1987 Clifford A. Bunton	2004 Christopher Reed
1971 Roland C. Hansford	1988 John D. Baldeschwieler	2005 Fred Wudl
1972 James Bonner	1989 Mustafa A. El-Sayed	2006 G. K. Surya Prakash
1973 Howard Reiss	1990 Linus Pauling	2007 Barbara Finlayson-Pitts
1974 John D. Roberts	1991 George A. Olah	2008 Joan S. Valentine
1975 Corwin Hansch	1992 Peter C. Ford	2009 Richard B. Kaner
1976 F. Sherwood Rowland	1993 Charles L. Wilkins	2010 Dennis Dougherty

## Southern California Section

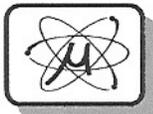
### Outreach Activities



**Week of October 16-22, 2011 (Varying Times)**  
**National Chemistry Week Activities at the California Science Center**, 700 Exposition Park Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90037, website: <http://www.californiasciencecenter.org>. Join volunteers at the California Science Center for NCW activities throughout the week. The theme for NCW 2011 is "Chemistry—Our Health, Our Future!" For more information visit: [www.acs.org/ncw](http://www.acs.org/ncw). If you would like to volunteer or have questions, please contact Henry Abrash at: [abrash8@aol.com](mailto:abrash8@aol.com).

**October 22, 2011—California Science Education Conference Breakfast featuring Shirley Corriher, ACS member and noted food writer. The Conference takes place at the Pasadena Convention Center. The breakfast is 7:30 to 9:30 am.** Tickets are \$30, which includes the breakfast and the talk. Registration for the CSE meeting is not required.

SCALACS is hosting a table at the Conference on Friday and Saturday. For more information or to volunteer, contact Bob de Groot at [rdegroot@oxy.edu](mailto:rdegroot@oxy.edu).



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## Councilor Talking Points Highlights Fall National Meeting in Denver

Here are the highlights of the meeting. Please see our website, [www.scalacs.org/?page\\_id=44](http://www.scalacs.org/?page_id=44) for the complete Talking Points.

The candidates for the fall 2011 ACS national election were announced as follows:

### **Candidates for President-Elect, 2012:**

- Dr. Dennis Chamot, Associate Executive Director, Division of Engineering and Physical Sciences, National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, DC
- Dr. Marinda Li Wu, Founder and President, Science is Fun!, Orinda, CA

### **Candidates for District VI Director, 2012-2014:**

- Dr. Bonnie A. Charpentier, Vice President, Regulatory and Quality Metabolex, Inc., Oakland, CA
- Dr. Carlos G. Gutierrez, Professor of Chemistry, California State University, Los Angeles, CA

### **Membership Activity**

Despite the challenging economy and continued high unemployment, the Society's overall membership number remains stable at near 163,000. The number of new undergraduate Student Members is growing rapidly, and as of July 31 the total stands at 15,702. The committee is concentrating its efforts on retaining current members.

### **Employment, Economic, and Professional Activities**

ACS has created new programs to assist unemployed members and new resources for all members, from students to seasoned professionals. The first ever fully integrated onsite and virtual career fair in Denver offered job seekers and virtual participants via webcam the opportunity to interact with each other and to connect with prospective employers and programs to sharpen their career skills. The number of employers was up from Anaheim.

The Presidential Task Force on Innovation and Job Creation released their report, entitled "Innovation, Chemistry & Jobs." The report contained four recommendations to stimulate innovation and job creation in the US chemical industry. The Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA) and Corporation Associates co-sponsored a new program funding request to establish an entrepreneurial initiative, which would implement two of the four recommendations. First, it establishes an educational program to guide budding entrepreneurs through the creation of new chemical businesses. Second, it supports the formation of new chemical companies by providing access to the unparalleled informational resources of the Society, as well as other professional resources. The initiative was approved by the Board, and will be implemented early next year.

CEPA is also working with ACS President Nancy Jackson, members of the Board, and other committees on the "Paying It Forward" campaign. Dr. Jackson emphasized the need for, and importance of members helping members. She asks each of the Society's more than 163,000 members to help unemployed members by taking specific action now.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Budget and Finance (B&F), the Board VOTED to approve an advance member registration fee of \$360 for national meetings held in 2012.



## This Month in Chemical History

Harold Goldwhite, California State University,  
Los Angeles  
hgoldwh@calstatela.edu

Deadlines creep up on one – especially when just back from vacation. Apologetically I offer you a recycled column. You have my promise that the rest of the year will bring new material. Since my vacation included a short visit to Ukraine, scene of the Chernobyl disaster, this piece on the discovery of radioactivity seems appropriate.

In early March 1896 Henri Becquerel made one of those seminal discoveries that change the whole face of science -- and of society. It was, to some degree, a serendipitous discovery, but Becquerel had the background, training, and genius to appreciate its significance, and he became the first investigator in a completely new area of science.

Henri Becquerel was born on December 15, 1852, into a distinguished family of scientists. His grandfather, Antoine Cesar Becquerel, was a pioneer student of electrical phenomena early in the nineteenth century, making important contributions to piezoelectricity, thermo-electricity, conductivity, and primary cells. Henri's father, Edmond Becquerel, became, at the age of 18, assistant to Antoine, and devoted his career to studies of both electricity and light. He was among the first to record, by photography, ultraviolet spectra -- in 1842!-- and devised a color photography system. He was a major investigator of phosphorescence phenomena, and this undoubtedly had its influence on his son's major discovery. In 1852, when Henri was born, his father Edmond had succeeded his father, Antoine, as Professor at the National Museum of Natural History in Paris.

So Henri grew up in the environs of a laboratory, and with his heritage he was predestined for a career in science. He studied at the Polytechnic School in Paris, and then studied engineering for three years, while serving in the Army Corps of Bridges and Roads. He became a Demonstrator at the Polytechnic School in 1875, and later, in 1895, became Professor at that School. In 1878, after his grandfather Antoine died, Henri took the position of Assistant at the museum where his father was Professor. Henri succeeded him in 1892. Henri had been elected to the Academy of Sciences in 1889.

Henri Becquerel's first researches were on the Faraday effect, the interaction between light and magnetic fields. He established the effect in gases, and worked on empirical and theoretical relationships between field strength and the magnitude of the effect. He then started a more general study of magnetic phenomena in metals and gases. He also was an early student of infrared spectra, examining such spectra of the sun, metal vapors, water, and compounds of the lanthanide elements ("rare earths"). In the early 1890's he returned to one of his father's themes, studying in more detail the phosphorescence of uranium salts, including some striking new observations of phosphorescence produced when certain minerals are heated.

*(Continued on Page 13)*

## **This Month in Chemical History** *(Continued from Page 12)*

In late 1895 Wilhelm Roentgen, Professor at Wurzburg, startled the scientific community with his announcement of the discovery of X-rays. The remarkable properties of this new form of radiation, including its ability to penetrate materials quite opaque to visible light, set off a flood of new investigative work. Henri Poincare showed some of Roentgen's radiographs at a meeting of the Academy of Sciences in Paris in January 1896, and Becquerel was most interested in a reply to one of his questions, that the source of the X-rays might be the luminous spot on the wall of the cathode ray tube. Perhaps there was a connection between phosphorescence and X-rays? Becquerel told Poincare that he would begin some experiments to test this idea.

On February 24, 1896, Becquerel described some initial experiments at a meeting of the Academy of Sciences, but the results were inconclusive. He then began new experiments using, as his phosphorescent material, potassium uranium sulphate, a salt which has a very strong phosphorescence. He placed the crystalline material on photographic plates wrapped in black paper, and put the assemblage in sunlight to excite the phosphorescence of the salt. After a few hours exposure he developed the plates and saw a faint impression of the crystals which had somehow penetrated the black paper. He seemed to be on the right track. More experiments were planned in late February, and the plates with attached crystals were made up - - but the weather did not cooperate. The sun refused to shine, which is really not surprising for late February in Paris. Becquerel put the prepared plates away in a drawer for a few days and then, as a good scientist should, decided to treat these plates as controls. On March 1, 1896 he developed the plates expecting to find only very weak impressions. To his surprise the impressions were extremely strong; whatever was producing them was continuing to act in the dark of a laboratory drawer. Phosphorescence clearly had nothing to do with the phenomena Becquerel had observed. He had discovered a new kind of radiation which had no obvious excitational cause. He soon established that the new radiation was to be found in every uranium compound he examined, and he discovered a new detector for it. A charged gold-leaf electroscope was discharged by the action of this novel radiation -- but we might as well give it its recognized name. Becquerel had discovered radioactivity. His new electroscope detector was well-suited to quantitative measurements of the phenomenon. A young doctoral candidate at the School of Physics and Chemistry, Marie Sklodovska Curie, decided to follow up Becquerel's discoveries and use the electroscope to establish the fundamentals of radioactivity, with results that are surely well-known to all my readers.

Becquerel continued his studies on radioactivity in parallel with those of Marie Curie, who was later joined in her investigations by her husband, Pierre Curie. Becquerel and the Curies were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1903 for their work on radioactivity, work which led to a complete revolution in our understanding of the nature of matter, and to a range of new products and industries, both beneficial and deadly.

## San Gorgonio Section



### Chair's Message What's Old is New Again?

On a recent sabbatical leave, I was able to indulge two of my passions by studying the history of science and become acquainted with some (hitherto unknown to me) fascinating scientists and assimilated a vast plethora of obscure facts. Did you know that Benjamin Franklin has been inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame? Agnes Pockles, whose inspiring story I became familiar with through Project Inclusion (an NSF sponsored project directed by Janan Hayes and Patricia Perez), conducted most of her research at her kitchen sink since higher education was not accessible to women at that time.

As I was downloading the latest e-roster, it became apparent that the San Gorgonio section had its own rich history. The Section has existed for 62 years. Linus Pauling was the ACS president when the Section was founded (1949). The local sections recognize their 50-year and 60-year members each year. This year, our section had more 60-year members than 50-year members!

The San Gorgonio Section would like to recognize and congratulate its 50-year members:

**Dr. Fred Paul Abramson**  
**Dr. Vasu Dev**  
**Dr. Robert P. Pinnell**

The San Gorgonio Section would also like to recognize and congratulate its 60-year members:

**Dr. Charles F. Allen**  
**Dr. Fred H. Brock**  
**Dr. Henry L. Richter**  
**Mr. David Roller**  
**Dr. Hartland H. Schmidt**  
**Mr. Charles R. Schoneman**

What was amazing was that some of the original San Gorgonio members still belong to ACS. In fact, there are 11 individuals who have been members of ACS for more than 60 years!

*(Continued on Page 15)*

## San Gorgonio Section

### Chair's Message (Continued from Page 14)

The San Gorgonio Section is gearing up to launch its website. It seems like the perfect blending of the old and the new: outlining the history of our section to be featured on this new electronic, digital method of communication. The projected launch date for the website is October 3. The site will be accessible under "Local Sections", which is reached from the "Membership and Networks" tab on the ACS homepage. Meanwhile, I will be pursuing a tangent of my sabbatical project – seeking information regarding the pioneers who founded and populated the San Gorgonio section.

- Eileen DiMauro,  
2011 Chair

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## San Gorgonio Section

### October Meeting

### Help Us Celebrate Mole Day during National Chemistry Week with A Family Science Festival

**October 22, 2011**

From: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

### Mount San Antonio College

1100 Grand Ave., Walnut  
Natural Science Complex Buildings 60, 61 and 7

The celebration will be held at Mount San Antonio College. Join us for a chemistry quiz show (featuring students as contestants), hands on demonstrations, and science activities!

**Cost:** Events are free; parking is \$3.00.

**For Information:** Eileen DiMauro (909) 594-5611 x4533  
(edimauro@mtsac.edu).

Park in Lot D – Be sure to purchase a parking permit in the dispenser.

**Directions:** Mount San Antonio College campus is on Grand Ave. between the 10 and 60 freeways:

**From 10 Freeway:** Take the 57 South and exit at Temple Ave. Turn right on Temple Ave. Turn right on Mt. SAC Way. Park in Lot D

**From 60 Freeway:** Take the 57 North and exit at Temple Ave. Turn left on Temple Ave. Turn right on Mt. SAC Way. Park in Lot D.

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**October**

- 16-22 SC NCW at California Science Center - see page 12  
22 California Science Teachers Associate Meeting featuring Shirley  
Courier—see page 12  
22 SG Family Science Festival, Mt. SAC —see page 16

**November**

- 11 Centennial Banquet at the Westin Hotel, Pasadena—see page 3  
10-12 SC hosting the 43rd Western Regional Meeting at the Westin  
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