

Henry Godt Lecture

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Last year we had to drive through a snowstorm to get to the Continuity Dinner. I found out on the way home how many hills there really were on the road between Webster Groves and the bridge to Illinois.

Another year has passed. That is 101 for the St Louis section. We had our usual activities including the High School Chemistry Contests and many Science Fairs. Marie Sherman passed the torch of *Chemistry Is Phun* on to Sheryl Loux. We actually had a finalist from our section in the Chemistry Olympiad. Andrew Liu of Parkway Central participated for the United States and won a bronze medal at the International Chemistry Olympiad in Hungary. How do we get more kids excited about chemistry so they participate?

We had our annual joint meeting with AIChE featuring a tour of Monsanto's Creve Coeur site learning how experiments with catalyst used to make Roundup® might lead to an efficient way to liberate hydrogen fuel.

Recognition Night we honored a growing number of our 50-year and 60-year members. We counted 53 people. Steve Kinsley shared information about wine flavor components.

The Younger Chemists Committee became active again starting in April. Events and gatherings have been held twice nearly every month including hosting a very successful Career Night presentation at Washington University in September.

University of Missouri hosted the Undergraduate Research Symposium this year, kicking off our Chemical Progress Week. Twenty research posters were presented from students from UMSL, SLU, SIUE, and Principia. Awards Night was packed, with winners of the High School Chem Contest, college juniors, presentation of the Leopold Marcus award, the High School Teaching Award and the Chemical Science and Technology award. This year the Chemical Science and Technology Award went to Mike Rogers of IQsynthesis. Ted Gast told us *Paper Making is Fun and You Can Do It*. The room was packed.

Shelly Minter was honored with the St Louis Award for her research. We welcome her tonight as our new Chair-elect.

In May a small group (3 people) had a private tour of Vertegy Company with Grant Lanham focused on sustainable building technologies.

A larger group showed up at Tower Grove Park for our 4th annual summer picnic. Apparently no torrential rains this year – I hear.

During the summer Eric Ressler migrated our website to its new domain – stlacs.org. That is easy to remember. Did he really volunteer to edit the Bond again? Will he still have time to edit my minutes?

In August some of our members volunteered to share chemistry at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield, Illinois.

Lisa Balbes continued the popular and successful series of Boy Scout merit badge clinics hosted at Jost Chemical Company. She already has a volunteer for next year who read about it in the Chemical Bond.

Greg Wall set up the ACS booth at the St Louis city school Career Fair (although it was canceled at the last minute), chemists celebrate Earth Day, and our National Chemistry Week celebration where more people were convinced you can't have a ball without chemistry.

We had our first Science Café at Schlafly Bottleworks. Hal Harris compared science policies of the two major presidential candidates. Last week I sat with an expert on renewable energy who worked on the McCain campaign so I asked him how McCain's renewable policies would be different. He told me Obama will fare better with the new congress. Apparently people bought enough food and drinks that Schlafly will let us return for another program.

We honored Daryle H Busch from the University of Kansas with the Midwest Award.

We want to thank Sue Dudek for her many years of service - especially for getting the Chemical Bond out in a timely manner this last year. It is nice when everyone receives their election ballots before they need to be returned. Now we just need to work on making the elections more competitive. In Illinois I hear some even know how to make elections and appointments profitable – apparently until you get caught.

Thanks to everyone else for their help in making this year a success. Keith – have fun with the report!