

# PUGET SOUND CHEMIST

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND SECTION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

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a message from the chair 2000

## Greetings at the end of 1999

CHEMISTRY

As outgoing Chair of the local ACS section, I'd like to thank the great people who volunteer their time with the Executive Committee and the local section. **Justine and Tracy Furutani** tirelessly edit and produce the *Puget Sound Chemist*, and for this I am most grateful. **Kathy Hohstadt** has been our Business Manager as well as Chair-elect in 1999. She holds the reins for our section in 2000. My best wishes to Kathy and thanks for her all of her help. **Justine Furutani** will be our Chair-elect in 2000 (to succeed Kathy in 2001), and we look forward to her steady contributions. **Sara Selfe** is our faithful secretary who records work accomplished and keeps us on task for upcoming meetings. Treasurer **David Munch** is a most careful steward of our funds, facilitating the wise use of our resources. Councilors **Herb Bryce, Bill Wasserman, Mark Wicholas** and represent us at national ACS functions and participate in committees of the national body. When necessary their Alternate Councilors **Clarita Bhat, George Kriz** and **Debbie Wiegand** substitute for them. **Tom Griffith** leaves his position as Past-Chair (as I move into that role), and for his guidance and mentoring during my term I am most thankful. **Arden Forrey**, as Chair before Tom, continues to offer his time and energy to the Executive Committee, as well. To all of these people, thanks.

I'd also like to welcome and give my best wishes to new members of the Executive Committee or those assuming new roles. **Sue Jackels** is a new Alternate Councilor for our section, as well as General Chair for the 2001 Northwest Regional ACS Meeting at Seattle University. **Debbie Wiegand** has moved up to fill a new Councilor position, and **Sheri Baker** is her Alternate Councilor. To these people, I extend my thanks for their service.

**Randy Engel** is Chair of our revitalized Education Committee. He, together with committee members **Herb Bryce, David Munch, Mary D'Brien, and Kristina Peterson** support our educational grant and award

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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, January 13, 2000**



# Fifty-Year Members to be feted in February

The Puget Sound Section will honor its 1999 Fifty-Year Members in a ceremony at the Section's February meeting (the exact date, time, place and cost will be given in the next issue of the *Chemist*). The ACS Membership Division has informed the Section that the following members qualify for the 50-year award:

**Robert L. Alumbaugh**, Sequim; **Edwin E. Barnes**, Seattle; **Theodore Richard Beck**, Seattle; **George W. Brown, Jr.**, Seattle; **John Roger Charlton**, White Rock, BC; **Albert Carman Condo, Jr.**, Newtown Square, PA; **John A. Dyer**, Seattle; **Keith D. Gehr**, Auburn; **Merland William Grieb**, Seattle; **Merle K. Harmon**, Oak Harbor; **Thomas Watkins Hutton**, Langley; **Arthur Joseph Kerbeczek, Jr.**, Chelan; **J. Laurence Kulp**, Federal Way; **Lewis Frederick Leiber**, Mercer Island; **Morris C. Moen**, Seattle; **Ernest G. Oxton**, Port Ludlow; **George Morris Pigott**, Kirkland; **Donald Alexander Runciman**, Seattle; **Steven J. Sandtner**, Rochester; **L.A. Sherbeck**, Redmond; and **Gordon M. Tener**, Vancouver, BC.

Fifty-year members are asked and encouraged to share any thoughts and reminiscences over their lives and careers for publication in future *Chemists*. Please send brief submissions to: Editor, Puget Sound Chemist, PO Box 15269, Seattle, WA 98115-0269.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The ACS Joint 55th Northwest/16th Rocky Mountain Regional Meeting, hosted by the Idaho and Wyoming Sections, will be held at Eastern Idaho Technical College in Idaho Falls, ID, June 15-17, 2000. .

Symposium organizer contacts are given at <http://membership.acs.org/w/wyoming/callpap.htm>. For additional program features visit the meeting web site at <http://www2.ida.net/acsid/form2000>

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## Section events



*Puget Sound Section Local Chemistry Teacher of the Year Steve Ufer receives congratulations from Randy Engel, Puget Sound Section Education Committee Co-Chair and Jim Ridgeway, principal of Washington High School in Tacoma where Mr. Ufer teaches. The ceremony took place at the November meeting of the Section.*

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# Steve Ufer wins Section High School Teacher of the Year Award

*Randy Engel, Puget Sound Section Education Committee Chair*

The winner of the Puget Sound Section Local Award in High School Chemistry Teaching is Steve Ufer, who teaches chemistry at Washington High School in Tacoma. This year's award was presented at the Puget Sound Section November meeting, which took place at Shoreline Community College.

Mr. Ufer was nominated for this award by Jim Ridgeway, the principal at Washington High School. At the award presentation, Mr. Ridgeway spoke frequently about why Mr. Ufer is deserving of this award; his comments cannot be summed up by this statement: "I cannot imagine a science educator who is worthier of this prestigious award or who would be more representative of what this award represents." Although Mr. Ufer has taught in the same school for 25 years, he still has the energy and enthusiasm of a first year teacher. Mr. Ufer's educational background includes a B.A. in chemistry from Pacific Lutheran University and an M.A. in organic chemistry from the University of Oregon. In addition to this formal training, he has kept up-to-date by attending many short classes and conferences on science education. As his nominator says, "Steve takes advantage of every opportunity to become knowledgeable and skilled in the newest trends in teaching theory and science education."

Before embarking on his career path as a chemistry teacher, Mr. Ufer served the US Army as a forensic chemist. He also worked for many years as a commercial fisherman.

During his 25 years of teaching at Washington High School, Mr. Ufer has taught the basic high school chemistry class as well as Advanced Placement Chemistry. In addition to chemistry, he has also taught algebra, geometry, consumer math, various computer science classes, freshman general science, and Advanced Placement Environmental Science.

Mr. Ufer's interest in environmental issues has brought real-life science into his classroom. He was a major contributor to the development of the Clover Creek Salmon Habitat Restoration Project. Using Clover Creek as the learning envi-

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# High School Teacher Award (cont. from page 5)

ronment, his students tested the water, removed intrusive plants, planted trees, and assisted the Clover Creek Council in improving the habitat. Currently, he is involved in getting Pierce County to approve a nature preserve, which is in close proximity to Washington High School. This will become another learning environment in which to engage his students. This year he has also helped to develop Washington High School's first ever Science Fair.

Mr. Ufer has been an active leader at both the building and district levels. He is currently the chair of the Washington High School Science Department and the Student Learning Improvement Team. He also co-chairs the Franklin Pierce School District Science Curriculum Committee and is a district trained Teacher Leader.

Not surprisingly, Mr. Ufer has been honored in the past for his excellence in teaching. In 1997 he was honored as Conservation Teacher of the Year in Pierce County. This year he was selected as the winner of the prestigious Excellence in Education Award in the Franklin Pierce School District.

On a personal level, Mr. Ufer is an outstanding individual, who cares deeply about his students and education. In the words of one of his colleagues, "You could not ask for a more deserving candidate for the honor of High School Chemistry Teacher of the Year." The Education Committee agrees with this assessment. The Puget Sound Local award includes a certificate and a \$250 cash award.

The Section will be nominating Mr. Ufer for the American Chemical Society 2001 Regional Award in High School Chemistry Teaching. We wish him the best of luck in this competition.

Each year the Puget Sound Section selects a winner of the Local Award in High School Chemistry Teaching. Nominations for this award are sent to the Education Committee, which makes the final selection.

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## Award winner responds...

Randy,

I don't have an easy explanation as to why your funds go unused. It could be the overload of mail we all seem to receive or that only one person per school seems to read the *Puget Sound Chemist*. The chemical shows for younger students would seem to be a natural way to fill the gap between the AP test and the end of school — a targeted mailing to any school with students taking the AP Chem test might be effective. Any way to financially help teachers attend conferences will be popular because the state legislature took away block grants as part of our pay raise last year. I remember that when I saw that non-science teachers

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expanding their learning (the people who should be going to conferences), I assumed that I would not be eligible for the grant. The trick is being able to reach your targeted audience again.

One proposal that it would be great to fund would be trying to start the informal group of chemistry teachers who used to meet to share labs, ideas, text reviews, etc. This was suggested by a teacher the WSTA meeting in October. The ideal format would be to establish a website and moderated mailing list to share information and build the community. She suggested that if we all participated the work would be well-distributed and not a burden for anyone. If you think there is merit in this, I could contact her and bring a proposal to the Education Committee's next meeting. This also might be a way to share the information about the grants you have available.

Thank you again for including me. Have a great Christmas season and I hope to see you in January.

Steve

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## Message from the Chair (continued from page 1)

programs, as well as special activities such as the Chemistry Olympiad and National Chemistry Week. I'd like to thank **Dharshi Bopegedera** for being our National Chemistry Week coordinator, and **Herb Bryce** and **Tim Ho** for giving several *incredible* "Incredible Evening of Chemistry" presentations this year (a.k.a. "The Herb and Tim Show"). **Pacha Nambi** has given a new look to our web pages and is providing valuable support for the continued development. **Marlys Nasset** together with new help from **Heather Ruud** are spearheading Local Section Career Programming. **B Reinhardt** is the Program Chair for the 2001 Northwest Regional Meeting. **Mark Bussell** and **Jim Vyvyan** are organizing the Pauling Symposium 2000. My thanks to all of them.

To these people and all of those that I may have neglected to mention, I extend my sincere appreciation for everything that they do for the section and for the ways that they have helped me as Local Section Chair.

Sincerely,

*Craig Fryhle*

Past-Chair as of January 1, 2000

(Editor's note: Thank *you*, Mr. Chair)

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