



# Chemical Bond

Volume 57  
Number 8  
November 2006

St. Louis Section, American Chemical Society

*Congratulations!*



*Outstanding Local Section*

# *Calling all High School Teachers*

The 233rd American Chemical Society National Meeting & Exposition will be in Chicago on March 2007. Ami LeFevre and Lee Marek are planning the High School Teachers Day program. This event, which takes place on Sunday, March 25, 2006 from 8:30AM - 4:30PM, will feature programming that addresses topics relevant to the teaching of high school chemistry. Sunday morning coffee, lunch, and materials will be included as part of the registration fee.

## **Chicago, March 25, 2007: Inquiring Minds Want to Know**

8:30 — Introductory Remarks

8:35 — James Bryant Conant Awardee for Teaching High School Chemistry  
Eleanor Siegrist “39 Years of Enjoying and Motivating Students”

9:20 — John Fortman from Wright State University “Demonstrating Carbonate Chemistry from the Pyramids to Soda Pop”

9:50 — Jim Spencer from Franklin & Marshall College and Patrick Daubenmire from Loyola University Chicago “Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning (POGIL): A Student Centered Approach to Teaching”

10:50 — Intermission

11:00 — Bill Deese from Louisiana Tech “Demos of the Dead Chemist Society”

12:00 — Intermission

12:10 — Luncheon entertainment: Ken Spengler former department head Palatine High School – “A Skeptical Look at Administration in H.S.” (20 minutes)

1:30 — Afternoon keynote: George Bodner from Purdue “Eternal Verities”

2:20 — Mary Harris & Linda Fanis from polymer ambassadors and JCE “JCE for the High School Teacher: Recycling Resources for Earth Day 2007”

2:50 — Intermission

3:00 — Jim Spencer from Franklin & Marshall College “AP Chemistry: Redesign of the Curriculum and Exam, What Does it Mean?”

3:25 — Lynn Hogue and Mickey Sarquis from Miami of Ohio University, Center for Chemistry Education “Lowering Student Activation Energy for Learning Chemistry” (1 to 1.5 hours)

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# Meeting & Seminars

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## Board of Directors

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Meetings are open to all members, and all are encouraged to attend. Elected officers and chairs of major committees have the right to vote; others in attendance have voice but no vote. If you want to attend the dinner, please contact Alexa Serfis (barnoski@slu.edu) at least one week prior to the meeting date. The cost of dinner is \$18. Members wishing to become active in section activities are welcomed to their first dinner for free, compliments of the section. **Special Meeting Change:** The November Board meeting will be combined with John Fortman's talk (see below). The board will meet at 5:45 at the Sigma Research Center on Laclede Ave. in St. Louis. The reception for John will be held at 6:30 and his talk will start at 7:15. Food will be provided. Please check the web site for the address and map: <http://www.umstl.edu/~acs/>

### Thursday, November 9

Sigma Aldrich Life Sciences  
Research Center

### *The Serious and Delirious Use of Chemistry in Movies*

**John Fortman**  
ACS Tour Speaker

Reception 6:30 - 7:15 pm  
Talk 7:15 pm

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## University of Missouri- St. Louis

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Seminars are held on Mondays  
at 4:00 pm in Room 451 Benton Hall.

November 6

**Ned Bowden**

University of Iowa

*Synthesis and Self-assembly of  
Comb Block Copolymer: New  
Photonic Materials From Old  
Polymers*

November 13

**Dev Arya**

Clemson University

*Recognition of A and B Form  
Nucleic Acids*

November 27

**Tom Ellenberger**

Washington University  
School of Medicine

*Structural Enzymology of  
DNA End Joining*

December 4

**Jean Chmielewski**

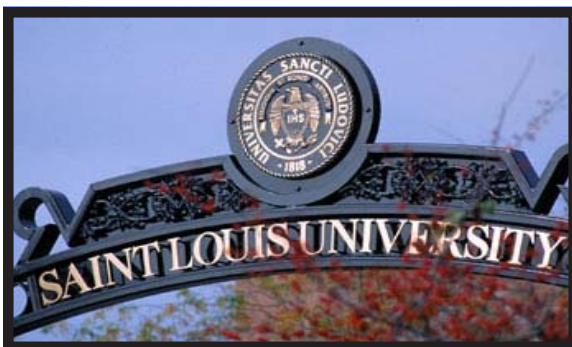
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# Interdisciplinary Degree at SLU

The Department of Chemistry at Saint Louis University is seeking applicants for its research-based Masters of Science program ([chemistry.slu.edu](http://chemistry.slu.edu)). Once a masters degree is obtained, students have the opportunity to participate in the recently established Integrated and Applied Sciences Ph.D. program ([www.slu.edu/ias](http://www.slu.edu/ias)). This interdisciplinary degree program comprises tracks in the disciplines of biology, chemistry, and physics, but requires students to engage in research that transcends these traditional boundaries. Both programs provide an interdisciplinary environment that is large enough to provide students with broad exposure to collaborative research projects, yet small enough for students to have one-on-one interaction with their faculty mentor. Applications for each are available at [www.slu.edu/graduate](http://www.slu.edu/graduate).



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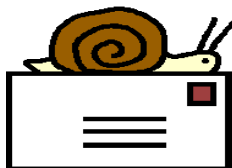
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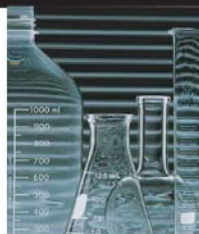
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*from p. 5 of May 2006*

# St. Louis Section ACS WINS: Outstanding Local Section

The annual ChemLuminary Awards Ceremony was held on Tuesday, September 12th during the ACS National meeting in San Francisco. The event was preceded by a social hour and poster session, in which local sections could display posters of their 2005 highlights. The St. Louis Section presented highlights including the round table discussion with ACS President Bill Carroll, the Women Chemists event with the luncheon and traveling exhibit, National Chemistry Week, and the many awards given to students and professional chemists. The St. Louis Section was nominated for three national awards:

Outstanding Single Event Promoting Women  
ACS Student Affiliates Chapter Interaction Award  
Outstanding Local Section, Large Size

It is wonderful to be nominated and a thrill to win. The St. Louis Section came away with the Outstanding Local Section, Large Size. Congratulations to Past President Ted Gast and the Section. Thanks to all those who helped carry out our many activities!

Photo below: Ted Gast, immediate past chair, and ACS President Ann Nalley with the Outstanding Local Section Award.

*An Outstanding  
Tradition. . . by Lol Barton*

As mentioned, the St. Louis ACS Section was again successful in winning the Award for Outstanding Performance by a Large Section. It has been 26 years since we won our first award which was, coincidentally, the year in which I served as Chair-elect to then-Chair H. Burnham Tinker, a Monsanto chemist. This article is the first of two that describe the procedures of the awards process and also give some history and context to the Outstanding Performance Awards received by the St. Louis Section.

The tradition of presenting awards for Outstanding Performance by a Local Section began in 1968. Each year Local Sections around the country submit their annual report to the Local Section Activities Committee, a standing committee of the ACS Council. The reports are reviewed and, among other actions, the committee selects Outstanding Performance Award winners in the various size categories. These awards are very competitive indeed and in any year, the "margin of victory" is typically very small. Submitting a report is also a requirement if the section expects to receive its annual funding allotment, so not all sections choose to compete for one of these elite awards. The reports are also the means by which the ACS keeps track of Local Sections and is able to provide assistance to those sections which need it.



The *Very Large* category was added in 1999. Prior to that time, the *Large* section category included all Local Sections with 2000 or more members. Below are the Outstanding Performance Awards won by the St. Louis Section:

- 1979, Large Section category, H. Burnham Tinker, Chair
- 1980, Large Section category, Lawrence Barton, Chair
- 1983, Medium-Large Section category, Charles F. Hobbs, Chair
- 1986, Medium-Large Section category, Phyllis R. Bennett, Chair
- 1992, Medium-Large Section category, Donna G. Friedman, Chair
- 1993, Medium-Large Section category, Sadiq S. Shah, Chair
- 1996, Medium-Large Section category, A. Greg Wall, Chair
- 1997, Medium-Large Section category, Robert M. Friedman, Chair
- 2000, Large Section category, Pauline L. Bellavance, Chair
- 2002, Large Section category, Lisa M. Balbes, Chair
- 2005, Large Section category, Ted Gast, Chair

Since we received the 1979 award, the St. Louis Section has won the Outstanding Performance Award more often than any other Section in the three largest size categories. Since 1968 only the Delaware Section, which has the same number of total awards, compares with our record. That section, however, won half of its awards in the early 1970s. Our successes have been in spite of the fact that we have often been one of the smaller sections within our category. For example, this year we won the award in the *Large Size* category. The Section size was 1768 members. But the membership range for that category was 1600 – 3199 and the average size was about 2250. In the very first two years in which we won the award, we were among the smallest sections in our category, and indeed barely qualified. Our membership hovered around the 2000 mark and shortly after that it dropped and we became one of the *Medium-Large* Sections until the *Very Large* category was added in 1999. One of the reasons for this loss of membership is that since 1980, when we were presented with our first award, the extent of the chemical industry in St. Louis decreased considerably, with some companies moving to other cities. For example, Monsanto was a giant among chemical companies in 1980, but in the intervening years it has changed substantially. Similarly Mallinckrodt has had its up and downs. The company has been bought and sold several times and companies such as Petrolite and others have disappeared from the area all together. Thus, the quality of the programs and activities that resulted in our success was not based on contributions from very large numbers of ACS members, but from the quality traditions and programs that we have been able to sustain for a very long time.



Photo: ChemLuminary Award Ceremony (left to right) Tom Mines, Hal Harris, Alexa Serfis, Donna Friedman, Steve Kinsley, Ted Gast, Sadiq Shah, Lisa Balbes, Greg Wall, Lol Barton



# Nominate a Colleague for the St. Louis Award

The St. Louis Award, sponsored by the Monsanto Company, is presented to an individual who had made outstanding contributions to the profession of chemistry and demonstrated potential to further the advancement of the chemical profession. The award, consisting of a \$1,500 honorarium and a plaque, is presented at the St. Louis Award Banquet, the final event of Chemical Progress Week in April.

Please help the Awards Committee identify outstanding chemists in the St. Louis Section by submitting your nominations to the St. Louis Award Chair. The nominations should include a nominating letter, two or more seconding letters from individuals who have had a close professional affiliation with the nominee, a brief biography, a description of the nominee's accomplishments, and a list of publication and patents.

At the time of the nomination, the nominee must not have previously received the Midwest Award or any national ACS-sponsored award. The nominee must be a member or affiliate of the St. Louis Section of the ACS. The deadline for nomination packets to be received is December 8, 2006. Please send nominations and inquiries to:

Dr. Joseph Ackerman  
St. Louis Award Chariman  
Department of Chemistry  
Campus Box 1134  
Washington University  
1 Brookings Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63130-4899  
Phone: 1-314-935-6593  
FAX: 1-314-935-4481  
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## St. Louis Chemical Science and Technology Award Call for Nominations

The St. Louis Chemical Science and Technology Award will be presented to a chemist in the St. Louis area who has demonstrated a high degree of professionalism and scientific contribution. Criteria used to judge the award include technical proficiency, presentations, coaching/teamwork and additional professional activities. The award will consist of a plaque, a check for \$500.00 and dinner for the awardee and a guest at the annual Chemical Progress Week Awards Night. The award will be presented at the Awards Night event, which will be held in April of 2007.

This award will be presented to a person whose training includes successful completion of an Associate, Bachelor or Masters Degree in a chemistry or chemistry-related curriculum.

Letters of nomination must be received by Sue Dudek, Pfizer Corp., mail code T2A, 700 Chesterfield Parkway West, Chesterfield, MO 63017 by December 22, 2006. Nominations, including seconding letters, must not exceed six pages. The nominating letters should address the criteria above. A current work address, phone number and fax number must be provided for each nominee. Please include an e-mail address.

Nominees need not be a St. Louis Section member to be eligible for this award. This award is administered by the St. Louis Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS). For more information contact Sue Dudek 314-274-2464

FAX 314-274-4426 [susan.dudek@pfizer.com](mailto:susan.dudek@pfizer.com)



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# Continuity Dinner 2006

Thursday, December 14, 2006

Crossings Taverne and Grille

35 North Gore Ave.

Webster Groves, MO

Every December the St. Louis Section of the ACS holds a fancier than average board meeting to celebrate the year's achievements, recognize certain members, and pass the gavel to the new slate of section officers. There is also the Henry Godt Memorial Lecture (recapping the past year), which is always a surprise.

Please join us to celebrate. The evening will begin with a social hour and open bar (beer, wine, and soft drinks) at 5:30 pm. Dinner will be served at 6:30, and the business meeting will begin during dinner. Cost is \$27.00 per person. Please send in payment and the reservation form below by November 30, 2006.

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## Continuity Dinner Reservation Form

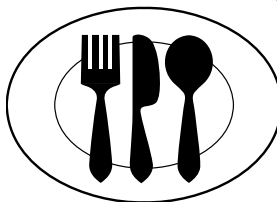
Member name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ X \$27 = Amount remitted \_\_\_\_\_

Reservations must be received by November 30.

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