

NACS Newsletter

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Summary of San Francisco Meeting of Board of Director's, June 2009

As one of my final tasks, I would like to provide some highlights from actions of your Board of Directors at their annual meeting in San Francisco. The four new Directors-at-Large were seated (B. Gates, S. Soled, Bob Davis, and Jingguang Chen). The Board discussed the question of creating student chapters in addition to local clubs. The Board encourages undergraduate students to get involved with the local catalysis club by contacting any one of the officers or club representative listed on the NACS website (www.nacatsoc.org).

Prior to our elections of officers, we created a new officer role, that of Lead Trustee, who is in charge of guiding the investments of the Society. Further, in this time of rapid and electronic communications, most felt that the position of Foreign Secretary in addition to Secretary was superfluous, so we voted to eliminate the office of Foreign

Secretary and distribute the work among other officers. In this regard, I want to especially thank W. Curt Conner for his many years of valuable service to the Society in the role of Foreign Secretary.

The Board also agreed to direct our officers to control expenses to assure that they don't exceed our income. There was a unanimous feeling that in supporting a number of educational missions, we, as a Society, should not spend more money than we can earn from investments and membership fees.

The new NACS officers for 2009-2013 are President, Enrique Iglesia, Vice President, Bruce Cook, Treasurer, CY Chen, Secretary, H-X Li, Communications Director, Edrick Morales, and John Byrne, Lead Trustee.

The Board agreed to make it standard policy in future meetings (as has been the case for the last 2 NAM meetings) that recording meeting events through audiovisual or photographic methods is prohibited at all NAM events without consent of the presenter. Also, since dues collection and timely lists of local club officers is critical to the yearly operation of the NACS, payments of local club yearly student awards will be conditioned upon having a current membership list and up-to-date dues payments.

The meeting Chair (Galen Fisher) of the 22nd NAM, operated through the Michigan Catalysis Society summarized their preparations for the June 2011 meeting in Detroit, Michigan. The Tri-State Club representative, Jürgen Ladebeck, summarized their early efforts in organizing the 23rd NAM meeting in Louisville, Kentucky in June of 2013. With the successful conclusion of the 21st NAM in San Francisco, I want to personally thank the co-chairs (Enrique Iglesia, Bruce Gates, and Charlie Wilson) and their organizing committee for their tireless activities and their commitment.

John Armor

Farewell message from John Armor

I strongly believe that organizations benefit from change of leadership; new blood can inject new ideas and vitality into an organization; I think now is a good time for me to step aside. At the San Francisco Board meeting, I made it clear to the Board that I did not wish to continue for another four years as an officer. I have served as your President for 8 years and as Treasurer for 7 years; two very demanding, volunteer roles. During this 15 year period, I have enjoyed representing and leading the Society, and I thank you all for that privilege.

I have tried to ensure that another strong suite of officers replaces those who also chose to step aside at the recent round of elections. At the same time I wish to thank those officers who worked tirelessly with me over these many years to improve our organization. The North American Catalysis Society is a strong and sound professional society that has worked hard to enhance the educational activities which it seeks to provide the members.

I also wish to thank not only the officers, but the many club representatives who worked with me and the Board to institute many positive changes to our Society. We are much stronger as a professional organization and financially very sound; we have a popular website which

has generated over 150,000 hits over the past 8 years. In this time, we've grown the number of participating clubs, up-dated the Bylaws, enhanced our national awards, strengthened a large trust to pursue the educational needs of the membership (Keith Hall Educational Fund), substantially increased the dollar value and number of student awards, generated a lot of documentation on the history and importance of catalysis (posted on our website), and initiated many other positive steps in growing our Society.

I take great pride and thank you for the honor in serving as your past President, and I look forward to undertaking new tasks to advance catalytic science in North American and globally.

John Armor
June 30, 2009

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Deadline is Nov. 10, 2009

Nominations open for Ciapetta Lectureship in Catalysis

The F.G. Ciapetta Lectureship in Catalysis is sponsored by the Davison Chemical Division of W.R. Grace & Company and The North American Catalysis Society. The Society administers this Lectureship. It is awarded biennially in even numbered years. The Award consists of a plaque and an honorarium of \$5,000. Travel expenses are provided (through a travel escrow fund administered by the NACS) in those unusual instances when such expenses represent a burden that the company or institution where the contributions were made cannot reasonably assume.

The Award is given in recognition of substantial contributions to one or more areas in the field of catalysis with emphasis on industrially significant catalysts and catalytic processes and on the discovery of new catalytic

reactions and systems of potential industrial importance. The recipient will be selected on the basis of accomplishments demonstrated through contributions to the catalytic literature and of the currency of these achievements. The recipient is expected to present his work at most of the affiliated Clubs/Societies during a period of two years after the recipient is announced.

Selection of the awardee will be made without regard to age, sex, nationality, or affiliation. The nomination must contain a critical evalua-

tion of the significance of candidate's qualifications and a specific statement about the contribution(s) on which the nomination is based. Nomination documents (short summary statement of the contributions (<300 words); curriculum vitae; one nominating letter and no more than two letters of support) must be sent as a single electronic PDF file to the President of the Society (Enrique Iglesia; iglesia@berkeley.edu). **Nominations for the 2010 Ciapetta Award will close on November 10, 2009.** Receipt of the nomination will be acknowledged by

Rostam Madon receives the 2009 AIChE Catalysis and Reaction Engineering Practice Award

The Catalysis and Reaction Engineering (CRE) Division of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) is delighted to announce that Rostam J. Madon of BASF Catalysts, LLC has been selected as the recipient of the AIChE CRE Division Practice Award for 2009. This award recognizes individuals who have made pioneering contributions to industrial practice of catalysis and chemical reaction engineering. The award consists of a plaque and cash award of \$1,000 to be presented at the Division Reception during the AIChE annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. A special session will be held in honor of the recipient at the annual meeting during which he will also present a lecture.

Ross Madon has made pioneering contributions of remarkable breadth and depth to the chemistry and engineering of catalytic processes. Early in his career, he guided the field by addressing artifacts in kinetic data using methods that are accepted today as definitive criteria for kinetic control in catalysis. In the process, he brought transition state formalisms for thermodynamically non-ideal systems, first introduced by his advisor Michel Boudart, into the realm of practical catalysis. His contributions to catalyst design for Fischer-Tropsch

synthesis and catalytic cracking, two of the most hydrodynamically, kinetically, and molecularly complex reaction systems known, illustrate his unique ability to contribute concepts and approaches to systems that others avoid or merely misinterpret because of their complexity. Ross Madon excels at the interface of chemistry and engineering and his achievements bridge conceptual advances with commercial catalysts and catalytic technologies. Recently, he elucidated the mechanism by which vanadium causes structural degradation of FCC catalysts and used this understanding to minimize its deleterious effect. His studies have provided a definite assessment of the role of ZSM-5 additives in FCC to replace inaccurate or phenomenological descriptions of such phenomena. His kinetic treatments of FCC catalysis brought

fundamental chemical insights into a system once considered too complex for such rigor. Ross then used the knowledge to go beyond its scholarly elegance and designed commercial FCC catalysts based on such principles. He is the coinventor and developer of the Reduxion – Maxol® family of FCC catalysts and of the IsoPlus® and Ultrium® families. He coined the Flex-Tec® resid cracking catalyst which has been widely and successfully deployed in demanding resid cat cracking processes. He has thrived in industrial settings, but his thought process and conceptual approach is firmly planted in the realm of thoughtful science. He has tackled truly difficult problems and taken them beyond where others could, with elegance and rigor balanced by relevance and impact.

Clubs & Societies News

Canadian Catalysis Division

Dr. Michael Baird, Professor Emeritus, Department of Chemistry, Queen's University won the 2009 Canadian Catalysis Lectureship Award sponsored by the Canadian Catalysis Foundation. This award is given annually to a researcher currently working in Canada. The recipient could either be recognized as a leader in a particular field of catalysis research or someone who has just completed a new and interesting or controversial piece of work but who is not yet widely recognized. Dr. Baird is recognized for his contributions on the application of organometallic chemistry to catalysis. Dr. Baird will be giving lectures at a number of Canadian Universities in early 2010. Dr. Y. Zheng of the University of New Brunswick is the coordinator for Dr. Baird's lecture tour. Please contact Dr. Zheng at yzheng@unb.ca for details on the dates of Dr. Baird's visit to various Canadian Universities.

Planning is well underway for the 21st Canadian Symposium on Catalysis, May 9-12, 2010, Banff, Alberta. The conference theme is "Catalyzing a Sustainable Future". Major theme areas are: Energy, Environment, Nanotechnology, Fundamentals and General Sessions. Please visit the website www.21csc2010.ca for more details.

Catalysis Club of Chicago

Professor Tobin Marks from the Department of Chemistry at Northwestern University is the recipient of the 2009 Herman Pines Award in Catalysis. The award, sponsored by UOP, the Northwestern University and the Catalysis Club of Chicago is presented annually at the Spring Symposium Catalysis Club of Chicago. The Award was given in recognition of Professor Marks's outstanding contributions in the areas of both homogeneous and heterogeneous catalysis. Professor Marks's work has had major impact on contemporary catalytic science with pioneering studies of olefin polymerization, supported organometallic catalysts, metal-ligand bonding energetics, and f-element catalysis. Prof. Marks received a plaque, a cash award and delivered the keynote address entitled "Single- and Multiple-Site Catalytic Electrophiles for the Synthesis of New Materials".

The CCC 2009-2010 new officer elections were also held during the Spring Symposium. The new officers are listed on page 7.

Catalysis Club of Philadelphia

The winner of the 2009 Catalysis Club of Philadelphia Award is Professor Ted Oyama from Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Professor Oyama is recognized for his outstanding contributions and leadership in catalysis research. In his early work, he made significant contributions to our understanding of catalytic reactions on metal carbides, nitrides and oxides. Professor Oyama uses state-of-the-art spectroscopy methods to obtain information about catalysis in the working state. He currently works in three areas: the oxidative transformation of hydrocarbons to high-value products, the development of novel catalysts for the upgrading of petroleum resources and the development of membranes and membrane reactors for the selective separation of gases. The award announcement was made at the 2009 Spring Symposium. Professor Oyama will be honored during his award lecture, scheduled for September, with a plaque and a \$1000 cash award.

New officers were elected at the April meeting for the 2009-2010 season. The new officers are listed in the Officers Directory starting in page 7.

Catalysis Society of Metropolitan New York

The Excellence in catalysis award lecture by Dr. Jeffrey T. Miller from Argonne National Labs, Illinois was held on May 20th, 2009. His talk was on "EXAFS Spectroscopy in Catalysis Research: Application to Gold Catalysts". The presentation concentrated upon structural determination and information about the electronic properties of metal particles and gave examples demonstrating the use of EXAFS to improve the understanding of the steps of Au catalyst preparation, structural changes in bond distance in small particles, evidence for changes in the electronic properties in small nanoparticles, and determination of the reaction mechanism for CO oxidation.

Clubs & Societies News

With improved EXAFS capabilities and access to more users, the conclusion is that it is possible to solve problems only imagined just a few years ago especially for characterization of heterogeneous catalysts.

The NYCS 2009-2010 elections were also held on the same day. The new officers are listed in the Officers Directory starting in page 7.

Michigan Catalysis Society

The Michigan Catalysis Society is delighted to announce that Professor Mark A. Barteau from the University of Delaware, has been selected as the winner of the 2009 Michigan Catalysis Society Giuseppe Parravano Memorial Award for Excellence in Catalysis Research based on his groundbreaking contributions to catalysis by metal oxides and transition metals, which led to the development of fundamental understanding and design of novel, improved catalytic materials. Professor Barteau is highly regarded for his application of surface science and computational chemistry techniques to understand surface reaction mechanisms and design new catalysts.

This Parravano Award is given biennially in odd-numbered years to an individual from North America to formally recognize outstanding contributions to catalysis research and technology development. The Parravano Awards are sponsored by the Memorial Trust Fund for Professor Giuseppe Parravano, which has been established at the Department of Chemical Engineering, The University of Michigan and administered by the Michigan Catalysis Society.

Professor Barteau gave the award lecture at the 31st Annual Spring Symposium of the Michigan Catalysis Society: "From Parravano to the present: progress in selective oxidation by metals". The 31st annual spring symposium organized by Michigan Catalysis Society was held on Tuesday, May 12th at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The one day program included two sessions of oral presentations and a poster session. The symposium featured the Parravano Award Lecture and the Symposium Invited Lecture by Professor William S. Epling from the University of Waterloo on "Spatially Resolving Reaction Gradients in Monolith-Supported Catalysts".

Presentations on the new catalytic materials preparation, physico-chemical characterization, and mechanistic studies were given by students and postdoctoral researchers from University of Michigan, University of Notre Dame, Michigan State University, University of Waterloo, Kettering University, Wayne State University, Purdue University as well as by researchers from REB Research & Consulting Co. The Spring Symposium also featured a student competition in which David Ingram from the University of Michigan won the 2009 Outstanding Student Presentation Award for his oral presentation entitled "Exploiting the optical properties of well-defined nano-structures for chemical characterization and photo-catalytic applications" and Peter Aurora from the same university won the Student Poster Presentation Award for his poster entitled "Titania nanotube supported nanoscale gold photoanodes for photoelectrochemical hydrogen production".

The society elected new officers for 2009-2010 year during the Symposium business meeting. The new officers are listed in the Officers Directory starting in page 8.

Organic Reactions Catalysis Society

The Organic Reactions Catalysis Society announces its Call for Papers in advance of the 23rd ORCS Conference March 14-18, 2010 in Monterey, CA. The abstract submission deadline is Sept 8, 2009 and details can be found at www.orcs.org. Additionally, the Society announces an agreement with Springer Publishing to publish the proceedings of the 23rd Conference in the journal, Topics in Catalysis. ORCS has a long tradition of publishing its proceedings in book format as a service to the scientific community. Recent surveys of ORCS membership revealed a desire for greater visibility and electronic accessibility of the ORCS proceedings. In response, ORCS has forged the agreement with Topics in Catalysis for publication of the proceedings, indexing by major abstract services, electronic accessibility of content through Springer's website and, as a bonus, all ORCS attendees will receive a hard bound issue of the ORCS Proceedings. We welcome feedback on this change from

Clubs & Societies News

all members (email: chair@orcs.org). Those considering submitting abstracts/manuscripts will be interested to know that three focus topics will be: catalysis applied to chemical production from biorenewable resources, C-X coupling reactions and hydrogenation catalysis. These topics will form the basis for special sessions, in addition to the traditional scope of ORCS conferences.

At each biennial conference of the ORCS two technical awards may be conferred by the Society for excellence in the field of catalysis applied to organic products: the Murray Raney Award and the Paul Rylander Award. The latter is an annual award and two awardees may be recognized at the conference. Nominations, comprising a CV and two supporting letters, are due Sept 8, 2010 to chair@orcs.org. Awardees receive an honorarium and travel expenses and are invited to give a plenary lecture. Details may be found at www.orcs.org.

At the 23rd Conference, ORCS will sponsor an educational course: Hydrogenation: An Indispensable Tool. This three hour course will be presented Tuesday Mar 16, 2010 at the conference hotel and will be taught by leaders from the chemical industry. Course topics span heterogeneous and homogeneous catalysis, as well as, safety in the catalysis laboratory and pilot plants or scale-up laboratories. The course will be provided for a nominal fee to conference attendees and is also available as a one day registration. Interested parties will find more information at www.orcs.org.

Pittsburgh-Cleveland Catalysis Society

The Pittsburgh-Cleveland Catalysis Society (PCCS) held its Spring Symposium at Pittsburgh Technology Center at Carnegie Mellon University on May 28-29. Craig Barnes of the University of Tennessee delivered the keynote presentation, Eduardo Lombardo of University of Nacional de Litoral in Argentina gave an invited talk, and 12 student presentations were given. Three student awards were granted for exceptional talks. First place and second place awards were given to students working with Goetz Vesper at the University of Pittsburgh, including a first place award to Shuang Liang for his talk titled "Nanostructured Ceria and Lanthana for Water-gas-shift

catalysis" and a second place award to Lu Zhang Whaley for her talk titled "High-temperature stable metal-silica core-shell and yolk-shell materials with exceptional dimensional control." A second place award was also given to Richard Alesi, working with John Kitchin at Carnegie Mellon University, for his talk titled "Evaluating the Thermodynamic Properties of Adsorption of Carbon Dioxide on Supported Tertiary Amidines."

A new slate of officers were elected. The new officers are listed in the Officers Directory starting in page 9.

Western States Catalysis Club

The Western States Catalysis Club held its 2009 meeting on April 3 at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado. All of the participants, judges and the Keynote Speaker (Ciapetta lecturer Bob Farrauto) really made the event a success with their presentations of leading edge catalysis research. Additionally, a great deal of thanks goes to the NACS that allocated \$1000 to us for the meeting, allowing us to help with the registrations for 16 students. In all, there were 18 technical presentations and more than 50 attendees.

The business meeting included selecting Will Medlin as the club representative to the national organization and Morris Argyle to continue as treasurer. A great deal of thanks should also be directed to Will, Jim and Morris for their service to the club. Finally, it was also decided during the business meeting that the 2010 meeting would be in Utah.

A panel of judges also assessed all of the presentations for student awards. Because of the numerous very strong presentations this was a particularly challenging job. After a very long discussion and analysis of each presentation the judges decided upon the following winners.

- 1st: Mogotu Mogaka (CU)
- 2nd: Eric Petersen (UNM)
- 3rd: Robson Peguin (BYU)

Congratulations to all and see you next year!

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FUEL CELLS: **Materials, Challenges** **and Breakthroughs**

September 26, 2009
Wu & Chen Auditorium
Levine Hall

fuel

oxygen

Confirmed Speakers:

"Opportunities and Challenges for Phosphoric Acid Fuel Cells"

UTC Power

"Solid Oxide Fuel Cells"

Anil Virkar, University of Utah

"Solid Oxide Fuel Cells"

John Bøgild Hansen, Haldor Topsøe A/S

"SOFC Electrode Development at Penn"

John M. Vohs, University of Pennsylvania

"Carbonate Fuel Cells (MCFC): Today and in the Future"

Fred C. Jahnke, FuelCell Energy, Inc.

"PEM Fuel Cells"

Tom Zawodzinski, Case Western Reserve University

"Electrolytes for PEM Fuel Cells"

David Mountz, Arkema Inc.

"Membrane Technologies for PEM Fuel Cells"

Will B. Johnson, W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc.

"PEM Fuel Cell Electrodes"

Yossef A. Elabd, Drexel University

Symposium will include a Poster Session

Free Registration: <http://www.energy.upenn.edu/fuelcells09.html>

Questions? Please contact John Linscheld at linsch@seas.upenn.edu