



# **NEWSLETTER**

## **Oklahoma Section American Chemical Society**

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Volume 14 Number 4

September 8, 2008

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### **Nontraditional Careers for Chemists: New Formulas for Chemistry Careers**

**Friday - September 26, 2008  
Wood Science Building  
Oklahoma Baptist University  
Shawnee OK 84701**

***Dr. Lisa Balbes***

**Balbes Consultants  
648 Simmons Avenue  
Kirkwood MO 63122  
314.966.5298**

A chemistry background prepares you for much more than just a laboratory career. The broad science education, analytical thinking, research methods, and other skills learned are of value to a wide variety of types of employers, and essential for a plethora of types of positions. By understanding your own personal values and interests, you can make informed decisions about what career paths to explore, and identify positions that match your needs. This talk will discuss a variety of nontraditional careers for chemists, such as chemical information, patent work, technical writing, education, human resources, sales and marketing, and much more. We will discuss typical tasks, education or training requirements, and personal characteristics that make for a successful career in each field, illustrated with specific examples. Valuable tips and advice about planning career transitions will also be provided.

**[Reservation Information on Page 2]**

Schedule: **[Note: the “family night” meeting format.**

**Also a FRIDAY evening meeting]**

**6:00 PM Social Hour:** Wood Science Building Lawn: Picnic/Games [indoor/outdoor], soft drinks. Social hour: volleyball & croquet.

**7:30 PM Speaker:** Wood Science Building - Large Lecture Hall.

**Menu:** Hamburgers, hotdogs, potato chips, pickles, cookies & cookies.

**Cost:** \$7.00-ACS Member; \$5.00-ACS Student Affiliate; \$3.00 Child < 12 years.

**Deadline: Wednesday, 23 September, 2008 - 5:00 PM. Shawna York 405.878.2028**  
[shawna.york@okbu.edu](mailto:shawna.york@okbu.edu) **[Indicate # of adults & # children.]**

## Directions To Wood Science Building:

### From I-40:

Exit at Kickapoo Interchange.

Head South on Kickapoo until you reach University **[third traffic light]**.

Turn **west** onto University and then next **right** onto “The Oval”.

Wood Science Building is the first building on the right.

If spaces are available, attendees can park on “The Oval”.

If not, follow “The Oval” back around to University and parking lots can be found on both sides of the street **west** of “The Oval” on University.

### From South:

Take **Kickapoo Spur Exit** off US 177. North on Kickapoo to University.

## Dr. Lisa M. Balbes

**Dr. Lisa M. Balbes** founded Balbes Consultants [formerly Osiris Consultants] in 1992. Balbes Consultants provides scientific writing services, including documentation, grants, proposals and more for over 50 client companies. She was chair of the St Louis Section of the American Chemical Society in 2002, receiving an Outstanding Local Section Achievement Award and a Salute to Excellence Award for her work there. She is also very involved in career development for chemists, has been a volunteer career consultant for ACS since 1993, presenter since 2002, and is the author of *Nontraditional Careers for Chemists*, published by Oxford University Press in 2006. Dr. Balbes obtained a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and her undergraduate degrees in chemistry and psychology from Washington University in St Louis. For more information, see [www.balbes.com](http://www.balbes.com)

## Oklahoma Chemist Award - 2009

Nominations for **Oklahoma Chemist of the Year - 2009** are now being accepted.

**Five [5] copies** of a single nomination should be sent by **no later than January 23, 2009 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 . . . . . **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 accepted to graduate school in chemical sciences. One \$500 award will be presented each spring. This award is named in honor of Dr. Roger Baldwin, a longtime Oklahoma Section officer, retired from Kerr McGee Corporation. The section’s able to offer these 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).

**Selected World Gas Prices As of May 2008: US \$/gal**

<b>Oslo</b>	<b>\$6.82</b>	<b>Hong Kong</b>	<b>\$6.25</b>
<b>Brussels</b>	<b>\$7.16</b>	<b>London</b>	<b>\$5.91</b>
<b>Rome</b>	<b>\$5.98</b>	<b>Tokyo</b>	<b>\$5.25</b>
<b>Sao Paulo</b>	<b>\$4.42</b>	<b>New Delhi</b>	<b>\$3.71</b>
<b>Sydney</b>	<b>\$3.42</b>	<b>Johannesburg</b>	<b>\$3.39</b>
<b>Mexico City</b>	<b>\$2.22</b>	<b>Buenos Aires</b>	<b>\$2.09</b>
<b>Riyadh</b>	<b>\$0.92</b>	<b>Kuwait</b>	<b>\$0.78</b>
<b>Caracas</b>	<b>\$0.74</b>	<b>Winnipeg</b>	<b>\$5.65</b>

**Some Other Stuff:**

[1] Current gas prices in these cities are higher due to the run-up in oil price since May 2008.

[2] Countries like India, China & Mexico subsidize gasoline & diesel fuel prices.

[3] A recent London **FOXBN** reporter noted  $\approx 50\%$  of London gas price is in the form of various taxes. The same is likely true for many other European countries.

[4] **Automotive News 07/14/08:** GM Executives announced that the highly publicized Chevrolet “Volt” will appear in late 2010 and is expected to cost \$40,000.00! A later issue noted GM plans to “lobby” for a \$4K “tax credit” for each Volt buyer. **“Tax credit” sounds less innocuous than refund!** Should the Volt “takes off” with sales of 250K units the 1<sup>st</sup> year, even if you and I do not buy a Volt, we will pay part of the \$1B “rebate” to Volt buyers!

[5] The only “electric car” sold now is the Tesla. The Tesla Roadster will be sold in Europe in 2009 at \$160K. The US price is around \$95K. For more information about the Tesla: Google: Tesla Car and check the official web site or the Wikipedia account.

[6] U.S Consumer prices rose 5.6% in July from a year earlier, the fastest pace in 17 years. The core inflation rate was 2.5%.

[7] No doubt that higher gas prices have impacted spending for some consumers. However, **gas is only 4% of disposable income on average.** But we ought to understand that average doesn’t apply to everyone.

[8] During the past 5 years, the dollar declined about 50%. So people who sell barrels of oil said, *“I want more dollars,”* which, in addition to the greater demand for oil, helped fuel the rise in price.

[9] Recent oil company profits have been referred to as “obscene”. Part of those “obscene” profits pay dividends on the stock held by many individuals, mutual funds and pension funds. The “obscene” profits also pay for exploration and other operational costs.

[10] For the past 20 years or so, every time there is a spike in the gasoline price, Congress has predictably reacted as follows: [a] A Congressional “hearing” where oil company executives are “grilled” by members of congress; [b] The familiar call for a “wind fall profits” tax! [c] How about the Jimmy Carter energy saving tips: wearing a sweater at home and setting the thermostat at a lower heating level? Or how about this suggestion? [d] Each driver carry a tire pressure guage following Senator Obama’s recent assertion that properly inflated tires on our cars is the solution to our energy woes! [e] The resurrection by Virginia Senator John Warner, of the 55 mph speed limit!

[11] T. Boone Pickens has proposed a 2 point strategy to decrease US dependence on foreign oil: [1] put up more wind turbines and [2] switch to CNG for long distance hauling and consumer vehicles as well. The immediate drawback to both proposals is: **cost.** The current cost of a new transmission line/mile is \$2M! Then the proposed new lines will have to deal with the **nimby** syndrome. Witness the recent “objections” of Piedmont residents to a proposed power line from a Woodward wind farm to OKC. The Piedmont residents did not care too much for a power line running N of town. Also, wind power is intermittent so storage facilities need to be built. Re the CNG proposal: there would have be a huge investment to establish a national CNG refueling infrastructure. Pickens owns Clean Energy Fuels Corporation. a CNG fueling system on the West coast. Another cost would be development and production of CNG fueled car and truck engines. For much interesting information, readers may wish to Google T. Boone Pickens & Clean Energy Fuels Corporation.

## Gas Is Money, So Is Time: Does 55 MPH Make Sense?

The drive-55 law seems to ignore economics, particularly the adverse impact on the country’s productivity.

My pick-up truck will get 19 miles per gallon at 65 mph and 21 mpg [a 10% increase] at 55. Assume gas is \$4.50. If I drive 100 miles at 65 mph, I’ll spend \$2.30 more for fuel, but arrive 17 minutes sooner than if I drove at 55 mph. The trade-off on my time is about \$8.00 an hour, the minimum wage in California. [This is far below the average hourly earnings of \$18 per hour, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics]. Suppose my neighbor also drives with me. So if I include him, the trade-off is now \$4 an hour.

In general, the higher the fuel efficiency of a vehicle, the less the driver and riders get for their lost time within the constraints of safety considerations. Drivers should be able to decide what their time is worth.

Another factor seldom mentioned is that with lower speed limits and slower traffic, road capacity is reduced which increases traffic congestion. Road capacity can be determined by the speed of the traffic times the number of lanes. Slowing traffic from 70 mph to 55 mph is a 21% reduction in road capacity, or about equal to removing two lanes from an eight-lane highway.

The result will be more congestion and gridlock. That in turn will cost people even more time, make driving more tiring and difficult and further reduce fuel economy. Stop-and-go driving is the least efficient type of driving.

It might also increase the number of accidents, which means even more congestion and a wasted use of law-enforcement assets. Law of unintended consequences at work here?

**Here's Donald, to Assist Ed McMahon\*\*\***

### ***Mortgage Default Had Left TV Icon Facing Foreclosure***

Congress and the Bush administration so far have failed to end a foreclosure crisis that is ejecting hundreds of thousands of American families from their homes. Can Donald Trump save the day?

The real estate developer is negotiating a deal that would allow television personality Ed McMahon to avert foreclosure and remain in his six-bedroom Beverly Hills, Calif., home.

Representatives of Messrs. Trump and McMahon confirmed the talks, reported by the Los Angeles Times. One new twist: The deals could involve Mr. Trump buying the first-lien mortgage on the house.

#### **Trump: "Doing My Best"**

"Even a man who hadn't had such a great career shouldn't have this happen to them in their later years," Mr. Trump said in a statement released by his office. "I'm doing my best, but this is a very difficult situation."

Indeed, many people who haven't had great careers are in the same boat with the 85-year-old Mr. McMahon, the long time sidekick to comedian Johnny Carson. Moody's Economy.com estimates that 1.65 million homes will be lost to foreclosures this year. Might Mr. Trump be able to help some other hardship cases?

"I really can't answer that for you," a spokeswoman for Mr. Trump said.

#### **\*\*\*THE BUZZ**

**James R. Hagerty**

**The Wall Street Journal**

**Saturday/Sunday, August 17, 2008**

**These are the first 6 paragraphs of the article.**

#### **The Hydrino:**

To learn more about this form of hydrogen you might wish to read the article "**A Cheap Source of Energy**" in the **September 2008 issue of Fortune Small Business**. Or Google: Blacklight Power.

**The reprinted letters and articles as well as the editor's unsigned article[s] in this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Oklahoma Section of the ACS.**

**September 2008 Section Meeting**

**Friday, 26 September, 2008**

**Oklahoma Baptist University**

*Nontraditional Careers for Chemists: New Formulas for Chemistry Careers...*



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