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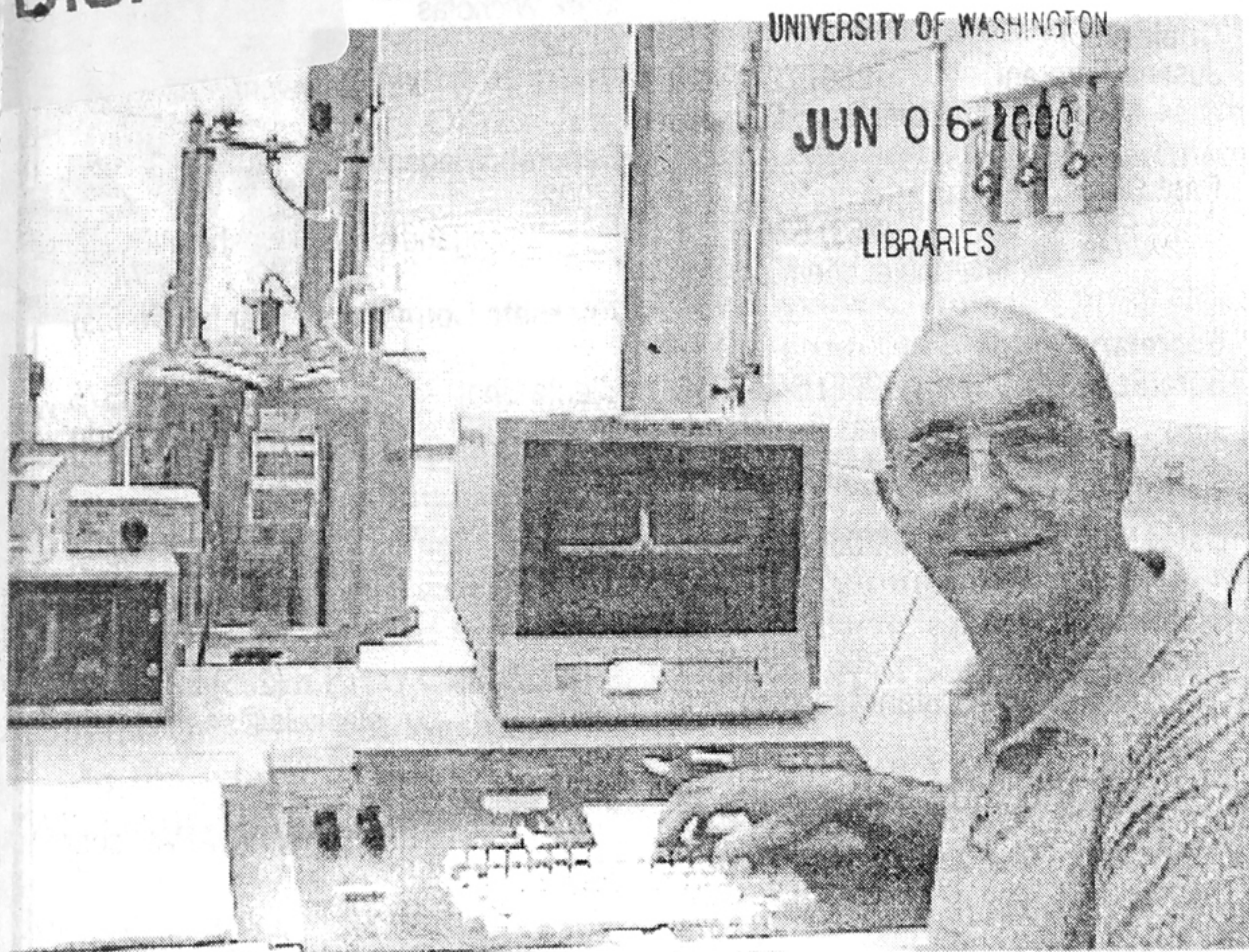
Volume 61, Numbers 3/4



MAY/JUNE 2000

DISPLAY Awards galore

CHEMISTRY



WWU professor wins teaching honor

Professor George Kriz of Western Washington University has won the prestigious Peter J. Elich Excellence in Teaching Award. The award, which will be presented during commencement ceremonies, is given to one faculty member from the College of Arts and Sciences at WWU each year. Kriz currently serves as an alternate counselor for the ACS Puget Sound Section.

The award is specifically a teaching award; supporting materials related to research are not relevant. The nomi-

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- Mary OBrien wins Exceptional Faculty Award (page 3)
- Puget Sound Section Undergraduate Research Symposium attracts crowd (page 6)

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The Bulletin of the Puget Sound Section of the American Chemical Society

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Puget Sound Section ACS Executive Committee Future Meetings in 2000

Meetings are open to all members and are held at 6:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be **Wednesday, September 13, 2000, in room 2430C (above the Bookstore) at North Seattle Community College, 9600 College Way North in Seattle.**

OBrien honored as "exceptional"

In February, Edmonds Community College honored long-time chemistry instructor Mary OBrien as the recipient of the 1999-2000 Echelbarger/Sherman Exceptional Faculty Award for outstanding teaching and exceptional service in helping students. This award is a state-endowment match



program established by the legislature and funded at Edmonds Community College through the Foundation. Nominees for the award are selected by a committee of faculty and administration members. The committee then presents its recommendation to the Board of Trustees for approval.

OBrien has been on the chemistry faculty at the college since 1972, leading the program as department chair. In 1996 she was the recipient and principal investigator for a \$400,000 National Science Foundation grant to help develop the ChemCore program, a program that gives the students a chance to earn a professional-technical degree along with a college transfer degree. This program has become a national model for teaching chemistry. She was a co-founder of the Washington College Chemistry Teachers Association, has been active in the ACS Puget Sound Section (currently serving on the Education Committee), and received the Edmonds Community College Excellence in Education award in 1989. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from Briar Cliff College and a Master of Science in chemistry from the University of Washington.

In the words of Steve Hanson, Executive Vice President at EdCC, "Above all, Mary is a master teacher. I can think of few people who have contributed so much to our college and with such grace. Mary is exceptional in terms of her dedication and commitment to the college, the department, and to the success of students."

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Yes, they really are out to get you

by Tracy Furutani, Puget Sound Section editor

[Editor's note: the Speaker Service, the Local Section Activities, the Investment Pool, and the Office of Regional Meetings are all branches of the national ACS organization.]

An excerpt from the internal American Chemical Society mid-year report:

"As we reach the midpoint of 2000, our efforts to destroy the Puget Sound Section (hereafter called "PSS") have begun to bear fruit.

"Our Speaker Service has successfully undermined PSS chair Kathy Hohstadt's determined efforts to secure interesting, knowledgeable and, above all, *actual* speakers for monthly meetings. In June last year, Kathy submitted PSS's request for speakers to the Service. In July, she received a fax confirming four names for the upcoming calendar year. By late September, though, the Speaker Service reported that they 'had no record of [her] request'. Only after repeated prompting by Kathy, the Service grudgingly granted her *two* speakers, whom PSS will host in September and October.

"Kudos to the staff at the Speaker Service, who used the elegant dodge of 'extraordinary turnover in their staff last year' to avoid accepting the blame.

"This is by no means an isolated incident; our Local Section Activities program was resolved not to be outdone by the Speaker Service. Part of the Local Section Activities' job is to send every fifty-year member a certification letter, acknowledging their contribution to the ACS. Kathy was assured by the Local Section Activities program that the letters would be sent in plenty of time for the PSS February meeting in which PSS honors its fifty-

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near members. After several variations of the 'check-is-in-the-mail' routine, Local Section Activities sent Kathy the letters in May. Let's try for four months next time!

"On the financial front, PSS's attempts to achieve greater returns on member dues so that they can continue to support educational outreach, professional development and other section responsibilities have been thwarted by the best efforts of the staff at the ACS Investment Pool.

"David Munch, PSS treasurer, invested some of PSS's collected dues into the ACS-sponsored Pool Fund, which invests in chemical industry stocks. It performs decently (a 12% return last quarter of 1999), but, then again, the market as a whole was doing well then.

"So, rather than the obvious attack of making PSS's investment disappear, the Investment Pool cooperated with the Local Section Activities to backstab PSS more subtly. Local Section Activities demands an annual report of each of the local sections by February 15. The Investment Pool sent David, who is responsible for the financial portion of that annual report, the 1999 Pool Fund summary on *March 30*, six weeks *after* our self-imposed deadline. Excellent coordination, guys!

"Of course, not every attempt to dismantle PSS must be innovative; tried-and-true passive-aggressive methods will work under the right circumstances. Our Office of Regional Meetings has stonewalled PSS on planning for NORM (Northwest Regional Meeting) 2001. The Office claims to help local sections organize the regional meetings by assisting with registration, publicity and program development. Planning for such a large meeting as NORM typically begins two years before the date of the meeting. Staff at the Office scheduled two meetings in April and May for a representative from the Office of Regional Meetings to come and talk to PSS officers. Both times, the meeting was cancelled by the Office, virtually at the last minute, due to 'unspecified scheduling conflicts'.

"However, despite the lack of assistance from the national organization, NORM 2001 preparations are proceeding apace, due to the unexpected resourcefulness of the conference chairs, Sue Jackels and William Reinhardt.

"Though we can be proud of how far our inattention has brought us towards our goal, we should continue to think of other ways in which the dues of local sections can be used against the sections, which we can discuss at the next staff retreat in Aruba."

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Section events

Undergraduate symposium highlights area institution research

Thirteen papers and sixteen posters were presented at the 2000 ACS Puget Sound Section Undergraduate Research Symposium held Saturday, May 6 at the Department of Chemistry, Western Washington University in Bellingham.

The prize for best research was awarded to Sam A. Schaefer-Joel from the Department of Chemistry, Western Washington University, Bellingham for his work on "The Effects of C- or N-Terminal Extensions on the Stability of Sperm Whale Myoglobin".

Rebekah Main of the Department of Chemistry, Western Washington University, Bellingham, won Best Oral Presentation for "Thiophene Hydrodesulfurization over Molybdenum Carbide Catalysts: Effects of Pretreatment and Cobalt Promotion", and Katherine N. Maloney of the Department of Chemistry, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, won Best Poster for "Synthesis of a Multivalent Carbohydrate Ligand".

The symposium, organized by Professor Spencer Anthony-Cahill and Professor David Patrick of Western Washington University, had an attendance of approximately eighty, and we would like to extend our congratulations and thanks to the participants, organizers and award winners.

Kriz wins award (cont. from page 1)

neers for the award are reviewed by a selection committee consisting of an alumnus, two students, and winners of the award during the previous two years. The Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences also participates in the selection.

According to the award letter from Interim Dean Ronald Kleinknecht, Kriz was the unanimous choice of the selection committee and the Dean. Kriz was cited for his 33 years of commitment to excellent teaching, his long involvement with academic advisement of students, his knowledge of his discipline, his record of writing successful textbooks that are used and respected nationally, and, especially, his record of according "deep respect for (students) as individuals who were capable of learning and (his) ability to instill in them confidence in their academic abilities."

In summary, Kriz reports that "I am very delighted and proud to have won it."

Short courses

The Seattle University Chemistry Department will host a Laboratory Safety Short Course from Wednesday, August 9 to Saturday, August 12. The short course will be presented by Laboratory Safety Institute of Natick, MA, which specializes in lab safety courses for laboratory supervisors, workers, scientists and science educators. To register, call Laboratory Safety Institute at (508) 647-1900. To talk to the hosting institution, please call Kasia Pietrzyk at Seattle University at (206) 296-5947 or e-mail her at kasia@seattleu.edu.

Teaching opportunities

Part-time chemistry instructors, North Seattle Community College — Beginning Fall 2000 quarter, organic and general chemistry for both day and evening classes. Applicants reviewed on a continuing basis. Send resumé or CV to: Tom Griffith, NSCC, 9600 College Way North, Seattle, WA 98103, email: tgriffith@sccd.ctc.edu, FAX: (206) 527-3748.

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Upcoming Section meetings

September 12

George M. Bodner, Purdue University

"Ethics of Science: The Myth of the Objective Scientist"

Site: Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma

October 19

Gary Comstock, Iowa State University

"Ethical Issues for Genetic Engineering"

Site: Seattle University

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