

PUGET SOUND CHEMIST

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND SECTION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

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Dervan wins Pauling Medal

Peter B. Dervan, Bren Professor of Chemistry at the California Institute of Technology has been named as the recipient of the 1999 Linus Pauling Medal. The Pauling Medal is presented annually by the Oregon, Portland and Puget Sound Sections of the American Chemical Society in recognition of work in chemistry that is significant and has broad impact in the spirit of the life and work of Linus Pauling.

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Dervan received his B. S. degree from Boston College in 1967. Dervan began research in physical organic chemistry working with Professor Jerome A. Berson at Yale University and received his Ph. D. degree in 1972. After a postdoctoral appointment at Stanford University, he joined the faculty at the California Institute of Technology in 1973.

Dervan has been a pioneer in the area of understanding interactions between DNA and DNA-binding molecules. He has taken a multidisciplinary approach to in-

Who: Dr. Peter B. Dervan, Caltech, and a host of others

What: Pauling Award Symposium

Where: LaSells Stewart Center, Oregon State University, Corvallis

When: Saturday, October 2 at 1:30 p.m.

How much for dinner: \$30 per person, featuring a choice of dinner entree of beef, salmon or vegetarian; reservations required by September 24.

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THE BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND SECTION, AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

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Puget Sound Section ACS Executive Committee Future Meetings in 1999

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 in Seattle (across I-5 from Northgate Mall). The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be **Wednesday, October 13**.

Thumbs up on Fortman's talk on chemistry and the movies



For everyone who ever cringed at the mention of "molecular acid" in the movie *Alien*, has the Puget Sound Section scheduled a talk for you!

The September meeting features Dr. John C. Fortman, Professor and Associate Chair of the Department of Chemistry at Wright State University presenting "Serious and Delirious Use of Chemistry in Movies" on Thursday, September 16, at 7:00 p.m. in Leraas Lecture Hall, Rieke Science Center at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma.

His presentation will begin with illustrations of brief mentions of chemistry in films where it might not be expected, such *The Graduate*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *1776* and *Bells on Their Toes*.

Movies which feature science will then be highlighted, contrasting past and present, the real and the impossible, drama and comedy, and similar scenes in multiple films. Featured clips will be shown from films such *Apollo 13*, *Dante's Peak*, *Chain Reaction*, *It Happens Every Spring*, *The Man in the White Suit*, and *Smoke*. Several live chemical demonstrations related to the movie scenes will be interspersed with the film clips.

Dr. Fortman has been a faculty member in the Department of Chemistry at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, since 1965. He received his BS in chemistry from the University of Dayton in 1961 and his Ph.D. in

physical inorganic chemistry from the University of Notre Dame in 1965.

Dr. Fortman has achieved national promi-

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Liz Allen Weber

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Letter from the Chair

August 26, 1999

A Letter to Our Members, Especially Those Employed in Industry

The local section of the ACS often needs greater involvement of its industrial members in leadership and organizational roles. To strengthen the utility of our section for its membership as a whole, I'd like especially to ask those of you employed in industry to consider volunteering in one capacity or another. I think that all facets of our membership can benefit by greater interaction and cross-fertilization between members in industry and those in education. The teachers and academic researchers among our midst are the ones that help feed the employment pipeline. Industrial members, on the other hand, can facilitate the flow along this pipeline. You can help those in training successfully target their ambitions toward the needs of the employment sector. You can also provide an industrial perspective on various issues of interest to the local section. There is benefit to be had for all.

There are a number of ways you could become involved. The local section Executive Committee serves as the steering group for section activities. Positions in the local section of Chair-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and four Councilors and Alternate Councilors are all elected from within our general membership. Enthusiastic and willing volunteers hold these positions, and they are often the only candidates on our ballot. Various committees on employment, education, public affairs, awards, and other interests are identified in our bylaws, but often there are not enough people involved to move along the goals of these committees. A call for additional volunteers from our industrial membership is certainly not meant to wish replacement of the dedicated people already serving, of course. Rather, it is meant to broaden the scope of our outlook and representation in the local section. Those of you in the K-12 and higher education areas could consider greater involvement, too.

Now is the time the Executive Committee gathers the names of people that want to help with section activities. How about taking a spot on the ballot of officers?

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volunteering as a committee member or organizer of a special activity? If you'd like to get involved, or if you have any questions, please contact me as soon as possible. We can do better at cross-fertilizing the interests of both our industrial and academic membership. Thanks in advance for helping us do it.

Craig Fryhle, Ph.D.

Chair, Puget Sound Section of the ACS

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Dervan (continued from page 1)

investigate how molecules recognize specific sub-sequences within the double helical chain of DNA that contains a cell's genetic map.

One key to this approach was his invention in 1982 of a chemical method to footprint the location of bound molecules on DNA fragments. This was complemented by an affinity cleaving technique that allowed rapid screening of hundreds of potential DNA binding sites. The evolution of this work has allowed the design of synthetic polyamide chains that can recognize all four bases of DNA with binding affinities and specificities approaching natural DNA binding proteins.

Dervan is also known for his enthusiastic teaching style. In an introductory organic class, he has admonished his students to "wake up at two in the morning and worry about the strength of a carbon-carbon double bond!"

Dervan is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Institute of Medicine (NAS). He has received several major scientific awards, including the Harrison Howe Award (1988), the Arthur C. Cope Award (1993), the Nichols Medal (1994), the Maison de la Chimie Foundation Prize (1996), Kirkwood Medal (1998), Alfred Bader Award (1999) and the Max Tishler Prize (1999).

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The 1999 Linus Pauling Medal will be presented at a ceremony at Oregon State University in Corvallis, OR, on Saturday, October 2, 1999. Activities will include an afternoon symposium, a public reception and the award banquet. More information is available on the Web at <http://www.chem.orst.edu/acs/pauling.htm>, or contact Professor David Horne at (541) 737-8180 or e-mail at horned@chem.orst.edu

Fortman (continued from page 3)

nence as a chemical educator whose interests are not confined to the college classroom. He has given numerous presentations to enthusiastic audiences of pre-college teachers and students across the country and has produced videotape sets for use in high schools as well as at the college level. Articles he has published using pictorial analogies to make chemistry easier for educators to present and for high school students to comprehend have won praise from secondary school educators. In recognition of his broad contributions to chemical education, Fortman was one of four professors to receive the prestigious Chemical Manufacturers' Association Responsible Care National Catalyst Award for excellence in teaching in 1998.

A pizza buffet will be served at 6:00 p.m. in the lobby of Rieke Science Center for those that make advance reservations. The cost will be \$5 including beverage, and reservations should be made by Wednesday, September 15 at 5:00 p.m. by calling 253-535-7530 or by e-mailing fryhle@rainier.chem.plu.edu. Please pay by check or cash at the event. No-shows with reservations will be billed for dinner.

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

Who: Dr. John C. Fortman, Wright State University

What: "Serious and Delirious Use of Chemistry in Movies"

Where: Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma

When: Thursday, September 16, at 6:00 p.m.

How much for dinner: \$5 for pizza and beverage; reservations required by September 15.

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 St. Follow Garfield as it curves to the right (south) and becomes 12th Ave. Turn left (east) on 123rd St., which brings you to the PLU campus. Rieke Science Center is a brick building with three peaks, just north of 123rd St. and east of 10th Ave. Park in the Olson Lot, which is just north of 124th Street.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Part-time Instructor — North Seattle Community College is seeking a chem-

istry instructor with a background in art to teach a joint course with the art department for Winter, 1999. Please contact Tom Griffith at (206) 527-3747.

Q & A on ACS national elections

Q: I got the ACS National Ballot in the mail the other day and I know nothing about the President-Elect candidates. Where can I get more information about them?

A: Each candidate does have his own web page; they can be accessed at the following sites:

Dr. Attila Pavlath's web page address is: <http://www.pavlath.org>

Dr. Alan Schriesheim's address is: <http://www.schriesheim.org>

Q: Will there be a 1999 elections page posted by the ACS?

A: Yes, election pages are posted at the same time that the candidate statements come out in C&EN. This year the publication date for those is scheduled for September 13. You can expect to find the election pages no later than September 15 at: <http://www.acs.org/elections>

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FUTURE MEETINGS in 1999

- September 16** John C. Fortman, Wright State University
"Serious and Delirious Use of Chemistry in Movies"
(site: Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma)
- October 2** Peter B. Dervan, Caltech
Linus Pauling Award Symposium
(site: Oregon State University, Corvallis)
- October 7** C. Marvin Lang, University of Wisconsin
"Elements of Chemical Leadership"
(site: The Evergreen State College, Olympia)
- November** Herb Rice and Tim Hoyt
"An Incredible Evening of Chemistry 2"
(site: TBA)
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