

PUGET SOUND CHEMIST

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND SECTION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

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SEP 4 1998

GET A CLUE! O'BRIEN ON CONAN DOYLE

"Madam, you must stop painting your child's crib." These were the first words spoken by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to a woman who had brought her listless infant daughter to the Edinburgh Medical School in 1912. Doyle, like his creation Sherlock Holmes, had acute deductive powers; his diagnosis of lead poisoning proved to be correct.

James F. O'Brien, Professor of Chemistry at Southwestern Missouri State University, will elaborate on Conan Doyle and Holmes in a talk titled "Chemistry in the Sherlock Holmes Stories" on Thursday, October 1, 1998, in Leraas Lecture Hall, Rieke Science Center on the Pacific Lutheran

(please see page 7)

Who: Dr. James F. O'Brien (Southwestern Missouri State University)

What: "Chemistry in the Sherlock Holmes Stories"

Where: Pacific Lutheran University (Leraas Lecture Hall, Rieke Science Center)

When: Thursday, October 1 at 7:00 p.m. (dinner at 6:00 p.m.)

How much for dinner: \$8. Please make reservations by Tuesday, September 29 at 5:00 p.m. You may call Toni Curtis at (253) 535-7530 at Pacific Lutheran University, or you can e-mail fryhle@rainier.chem.plu.edu. The dinner will be a sandwich buffet with vegetarian options available (you need not specify when you make a reservation).

CHEMISTRY

PUGET SOUND CHEMIST

THE BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND
SECTION, AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY



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Puget Sound Section ACS Executive Committee Future Meetings in 1998

Meetings are open to all members and are held at 6:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in room 2430C (above the bookstore) at North Seattle Community College, 9600 College Way North in Seattle (across I-5 from Northgate Mall). The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 16, which is indeed the third Wednesday of the month, but what're you gonna do?.

Allen Bard wins the Pauling Award

Allen J. Bard, known for his pioneering work in the area of electroanalytical chemistry, will receive the 1998 Pauling Award at ceremonies on Saturday, November 21, 1998, at the University of Washington in Seattle. The "Frontiers of Electrochemistry" symposium will precede the gold medal presentation.

Professor Bard, who holds the Hackerman-Welch Regents Chair in Chemistry at the University of Texas at Austin, has been called a "chemist for all seasons" owing to the breadth and depth of his work. His group discovered electrogenerated chemiluminescence, and he and his colleagues also patented a scanning electrochemical microscope. His achievements have impacted organic, physical, polymer, solid state and analytical chemistry.

Bard was elected in 1982 to the National Academy of Sciences and he received their prestigious "Award in Chemical Sciences" this past year. He became a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS) and of the Electrochemical Society both in 1990, and won a distinguished teaching award from his institution in 1995. He has received nearly 30 medals, prizes or honors.

His leadership roles include serving as editor-in-chief of the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* for the last 18 years. He has also recently finished a stint as Chair of the AAAS's

Chemistry Section. Professor Bard has over 600 research publications, has written or co-authored four books, and has served on more than 20 editorial boards.

Other speakers at the Pauling Award symposium will include Fred Anson
(continued on page 6)

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AN EDITORIAL COMMENT

We would like to thank Kathy Hohstadt for her efforts as she steps down from the position of Business Manager of the *Puget Sound Chemist*. This does mean that there is now a vacancy to be filled for this critical job: to keep the advertising accounts of the *Chemist* and to solicit new advertisers. If you are interested in this non-paying but high-karma job, please e-mail Tracy or Justine Furutani at the addresses listed on page 2.

In addition, elections for the Puget Sound Section executive committee are coming up. We are interested in finding chemists who would like to run for the positions of secretary (meeting minutes and elections), **councilor** (attend national meeting) and **alternate councilor**. We are *especially* interested in finding chemists who would like to run for these positions and are employed at area industries (or have you not noted that nearly all of the officers' e-mail addresses are in the dreaded ".edu" domain?), though we encourage all members in any domain to run. Please submit your names or nominations to Craig Fryhle at (253) 535-8314 or at fryhle@chem.plu.edu.

Finally, if you wish not to put yourself before the electorate but still wish to help out the Section, consider chairing a standing committee. So far, we have filled four committee chairs:

(continued on page 5)

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editorial (continued from page 5)

National Chemistry Week — Dharshi Bopegedera

Chemistry Olympiad — Larry Gulberg

Education Committee — Millard Wyman

Local Career Programming Representative and
Employment Committee — Marlys Nasset

The Section by-laws mandate several more committees: awards, membership, program, finance, public affairs, hospitality, public relations, long-range planning, and regional activities. The last committee will be uniquely positioned to help out with the two national conferences which will be held in this area in 2001 and 2002. Again, please give your name to Craig Fryhle at (253) 535-8314 or at fryhle@chem.plu.edu to get involved. Remember, it's only you who can help bring about interesting symposia and speakers in the upcoming year.

Volunteers needed for conferences

Interested in assuring a pleasant Puget Sound experience for thousands of chemists and their families? This section will be hosting the 2001 NORM conference; contact Sue Jackels at Seattle University ((206) 296-5946 or sjackels@seattleu.edu). We are also in the running for the 2002 CHED conference; contact George Kriz ((360) 650-3070 or kriz@chem.wwu.edu) or Debbie Wiegand ((206) 543-1653 or wiegand@chem.washington.edu).

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Pauling Award (continued from page 3)

from Caltech; Royce Murray from University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; and Larry Faulkner, president of the University of Texas at Austin and one of Professor Bard's doctoral students.

This award is sponsored jointly between the Puget Sound, Oregon and Portland sections of the ACS. This year's award chair is UW professor Paul B. Hopkins and the symposium chair is UW professor Martin Gouterman.

The award is named after Dr. Linus Pauling, a native of the Pacific Northwest, and the recipient of the 1954 Nobel Prize in Chemistry and the 1962 Nobel Prize in Peace. Recipients of the Pauling Award have made outstanding contributions to chemistry of a character that have merited national and international praise. Indeed, 10 of the 32 previous medalists have also received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, although the Pauling Award is not given in recognition of work for which the nominee has already received the Nobel Prize.

Nancy Cooper at the UW is maintaining a Pauling Award website, <http://www.chem.washington.edu/paulingaward.html> which will be updated as details are finalized. Further information about the symposium will also be published in next month's *Puget Sound Chemist*.

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O'BRIEN (continued from page 1)

University campus in Tacoma.

The talk, which will begin at 7 p.m., will discuss the scientific Holmes, with quotes from the Master himself as well as a few cartoons to illustrate that Isaac Asimov's assessment of Holmes as a "blundering chemist" is incorrect. In fact, there is so much chemistry in the Sherlock Holmes stories that practically every story has some, whether it be poisons, gems, brandy, acids or even the famous seven percent solution of cocaine.

Dr. O'Brien received his BS in chemistry from Villanova University and his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. Following postdoctoral work at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory in New Mexico, he joined the faculty at Southwestern Missouri State University, where his current research interests have centered on molecular orbital calculations of the properties of organometallic and inorganic species. He also devotes time to studying the history of chemistry. His other interests include, of course, Sherlock Holmes, as well as golf, bridge, Civil War history and walking.

To get to the Rieke Science Center at PLU, get on I-5 and exit onto state route 512 eastbound (Exit 127 — the Puyallup / Mt. Rainier off-ramp). Take the first exit (Steele Street) and turn left to travel south. Stay on Steele as it curves left (east) and becomes 116th St. South. At the three-way stop, turn right (south) on Spanaway Loop Road. Continue south for seven blocks, then turn left (east) onto Garfield Street. Follow Garfield as it curves to the right (south) and becomes 12th Avenue. Turn left (east) on 123rd Street, which brings you to the PLU campus. Rieke Science Center is a brick building with three peaks, just north of 123rd Street and east of 10th Avenue. Park in the Olson Lot, which is just north of 124th Street. Alternate parking may be found at the Mary Baker Russell Lot, north of the Rieke Center.

Staffing needs? Contact the *Chemist*

FUTURE MEETINGS in 1998

October 1

"Chemistry in the Sherlock Holmes Stories"

James O'Brien

Southwestern Missouri State University

(site: Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma)

November 6

"Big Event Demos that will Knock Your Socks Off!"

Tim Hoyt, Pacific Lutheran University

and Herb Bryce, Seattle Central Community College

(site: Shoreline Center? (stay tuned))

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