



THE FILTER PRESS

Newsletter of the Georgia Section of the American Chemical Society

Volume 11, Number 3

March, 2001

“Is it Chemistry or Magic? An Insider Look at a Chemical Demonstration Road Show “

*Dr. Otis Rothenberger and Dr. James Webb
Illinois State University*

When professional firefighters or law enforcement officers visit public school classrooms, they dress and act according to their professional roles. More often than not, the chemist's visit involves funny T-shirts, cute hats, and silly behavior. Thus, many chemical outreach presentations support the very stereotypes that the profession has come to deplore. This presentation illustrates that chemical outreach programs can convey the profession's important messages with drama, humor, and dignity. Further, the presentation illustrates that these messages can be conveyed with very simple and inexpensive materials that can be packed in the trunk of a single car. Drs. Rothenberger and Webb have presented this talk at colleges, high schools, junior high schools, and elementary schools throughout the United States. They are committed to the idea that chemical outreach is the responsibility of every member of the profession. During this special ACS tour presentation, of Drs. Rothenberger and Webb will show prospective presenters how to prepare, transport, set up, and effectively execute an outreach presentation. Since this special presentation

is designed to be entertaining and instructive, it should be of interest to anyone concerned about outreach. This includes high school/college chemistry teachers and chemistry clubs, as well as industrial chemists. A demonstration manual including recipes and script notes will be left with the section secretary.

The presentation “Is It Chemistry or Magic?” was created by Otis Rothenberger, a professor of chemistry at Illinois State University. Dr. Rothenberger has been involved in the field of chemical education for over 30 years. Although his research interests are in the history of chemistry, his educational specialty is the presentation of chemistry to nonscientific audiences. James Webb is a professor of chemistry at Illinois State University. As a co-presenter, his creative efforts contribute to the continuing evolution of the show. Dr. Webb, who maintains an active research program in the area of analytical chemistry, has worked as an academic and an industrial chemist. At the present time, “Is It Chemistry or Magic?” is a collaborative

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Tuesday, March 20th, 2001 at Georgia Tech



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effort of Otis Rothenberger and James Webb. Since the presentation's unique use of "chemical magic" as a serious teaching tool appeals to a wide range of audiences, Drs. Rothenberger and Webb have served as chemical education consultants to a number of educational organizations, including the Chemical Industries Council of Illinois, the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry, the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory's High School Teachers Workshop, and the American Chemical Society.

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THE FILTER PRESS

Newsletter of the Georgia Section of the American Chemical Society

The Filter Press (ISSN 1053-5721) is published monthly (except June, July, August, and December) by the Georgia Section of the American Chemical Society. Periodicals Postage Paid Atlanta GA.

Advertising and Business: Direct advertising copy and inquiries to Brian Fowler, 3466 Irwin Bridge Rd., Conyers, GA 30012, bstar1@bellsouth.net

Graphics Design, Submission of materials for publication: Direct materials for publication to Alan Gabrielli, Southern Polytechnic State University, 1100 South Marietta Parkway, Marietta, GA 30060-2896, fax to (770) 528-7490, or email to agabriell@spsu.edu
Address Changes: ACS members should send address changes to ACS Membership Services, 1155 Sixteenth Street NW, Washington, DC 20036 or call 1-800-227-5558.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Brian Fowler, 3466 Irwin Bridge Rd., Conyers, GA 30012

Tuesday, March 20th, at Georgia Tech

Is it Chemistry or Magic?

James Webb and Otis Rothenberger

Date: Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Time: 6:30 - 7:00 p.m. arrive & social
7:00 - 8:00 p.m. dinner
8:00 - 9:00 p.m. Speakers

Dinner: Pasta with either Pesto Cream or Marinara Sauce, Meatballs, Fresh Garden Salad with Italian or Ranch Dressing, Sautéed Vegetables with Red Pepper and Basil, garlic rolls, Dessert Bites, Iced Tea, Water, and Coffee

The meal will be served buffet-style in the atrium of the IBB building, and the meeting will be held in the conference room adjacent to the atrium.

Location: Georgia Tech
Petite Institute for Bioengineering and Biosciences (IBB)
315 Ferst Drive
Atlanta, GA

Directions: Exit at the Techwood/10th/14th exit, go west on 10th street to State Street, turn L onto State, go to the stop sign, turn L onto Ferst. The Bioscience building is one block east on the corner of Ferst and Atlantic. Parking is free and available anywhere around the building or nearby parking lots.

Cost: **\$15 per person, full-time students with ID and high school teachers, \$8. Payment should be made to the ACS Georgia Section** and will be collected at the door. Payment should be made to the ACS Georgia Section and will be collected at the door.

RSVP: Katherine Seley, 404-894-4013, <katherine.seley@chemistry.gatech.edu>
When making reservations, please state your name and telephone number. Reservation deadline is 5:00 PM Wednesday, March 14. **No exceptions!** Due to the limited space available, it is highly recommended that you make your reservations early. If you make a dinner reservation but fail to attend, you must still make payment for your meal to treasurer Angus Wilkinson, School of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0400, (404) 894-7452.



2000-01
Georgia
Section
Meetings:

April 24, 2001
Careers in Chemistry

May, 2001
Herty Award dinner

September 12, 2001
The Chemistry of Wine
Ernie Simpson

November 14, 2001
Chemistry in the Sherlock
Holmes Stories
James O'Brien

Analytical Consulting
Automation/Networking

GC/MS/DS & UPS
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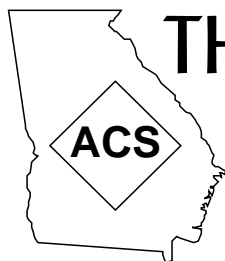


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Periodicals Postage
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Publication No. 571-180