



# NEWSLETTER

Oklahoma Section  
American Chemical Society

Volume 13 Number 6

October 8, 2007

## Green Plastics

**Monday - October 8, 2007**  
**Noble Conference Center**  
**Sam Noble Parkway**  
**Ardmore OK**

**Dr. Eugene S. Stevens**  
**Professor of Physical Chemistry**  
**Chemistry Department**  
**State University of New York at Binghamton**  
**P O Box 60001**  
**Binghamton NY 13902**

**New** plastics are being developed with characteristics not usually associated with plastic – plastic made from natural renewable starting materials in an environmentally benign manner. They are made from agricultural feed stocks like starch and vegetable oils rather than irreplaceable fossil fuels; they contribute little to the already burdensome problems of waste management; and they help prepare us for the time when fossil fuels become exhausted. This talk will describe the driving force behind the emerging bio plastics industry, survey the new fermentation and non-fermentation technologies, and examine their prospects for the future. . . . .

[Reservation Information on Page 2] 

**Schedule:**

**5:30 pm - 6:30 PM** Social Hour: **Kruse Auditorium Lobby**  
**6:30 pm - 7:30 pm** Presentations: **Noble Conference Center**  
**7:30 pm - 9:00 PM** Dinner: **Noble Conference Center**

**Menu:** *It's BBQ Time!* Brisket; Ribs; Polish Sausage; Beans; Potato Salad; Cole Slaw.

**Cost:** \$10.00-ACS Member; \$5.00-ACS Student Affiliate

**Deadline:** **Tuesday - 02 October, 2007 - 3:00 PM**  
**Tim Smith : 580.745.2444 / tsmith@sosu.edu**

**Traveler's Aid:**

1. From I-35: **Take Exit 33 and turn left [East] on Prairie Valley Road/Veteran's Boulevard. Continue on Veteran's Boulevard 3.0 miles to the intersection of Sam Noble Parkway. Turn left [East] on Sam Noble Parkway 1.4 miles. Conference Center entrance is on the left [North] side of Sam Noble Parkway, directly across the road from the Noble Foundation complex. Conference Center  $\approx$  1/4 mile from the highway. Kruse Auditorium is across the street from the Conference Center.**

<http://www.noble.org/Admin/Contact/Index.html>  
<http://www.noble.org/Admin/Contact/campus.htm>

**Dr. Eugene S. Stevens**

**E. S. Stevens** is Professor of Chemistry at the State University of New York at Binghamton. His training includes a B.S. in Chemistry from Yale University, a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, and an NSF Postdoctoral Fellowship at Harvard University. He has conducted research on biopolymers for more than thirty years and has published more than one hundred papers dealing with the conformational behavior of biomolecules, a topic he has explored through chiroptic methods. He is a member of the American Chemical Society, American Society of Testing and Materials, and BioEnvironmental Polymer Society.

**Cheryl Baldwin Frech attended the ACS Council Meeting on Wednesday, August 22 in Boston.** Here are some of the highlights.

**Candidates for national offices were announced:****Candidates for President-Elect 2008**

Thomas H. Lane, Dow Corning Corporation, Midland, MI  
Howard M. Peters, Peters, Verny, LLP, Palo Alto, CA

**Directors-at-Large - 2008-2010**

Janan M. Hayes, (Retired) Merced College, Merced, CA  
Bonnie A. Lawlor, NFAIS, Philadelphia, PA  
Kent J. Voorhees, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO  
Frankie K. Wood-Black, Trihydro Corporation, Ponca City, OK

**Several petitions were introduced for consideration. These will be action items at the Spring 2008 Council Meeting in New Orleans.**

- The Petition on Election Procedures for President-Elect and District Director seeks to move toward a preferential ballot, both to make the balloting procedure more uniform and to avoid the complications and expense of run-off elections.
- The Petition on Local Section and Division Election Procedures provides options other than run-off elections to local sections and divisions for resolving tie votes.
- The Petition on Membership Categories represents a comprehensive revision of the qualifications required for membership and for affiliate status in the Society. This will eliminate the category of student affiliate and create the category of student member. We will attempt to have the proposed petition posted on the Section website for discussion and input.

**Committee Review and Other Committee Changes**

- The Council VOTED to amend the acronym of the Committee on Project SEED from “Summer Educational Experience for the Disadvantaged” to “Summer Experiences for the Economically Disadvantaged.”

**Meeting Information**

- The Boston ACS national meeting attracted 15,344 registrants.
- The 2011 national meeting was moved from Chicago to Denver based on logistical complaints following the 2008 Spring Meeting.

**Review of the Academic Professional Guidelines**

- The Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs submitted a version of the Academic Professional Guidelines for consideration. We will attempt to post these on the Section’s website for discussion and input. The Council will vote on the Academic Professional Guidelines at the 2008 Spring Meeting in New Orleans.

**New Web Design to Launch Soon**

- September 20, 2007 is the date of the new ACS.org which has been completely restructured from its current format.

**Special Discussion Item**

45 minutes of discussion focused on ACS policy development and advocacy efforts. In summary, how can ACS members advocate on behalf of better science policy in a variety of areas, from education to industry, at the local to international level.

**Oklahoma Chemist Award - 2008**

Nominations for **Oklahoma Chemist of the Year - 2008** are now being accepted.

**Five [5] copies** of a single nomination should be sent by **no later than January 18, 2008 to:**

**Dr. K. Darrell Berlin-Chair**  
**Oklahoma Chemist Awards Committee**  
**Department of Chemistry**  
**Oklahoma State University**  
**Stillwater OK 74078**  
**405.744.5950**  
**kdb@okstate.edu**

**Criteria and Guidelines for the Preparation of the Nomination and For Selection of the Recipient of The Oklahoma Chemist Award.**

1. A nomination letter for the candidate by a colleague, friend, etc.
2. A complete, **up-to-date resumé** of the candidate.
3. A two-page **“highlight”** of the candidate’s **major accomplishments.**
4. Five [5] letters of support for the nominee.
  - [a] Two [2] letters from colleagues at the **candidate’s place of employment.**
  - [b] Three [3] letters from **outside the candidate’s place of employment.** Letters from **individuals with expertise in the candidate’s field are especially welcomed.**
5. **Special information** on the candidate **is also solicited,** especially as to how the candidate has advanced chemistry in the state of Oklahoma .
6. Candidates may be involved **in research or in chemical education** within the state.

kdb . . . . . 

**Common Cold/Vitamin C**

It’s probably happened to everyone at some point of their life. It’s cold season and you clean out the local pharmacy of its vitamin C supply. Two weeks later, you find yourself stuffy and congested.

Since the vitamin’s discovery in the 1930s, controversy has surrounded its supposed ability to protect against the common cold. Nobel Prize winning chemist Linus Pauling championed the vitamin in his 1970 book "Vitamin C and the Common Cold".

Now, according to an updated review of 30 vitamin C studies from the Australian National University and the University of Helsinki and published in Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, the vitamin won’t help you out much, unless you run marathons.


Conducted over several decades and including more than 11,000 people who took daily doses of at least 200 mg, the review states that vitamin C does little to reduce the length or severity of a cold. However, researchers found that those people who were exposed to prolonged periods of high stress-such as marathon runners-were 50% less likely to catch a cold if they took vitamin C daily.

For the average person, the minimal benefit the vitamin gives isn’t worth the expense, the researchers say. “It doesn’t make sense to take vitamin C 365 days a year to lessen the chance of catching a cold,” says coauthor Harri Hemilä a professor at the University of Helsinki.

Vitamin C may not be a cure-all, but it’s not useless, continues Hemilä. “Pauling was overly optimistic, but he wasn’t completely wrong.”

**Reprinted from newscrips, C&E News, July 30, 2007.**

**Teachers:**

The Oklahoma Section of the ACS has many volunteers who can assist you, your classes, and your students. For example, an ACS member can give a presentation to your class on National Chemistry Week [NCW] or careers in chemistry and chemistry-related fields. Some of our members would like to serve as science club advisors, science fair project mentors, or botball advisors. If you would like to take advantage of these willing volunteers, please complete the attached form and return. . . . . 

### High School Teacher Interest Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- Requests:
- NCW Presentation
  - Science Fair Mentors
  - Application Material for High School Chemistry Teacher Award Presentation
  - Guest Lecture or Chemistry Class Presentation
  - Lecture and Laboratory Materials
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Specifics about the Request:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete this form and send it to:** Barry K. Lavine  
Department of Chemistry  
Oklahoma State University  
Stillwater OK 74078  
[bklab@chem.okstate.edu](mailto:bklab@chem.okstate.edu)

**The reprinted letters and articles as well as the editor's unsigned article[s] in this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Oklahoma Section of the ACS.**

### Oklahoma Fall 2007 Section Meeting:

**November:** Date: Thursday, November 1, 2007  
**Speaker: Chemist of the Year 2007 - Dr. Ziad El Rassi**

Location: OSU / Stillwater

**October Section Meeting**

**Monday 8 October, 2007**

**Noble Conference Center  
Sam Noble Parkway  
Ardmore OK**

*Green Plastics.*