

Thursday 09 Oct 2014

THE INFLUENCE OF SERENDIPITY ON CHEMISTRY

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Serendipity has played a fundamental role in science since a large proportion of significant and revolutionary discoveries have been influenced by it. Serendipity can be defined as the occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way. The term can be applied to science when scientists often find something of value while looking for something else. For example Alexander Flemming discovered penicillin when a mold accidentally grew in one of his culture dishes and killed the staphylococcal colonies that surrounded the mold. Other examples of scientific serendipity include the discovery of X-rays and insulin and the invention of the microwave oven and safety glass. However, this presentation will focus on the role of serendipity in major discoveries in chemistry. These include the discovery of electrically-conducting polymers, Teflon, mauveine (the world's first synthetic aniline dye), ferrocene, the Mond process, vulcanized rubber, chiral compounds and many others. The role of serendipity in the discoveries made in the Apblett laboratory that have led to important technological compounds and the even establishment of an Oklahoma company, XploSafe, will also be discussed.

5:30-6:30 pm Social Hour

6:30-7:30 pm Dinner

7:30-8:30 pm Presentation

Southwestern Oklahoma State University

East Ballroom, 2nd floor of the Student Center

Campus Dr., Weatherford, OK 73069

<http://www.swosu.edu/resources/map/>



SWOSU parking map

Buffet Menu

BBQ Brisket

Baked Chicken Breast with butter cream sauce

Green Beans Almondine

Spinach Strawberry Salad

Caesar Salad, Layered Pea Salad

Red Skin Mashed Potatoes

Plain Cheesecake with assorted toppings

Cost

\$20 members

\$5 students

RSVP Deadline

Monday, Oct 6th, 5 pm

Contact: Tami Martyn

580-774-3265

tami.martyn@swosu.edu

RSVP is NOT required to attend the presentation.

Allen Apblett Biographical Sketch

Allen Apblett received a B.Sc.(Honours) degree from The University of New Brunswick in 1984 and then graduate school at The University of Calgary under the supervision of Dr. Tristram Chivers where he received a Ph.D. in March 1989. He was awarded a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowship that he took up at Harvard University in Dr. Andrew Barron's research group. In 1991 he became an assistant professor at Tulane University and then moved to Oklahoma State University in 1997 where he has reached the rank of Professor. He has published over 108 scientific papers or book chapters, and graduated 22 Ph.D. and 7 M.S. students from OSU. Among the awards that Dr. Apblett has received are the ACS Environmental Division Certificate of Merit, nomination as a member of Project Kaleidoscope's Faculty for the 21st Century, a Mortar Board Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Governor General of Canada's Medal, a Lilly Endowment Teaching Fellowship, OSU's College of Arts and Science Junior Faculty Excellence in Research Award, and OSU's Faculty Entrepreneur of the Year Award. He is also a Riata Fellow, an Isaac Walton Killam Fellow, and a Fellow of both the American Chemical Society and the American Ceramic Society. and last year's OSU Sigma Xi lecturer. He currently serves as councilor for the Oklahoma Section of the American Chemical Society and is the 2014 Oklahoma Chemist of the Year.