

# PUGET SOUND CHEMIST

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## ACS President to speak on energy at April meeting

Has the West Coast power shortage got you looking at alternate energy sources? Then you're in luck! The April meeting of the Puget Sound Section, ACS, features a talk by ACS President Attila E. Pavlath on "Alternate Energy Sources: From the Sun to the Depth of the Earth". The talk is on Tuesday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m. in Leraas Lecture Hall on the Pacific Lutheran University campus in Tacoma, and is free and open to the public.

Pavlath, who is also a Research Scientist at the Western Regional Research Center of the US Department of Agriculture, will give a general description of the availability of various energy resources other than coal, gas, and oil. He will summarize the present technological background of possibilities from geothermal to fusion power. The amount of energy available in each area and the future outlook of each generation method are discussed. The talk will be presented in a way understandable to a large degree even by non-technical audiences.

The presentation will be preceded by dinner with the speaker at 6:00 (please see Pavlath, page 6)



**Who:** Dr. Attila E. Pavlath, ACS President

**What:** "Alternate Energy Sources: From the Sun to the Depth of the Earth"

**Where:** Leraas Lecture Hall, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma

**When:** Tuesday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m. (Dinner at 6 p.m.)

**How much for dinner:** \$15, specify chicken or vegetarian pasta, call (253) 535-7530 or email [chair@rainier.chem.plu.edu](mailto:chair@rainier.chem.plu.edu) for reservations by April 23



PUGET  
SOUND

# CHEMIST



Newsletter for the Puget Sound Section

On-line version: [www.btia.net/acs/](http://www.btia.net/acs/)

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## Puget Sound Section ACS Executive Committee Future Meetings in 2001

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, April 11, 2001**, in room 2430C (above the Bookstore) at North Seattle Community College, 9600 College Way North in Seattle.



# As promised last issue, more on the Undergraduate Research Symposium

The American Chemical Society (ACS) Undergraduate Research Symposium:2001 will take place at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington on Saturday, May 5, 2001. The symposium is an annual event, which brings together students and faculty from colleges in the Puget Sound region. It provides an opportunity for students to present their research, and to meet with their peers. Student presentations will include oral talks and a poster session. Abstracts must be submitted for both poster and oral presentations; the official form is available on the website at [www.evergreen.edu/ACSSymposium](http://www.evergreen.edu/ACSSymposium) and may be returned either by e-mail to the symposium organizer, Dr. Paula Schofield, at [schofiep@evergreen.edu](mailto:schofiep@evergreen.edu). The abstract deadline is Friday, April 27.

The symposium will begin at 9:00 a.m. with coffee and registration in the Lecture Hall Building on the Evergreen campus, followed by the morning oral presentation session. From noon to 2:00 p.m., there will be a poster session, with the presenters available from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. The afternoon oral presentation session will follow that, and the day will conclude  
*(please see URS, page 7)*



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## Section Activities

## 50-year member reflections

Note: On March 20, the Puget Sound Section of the ACS was pleased to honor its 50-year members. At the reception at E.B. Foote Winery in Burien, 50-year members Margaret J. Pitts and Robert B. Sheppard were invited to reflect on their careers and lives. Below, the Chemist is publishing letters from 50-year members.

### H. Dale Turner

To: Fellow Puget Sound Chemists

From: H. Dale Turner

Subject: 50th year salute

A good feeling to be remembered, a letter from the ACS President and the generous offer of dinner with you to mark the event.

I have a warm spot for an ACS officer who arranged the lead to my first job after graduating in Chemical Engineering, from then-Iowa State College in June, 1938. He was an executive with Standard Oil Co., office on the ninth floor of the Standard Oil building on Michigan Ave., Chicago. The connection was Research Products Co. in Madison, Wisconsin. This company made base-exchange zeolites via a freezing process of alumino-silicate gel. Job involved water analysis, process development. It was interesting but diminishing returns set in after three years and I moved to

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the USDA Forest Products Lab (FPL) in late 1941.

FPL was an interesting experience; a stimulating mix of engineers and scientists — there were many people to learn from and, by osmosis, I became a wood technologist and spent the rest of my career in the forest products industry, mainly in research related to panel processes. However, it was at FPL that Jerome Saemen (Ph.D., University of Wisconsin) who persuaded me to join ACS.

A memorable college chemistry Prof., Henry Gilman, Organic Chemistry. His lectures were superb but he tended to look down on chemical engineers so the minority Chem. Ees conspired to tease him with an imaginary student, Cuthbert Gleep; grad students, who kept attendance records, helped in the conspiracy. We collaborated on Cuthbert's blue book exams; by mid-term Cuthbert was headed toward a B+. Eventually, Henry called on Cuthbert, in a class of about 120 students. Everyone could hear a pin drop. Cuthbert was marked present so Henry was perplexed, curious at the deep silence. Finally, a faint squeaky back row voice called out "There is no Cuthbert Gleep, Henry." The class roared at the trick. As spring came on, we fixed little bouquets of dandelions and daisies in a 100 cc Erlenmeyer flask placed on a card "From Cuthbert to Henry" at the corner of his lecture table/bench, where he'd see it as he entered the classroom. Henry did fine pioneer work in organometallic chemistry.

As I read the last issue of C&EN News, glanced at that thick section on the San Diego meeting agenda, it struck me as a testimonial to the changes that have come in the last 50 years of chemical science; advances in analytical methods; polymer chemistry, synthetic rubber, nuclear science, and, the newcomer, profound advances in biochemistry. The pace of change seems to be accelerating with no clear plateau in sight. Keep on — it is still an experimental science, lots to learn.

## Margaret J. Pitts

Born in Spokane, WA, August 10, 1923. Attended grade school and high school in Spokane, then attended Washington State College (now Washington State University) 1941-1943. Following my sophomore year, worked for magnesium plant in Spokane 1943-1944. Returned to WSC in fall 1944, and graduated, 1946. During summer 1945, worked at Division of Industrial Research at WSC as an Assistant Chemist on a project aimed at producing aluminum from clay. Continued to work part-time on this project during my senior year. Graduated 1946 with a BS in Chemistry.

Moved to Kokomo, IN, to work for Haynes Satellite Company as a Chemist 1946-1951. Returned to Spokane 1951 to work at the magnesium plant which was reactivated during the Korean War. Magnesium production was discontinued in 1953. Moved to Portland, OR, 1954 to work at Pittsburgh Testing Laboratory.

In 1956, moved to Seattle to work for Boeing. In 1960, left Boeing. Worked  
(please see Pitts, page 8)



# Pavlath (continued from p. 1)

p.m. in the Regency Room at Pacific Lutheran University. The cost is \$15 per person (checks payable to ACS, Puget Sound Section). Please make reservations (as space is limited) by 9 a.m. on April 23 by calling (253) 535-7530 or by leaving email at [chair@rainier.chem.plu.edu](mailto:chair@rainier.chem.plu.edu). Please specify your meal choice of chicken or vegetarian pasta when making your reservation.

Attila Pavlath received his education at the Technical University of Budapest in Hungary, where he became assistant professor. In 1956, he left Hungary first for McGill University in Montreal; then, in 1958, he joined Stauffer Chemical Company in Richmond, California. Since 1967, he has been with the Western Regional Research Center of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in Albany, California. He is leading a group involved in research on various agricultural chemical problems. Dr. Pavlath's scientific career includes work on fluorine chemistry (30+ years), glow discharge chemistry (10+ years), textile chemistry (10 years), energy and biomass research (10 years) and most recently on the freshness in fruits and vegetables. He has published almost 100 scientific papers on these subjects and has presented numerous lectures in the U.S. and abroad. He also holds 20-25 patents. Dr. Pavlath is also well-known for his activities in the ACS during the past 20 years to make the ACS more responsive to the professional needs of its members.

For more information and directions to the campus, please see the PLU Chemistry Department web page: <http://www.chem.plu.edu>.

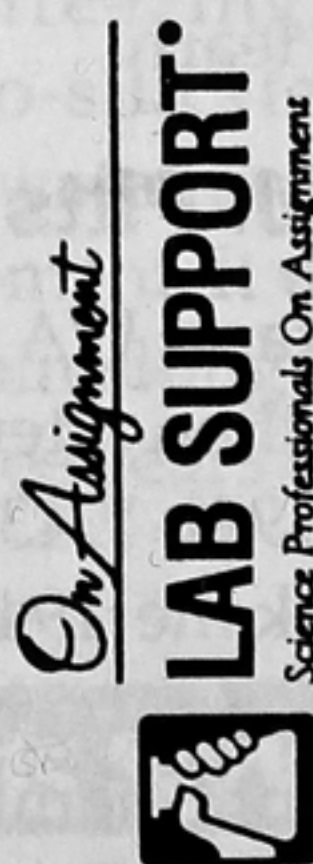
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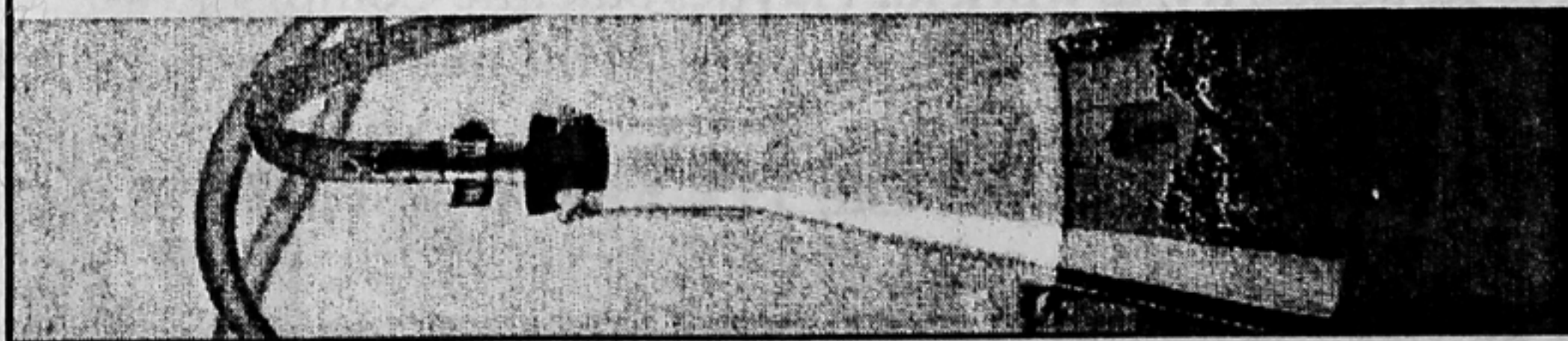
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## **URS** (continued from p. 1)

with the awards ceremony for best presentation and best research.

Whether you are coming from the north or south, you can reach Evergreen by taking Interstate 5 into Olympia and then turning onto Highway 101 at Exit 104. Go west on 101 North for three miles to The Evergreen State College exit and go another two miles north on the Evergreen Parkway to the campus entrance (on the left). You may park in either Parking Lot B or C (see the map on the website). There is no charge for parking on a Saturday.

The symposium oral presentations will take place in Lecture Hall 5, located in the Lecture Hall Building, building no. 2 on the Campus Map. There is no organized symposium lunch: the Campus Deli will be open all day and serves a variety of sandwiches, soup, and chili. The Deli is located in the CAB Building (building no. 10 on the Campus Map), across the square from the Lecture Halls. The poster session will also take place in the CAB Building.

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for Atmospheric Sciences Department at University of Washington 1960-1963; then Commercial Chemicals Company in Seattle 1964-1965. Moved to Bremerton, WA, 1966 to work for Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, and transferred to Naval Undersea Warfare Engineering Station, 1977 at Keyport, WA, where I retired in 1986 and returned to Seattle. Involved with the production of the *Puget Sound Chemist* as an assistant to the editor, 1987-1992.

Other professional organizations include ASTM, where I'm a member of Committee E-27 on Hazardous Potential of Chemicals; also, Iota Sigma Pi (Chemistry honorary for women).

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## Upcoming meetings

**April 24**      **Attila Pavlath**, US Dept. of Agriculture  
(site: Pacific Lutheran Univ., Tacoma)

**May 24**      **Dorit Noether**, ACS *Chemtech* columnist  
(site: North Seattle Community College)

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