



# **NEWSLETTER**

## **Oklahoma Section American Chemical Society**

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Volume 12 Number 5

October 1, 2006

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### **Groundwater Protection – A Problem Whose Time Has Come**

**Monday - October 16, 2006  
Student Union Building  
East Central University  
Ada OK 74807**

***Dr. Thomas M. Spittler*  
14732 Ravenswood Drive  
Sun City West AZ 85375**

**C**ontamination of groundwater by leaks from underground storage tanks containing gasoline, diesel fuel, home heating oil, and jet fuel is extremely widespread, and new incidents are reported almost daily. Taken together with the many known contamination situations that have resulted from improper disposal of volatile organic chemicals into pits, ponds, or unlined lagoons and accidental spills, these situations constitute a serious threat to the quality of drinking water in this country. All the above situations have one common element: the presence of volatile organic chemicals in water. Fortunately the technology for investigating volatile contamination is well defined, and the instrumentation is available and relatively inexpensive. Also, new techniques for remediation of volatile contamination of soil and groundwater have been developed and are presently in use in many parts of the country. The lecture will cover the areas of instrumentation, investigative techniques, and available remediation procedures. Emphasis will be placed on practical and cost effective methodology and will show how local communities can now be active participants in the effort to protect their now clean water supplies from future contamination. Also there will be some discussion of available approaches to cleanup existing problems and some discussion of how newer techniques may prove more cost effective.

**[Reservation Information on Page 2]**


**Schedule:****6:00 PM Social Hour:** Oklahoma Room – ECU Student Union**7:00 PM Meal:** Oklahoma Room – ECU Student Union**8:00 PM Talk:** Oklahoma Room – ECU Student Union

**Menu:** Meats: Salmon; Grilled marinated chicken breast.  
Vegetables: Oven roasted potatoes; seasoned green beans; tossed salad.  
Bread: rolls.  
Dessert: Keylime pie.  
Beverages: Coffee, Tea and Water.

**Cost:** \$18.00-ACS Member; \$5.00-ACS Student Affiliate.

**Deadline:** **Friday 06 October, 2006 - 5:00 PM. Daniel M. McInnes 580.310.5683**  
dmcinnes@mailclerk.ecok.edu

## Dr. Thomas M. Spittler

**Dr. Thomas M. Spittler** received his A.B. from Spring Hill College, Mobile, Alabama and his M.S. and Ph.D. from Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois in Inorganic Analytical Chemistry. He did post-doctoral research at Argonne National Laboratory and at Loyola University in the field of noble gas chemistry. He taught for several years in the Chemistry Department of the University of Detroit and then took a position as laboratory director for the City of Chicago Department of Environmental Protection. In 1972 Dr. Spittler joined EPA and worked for two years at the Research Facility in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. There he developed a method for determination of various forms of mercury in the ambient air. In late 1973 he was transferred to the New England Regional Laboratory. Dr. Spittler's principal interests have been in the development and use of techniques and equipment which can be taken from the laboratory to the scene of environmental contamination. As the usefulness and need for these approaches grew over the past five years, the obvious dearth of training courses became apparent. To help fill this need, Dr. Spittler has developed training seminars which have been given nationwide. Audiences include federal, state and local municipal officials, environmental scientists and consultants. Many courses are conducted at universities, usually in the Department of Continuing Education. Other federal agencies such as USGS, Coast Guard and COE have requested training for their own personnel. The Peoples' Republic of China sponsored a course in Beijing in 1985. Most recently, course attendees tend to be from the environmental consulting field. Dr. Spittler has been a lecturer for the James Flack Norris Speakers Bureau of New England since 1981, and a member of the ACS Speakers Service since 1983. He is an Honorary Professor of Environmental Chemistry at Eastern Connecticut State University and has lectured widely at colleges and universities, at professional societies and environmental symposia, and for local school and private groups. Besides the field of environmental instrumentation and monitoring, he has written and lectured in the field of lead poisoning, ground water protection, and investigation of hazardous waste sites and spills. . . . . 

**232<sup>nd</sup> ACS NATIONAL MEETING  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA / SEPTEMBER 10-14, 2006  
ACS Council Meeting**

**Cheryl Frech** attended the ACS Council Meeting on September 13, 2006 in San Francisco as our Section's representative to the Council. Some of the highlights of the meeting follow.

For more highlights of the San Francisco meeting, check <http://www.myacsweb.org/sf2006/> . This site, available for 60 days after the meeting, contains blogs, podcasts, wikis, and more meeting information.

**ACTIONS OF THE COUNCIL**

**Candidates for President-Elect and Board of Directors**

- The candidates for the fall 2007 ACS national election were announced as follows:

**President-Elect 2007**

Bruce E. Bursten, University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
Yorke E. Rhodes, Retired - New York University, New York  
Bassam Z. Shakhshiri, University of Wisconsin, Madison  
James A. Walsh, Retired - John Carroll University, Florida

**Directors-at-Large – 2007-2009**

William H. (Jack) Breazeale, Jr. College of Charleston, South Carolina  
Dennis Chamot, National Research Council, Washington, D.C.  
Peter K. Dorhout, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins  
Paul R. Jones, University of North Texas, Denton  
Valerie J. Kuck, Retired - Bell Labs, New Jersey  
Dorothy J. Phillips, Waters Corporation, Massachusetts  
Marinda L. Wu, Science is Fun! Company, California

**Director, District V 2007-2009**

John E. Adams, University of Missouri, Columbia  
Judith L. Benham, Retired – 3M Company, Minnesota

Members of the Oklahoma Section will vote for District V director and a Director-at-Large.

**Registration Report and 2007 National Meeting Registration Fee**

- As of September 12, 2006, the ACS fall national meeting had 15,603 registrants. Regular attendees 9,373; Students 3,350; Guests 510; Exhibit Only 504; and Exhibitors 1,666.

**The Society's Membership**

- The Committee on Membership Affairs reported that through August 2006, a record 12,137 new applicants have been added to the Society's membership. The Member-Get-A-Member campaign is well on its way to the goal of 1,000 new members in this year.

If you sign up a new member via the society's Member-Get-A-Member campaign, you receive a periodic table afghan. See <http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/acsdisplay.html?DOC=membership\mgm.html> .

**Special Discussion Item**

- A special discussion item was again put on the Council agenda. The discussion focused on ensuring the American Chemical Society's future by engaging younger members throughout the Society's volunteer leadership. ACS President E. Ann Nalley framed the discussion by presenting the results of a councilor survey on the topic. Many councilors offered useful comments and suggestions.

**Review of the Chemical Professional's Code of Conduct**

The Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs submitted its latest version of the Chemical Professional's Code of Conduct for Council review. This document offers guidance for Society members in various professional dealings, especially those involving conflicts of interest.

**Student Awards**

The Oklahoma Section has two awards for undergraduate students. The **Terrill Smith Travel Award** for undergraduates to travel to a regional or national ACS meeting to present a paper or poster. Two awards of up to \$600 are available each year, one for fall and one for spring travel. This award is named in honor of Dr. Terrill [Terry] Smith, longtime Oklahoma Section officer and councilor, who retired from UCO in 1999. Terry strongly supported undergraduate research and student affiliates at UCO and in the section.

The **Roger Baldwin Graduate School Award** is for undergraduate students who have been accepted to attend graduate school in the chemical sciences. One award of \$500 will be presented each spring. This award is named in honor of Dr. Roger Baldwin, another longtime Oklahoma Section officer who is retired from Kerr McGee Corporation. The section is able to offer these new awards partially due to Roger's persistent fund-raising efforts associated with the Southwest Regional Meeting in 2003.

Award applications are available from the website, <http://membership.acs.org/O/Oklahoma/Index.htm>. For more information about these awards, contact Gordon Eggleton, [geggleton@sosu.edu](mailto:geggleton@sosu.edu).

**Job Opportunity**

**The Southwest Region of the ACS is seeking** an energetic individual to succeed Dr. Kenneth Ashley as **Secretary-Treasurer of the Region**.

Responsibilities are not onerous, but are crucial to the continued health of the Region. They consist of administrative duties, including bookkeeping and bill paying; information communication to Sections within the Region; records maintenance, archival material; and making preparations for the Regional board meeting which occurs on the last day of each year's Southwest Regional Meeting. A commitment of at least two years would be most helpful to the Region.

For more information or to volunteer to perform this important function, **please contact Denise Lynn Merkle, Ph.D. at [dmerkle@sciconsult.com](mailto:dmerkle@sciconsult.com) or 817.921.0029.**

## Oklahoma Chemist Award - 2007

Nominations for **Oklahoma Chemist of the Year - 2007** are now being accepted.

**Five [5] copies** of a single nomination should be sent by **no later than January 22, 2007 to:**

**Dr. K. Darrell Berlin-Chair**  
**Oklahoma Chemist Awards Committee**  
**Department of Chemistry**  
**Oklahoma State University**  
**Stillwater OK 74078**  
**405.744.5950**  
**kdb@okstate.edu**

### Criteria and Guidelines for the Preparation of the Nomination and For Selection of the Recipient of The Oklahoma Chemist Award.

1. A nomination letter for the candidate by a colleague, friend, etc.
2. A complete, **up-to-date resumé** of the candidate.
3. A two-page **“highlight”** of the candidate's **major accomplishments**.
4. Five [5] letters of support for the nominee.
  - [a] Two [2] letters from colleagues at the **candidate's place of employment**.
  - [b] Three [3] letters from **outside the candidate's place of employment**. Letters from **individuals with expertise in the candidate's field are especially welcomed**.
5. **Special information** on the candidate **is also solicited**, especially as to how the candidate has advanced chemistry in the state of Oklahoma.
6. Candidates may be involved **in research or in chemical education** within the state.

kdb . . . . . 

### Section Officers/Committee Members.

**The Section will hold a Fall 2006 election for Chair-Elect and Treasurer. Nominations for the positions are now being accepted!** If you wish to nominate someone, or stand for one of these offices yourself, contact: **Steve McKim, Nominations Chair:** 580.745.2648 or [smckim@sosu.edu](mailto:smckim@sosu.edu) The ballots will be mailed at the beginning of November, 2006.

### Remaining Fall 2006 Section Meeting:

**November:** Date: Thursday, November 9, 2006  
Speaker: Chemist of the Year 2005-Neil Purdie  
Location: OSU / Stillwater

**October 2006 Section Meeting**

**Monday, 16 October, 2006**

**Oklahoma Room – Student Union**

**East Central University**

*Ground Water Protection – A Problem Whose Time Has Come.*



Oklahoma Section ACS  
Southwestern Oklahoma  
State University  
100 Campus Drive  
Weatherford OK 73096-3098

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