



THE FILTER PRESS

Newsletter of the Georgia Section of the American Chemical Society

Volume 14, Number 7

October 2004

What Do Chemistry Graduate Students Think About Their Education? Implications for the Future of Graduate Education and the Chemistry Enterprise

Dr. Timothy M. Dore, Department of Chemistry, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga.

The "Survey of Doctoral Education and Career Preparation" was conducted in 1999 to collect data on the experiences of doctoral students in their programs. The survey covered many aspects of graduate study, and sought to answer several research questions, three of which are relevant here: What are the career aspirations of doctoral students? How effective are doctoral programs at preparing students for the careers they pursue? Do students understand the nature of doctoral study and how to navigate the process effectively? This talk will present data gathered from the survey of chemistry students in the context of doctoral education reform and the job market for Ph.D. chemists. The implications of the findings on the current status and future of graduate education and what impact this might have on the chemistry enterprise will be discussed.

Timothy M. Dore is an assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Georgia, where he leads an active research program in bioorganic chemistry that seeks to develop new methods of studying cellular function. He is particularly interested in exploring the molecular underpinnings of neuronal signaling, cellular development, and motility. The work is multidisciplinary in nature, involving organic synthe-

sis, photochemistry, biochemistry, and molecular and cellular biology. Dr. Dore was the co-investigator for the national "Survey of Doctoral Education and Career Preparation" and co-author with Chris M. Golde of *At Cross-Purposes: What the Experiences of Today's Doctoral Students Reveal about Doctoral Education*, which was funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts. More recently, Dr. Dore and Dr. Golde contributed a chapter in *Paths to the Professoriate*, entitled "The Survey of Doctoral Education and Career Preparation: The Importance of Disciplinary Contexts," which reports the study's findings on the experiences of graduate students in English and chemistry. At UGA, Dr. Dore has facilitated workshops on graduate education for administrators, faculty, doctoral students, and undergraduates. Dr. Dore received a B.S. in chemistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1990, and a Ph.D. in chemistry from Stanford University in 1998. After postdoctoral work at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the University of California, San Diego, he joined the faculty at UGA in 2000. While he has no spare time, he makes time to play and referee soccer at a highly competitive level. ♦

Monday, November 8, 2004, at Spelman College, Atlanta, GA



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(706)485-9316

Lillian_C_Johnston@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us

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rlichter@MerrimackLLC.com

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Upcoming Georgia Local Section Elections

It is my distinct pleasure to announce the 2004 Georgia Local Section ACS Elections. We remain among the most active sections in the country and are looking forward to the continued success of our section. I want to stress the importance of getting involved not only in this particular election, but in the membership activities available. In addition to our traditional activities, the section has been active recently in communicating with our federal representatives to apprise them of the importance of chemical research and education in our American society.

Part of the future leadership of our local section is represented by the following slate of candidates:

Chair-Elect/Member-at-Large: In this category, the candidate with the most votes will be the chair-elect (a 3-year cycle), while the runner-up will be the Member-at-Large (2005-2006). Candidates: Justin Gallivan, Emory University, and David Sherrill, Georgia Institute of Technology. **Secretary (2005-2006):** Joe Stoner [Alcott Chromatography, and our current past-chair], has graciously agreed to complete the current secretary's term (2003-2004), as Lucian Lucia is now on the faculty of North Carolina State University, and has also agreed to run for the two year term (2005-2006) as secretary. **Councilor/Alternate Councilor (2005-2007):** In this category, the candidate with the most votes will be the Councilor, while the runner-up will serve as Alternate Councilor. Candidates: LiHong D'Angelo, The Coca-Cola Company, Paul Franklin, Georgia State University, and David Gottfried, GTRI.

The names of the candidates are published in this issue of *The Filter Press* (October) and members' ballots are subsequently mailed out by the end of this month. Members may vote for whoever is listed or choose to include an alternate candidate. For a ballot to be official, it must be anonymously sealed in an unmarked envelope that is placed in an envelope bearing the voter's signature. The Chair-Elect is elected annually for a one-year term and shall serve thereafter as Chair for an additional one year. Upon expiry of the Chair term, he or she will serve as Past-Chair for one last year. The Secretary shall be elected every even year for a term of two years. Councilors and Alternate Councilors will be elected for a term of three years. ♦

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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. Known Office of Publication, American Chemical Society, Joe Stoner, 569 Greenwood Ave., Atlanta, GA 30318.

Advertising and Business, Graphics Design, Submission of Materials for Publication: Direct materials for publication to Matthias Pohl, 1312 Sunland Drive, Atlanta, GA 30319, or email to mpohl@tmqservices.com.

Address Changes: ACS members should send address changes to ACS Membership Services, 1155 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036 or call 1-800-227-5558.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Joe Stoner, American Chemical Society, 509 Greenwood Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia 30318-1940.

October/ November Meeting

What Do Chemistry Graduate Students Think About Their Education? Implications for the Future of Graduate Education and the Chemistry Enterprise

Timothy M. Dore, Ph.D.
Department of Chemistry
University of Georgia
Athens Georgia

Spelman College, Atlanta, GA

Date: Monday, November 8, 2004

Time: 6:30 - 7:00 p.m. Arrive
7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Dinner
8:00 - 9:15 p.m. Program

Dinner: Choice of salad (choose one):
Mixed Field-Green Salad;
Caesar Salad;
Tossed Salad.
Choice of entrée (choose one):
Herb-grilled Chicken Breast;
Lemon-Dill or Teriyaki-glazed Broiled Salmon Filet;
Pasta with Sun-dried Tomatoes, Basil, Peppers, Garlic, and Olive Oil;
Choice of dessert (choose one):
Key Lime Pie;
German Chocolate Cake;
Berry or Peach Tarte.

Iced Tea

Location: Spelman College
Living and Learning Center, Auditorium II
350 Spelman Lane S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30314-4399
<http://www.spelman.edu>

Directions: From I-75/85 North and South:
Take I-20 West to exit 55B at Lee Street. Turn right onto Lee Street and continue through the next traffic light (Westview Drive to a large parking lot on the right-hand side. Turn right into the first driveway and you will approach the gates of Spelman College.

From I-20 West:

Exit 55A at Lowery Blvd. Cross Lowery Blvd. and continue on Oak Street to the next traffic light. Turn left onto Lee Street, cross the bridge over I-20 and continue through the next two traffic lights. Follow directions above.

From I-20 East

Exit 55B at Lee Street. Turn right onto Lee Street and continue through the next traffic light Westview Drive. Follow directions above.

From Downtown Atlanta

Peachtree Street south to Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive and turn right. Continue on M.L. King, Jr. Drive to Northside and turn left. Continue on Northside through next three traffic lights (passing Burger King on the right). Turn right at the fourth traffic light (Greensferry Avenue). Continue on Greensferry through the stop sign. Turn left into the gate of Spelman College.

Public safety booths are located at both gates of the College. Upon your arrival, the public safety officer(s) will inform you of where to park and give other directions and instructions as needed.

A campus map and driving directions are available at <http://www.spelman.edu/students/prospective/visit/map.shtml>

Cost: \$22 per person; high school teachers, full-time students with ID, \$12. Payment should be made to the Georgia Section ACS and will be collected at the door.

RSVP: Robert L. Lichter, 404-486-0452, or RLichter@MerrimackLLC.com (preferred). Please give **name, professional affiliation, and telephone number**. Deadline for reservations and cancellations is 5:00 PM on Wednesday, November 3, 2004. **Indicate your choice of meal selections at time of reservation.**♦

Fall 2004 Councilors Report

*By Don Hicks, Lissa Dulany, Rigoberto Hernandez,
and Joyce Scanlon (Alternate Councilor)*

At the Fall 2004 ACS Meeting Chemluminary Awards event, the Georgia Section was honored as a Finalist in the competitions to receive the (1) Most Innovative New Activity in a Local Section Award, and (2) the ACS President's Award for Local Section Government Affairs.

Don Hicks, Lissa Dulany, and Rig Hernandez presented posters describing these activities. Special kudo's to Dr. Jennifer Powers of Kennesaw State who organized the SERMACS 2003 Undergraduate Student Program nominated for the first award above, and to Dr. Rigoberto Hernandez of Georgia Tech who organized the 2003 Federal Science, Education, and Technology Symposium that was a major factor in the second award nomination above. Abstracts of the invited poster papers on these events are printed elsewhere in The Filter Press. Council also heard a report citing the Georgia Section for hosting SERMACS 2003 which had the largest number of abstracts in the history of regional ACS meetings. Our Section officers deserve special commendation for promoting interaction with AIChE over the past few years. Interestingly, the national meetings of the ACS and AIChE will be co-located in New Orleans in 2006. Lissa Dulany was elected to serve on the Council Committee on Committees (ConC), and currently serves on the Committee on Science (COMSCI). All Section councilors continue to be active on committees and task forces, or to speak out in Council and open forums with suggestions on how ACS can solve problems and better serve the members.

Council Actions: Council overwhelmingly approved publication of the new 7th edition of Professional Employment Guidelines, a petition to change slightly the deadline for Division Annual Reports, a petition to change the Georgia Section name to Illinois Heartland, a petition to establish membership requirements for pre-college chemistry teachers and allow them to join ACS, and a petition to allow electronic (email) balloting as an option for voting in addition to the current paper mail ballots. Council's approval means that these latter bylaw petitions will appear on a ballot sent to all members. If ratified by members, they will become part of the ACS constitution & bylaws. Most council members were satisfied that the procedures for electronic voting, security, and anonymity were adequate. A petition to establish a new Ethics Committee was

sent back to ConC for further study. Without external Consultation, the Committee on Nominations & Elections (N&E) recently decided to shorten the national election candidate statement limit from 1000 to 750 words. Some unhappy councilors made a motion from the floor to put the limit back to 1000 words. After a heated and vigorous 12 minute debate, the motion was defeated by 206 to 195 votes.

Officer and Committee Reports: Past-President Elsa Reichmanis emphasized that ACS must be diligent in both internal communications to members, and in external communications about chemistry being "the enabling science" at the core of every technology. ACS President Charles Casey spoke of how he asked all members contacted this year to propose and be aware of 5 societal problems that can be solved by chemistry research and 5 modern achievements of chemistry that have had major impacts on society.....much like a few basic message points to be used by typical U.S. political candidates. President-Elect Bill Carroll talked of how next year he would emphasize image and public outreach, improving high school chemistry teaching and chemists teaching high school as 2nd careers, and trying to figure out what chemistry research, education, and industry would be like in 2015. A new journal called Chemical Biology will begin in 2006, but the Today's Chemist at Work and Modern Drug Discovery periodicals will cease publication at the end of this year. ACS celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Petroleum Research Fund this year, and announced that the National Chemistry Week Task Force (NCW) is now the Board Committee on Community Activities. The NCW theme is "Chemistry Keeps You Healthy" in 2004, "The Joy of Toys" in 2005, and "Your Home--It's Built on Chemistry" in 2006. ACS will do a targeted survey of 3000 representative members this month to determine member attitudes, and another major ChemCensus survey in 2005. The Belmont Conference Center, on a beautiful farm north of Washington, has been sold. Council saw a superb professional short videotape on the societal significance of the work of 3 industrial chemists who received the "Heroes of Chemistry" Award in Philadelphia, and it is available to local sections.

ACS has issued a policy statement recommending limiting the use of L-1 visas to outsource jobs and displace U.S. workers. Council took note of the fact that unemployment of chemists (reported by C&EN) is at an all-time high. The 2004 budget report is moderately favorable and it appears that the ACS unrestricted reserves will increase for the first time in about 3 years.♦

The following are abstracts of two presentations the Georgia Section was invited to make at the Chemluminary Awards Program at the 228th National Meeting of ACS, September 24, 2004.

Georgia ACS Section Government Affairs Program

*Rigoberto Hernandez (Councilor),
Don Hicks (Councilor), and Lillian J. Butterworth (Chair)*

For several years the Section's Committee on Legislative and Government Affairs (COLGA) has been very active. COLGA's yearly endeavors have had six features including (1) regular personal contacts with state and national legislators at their local offices, (2) frequent personal contacts with Georgia's national legislators at their Washington offices in support of the ACS Congressional Visits Day program, (3) conducting an annual legislative affairs forum jointly with other technical organizations, (4) contacting national legislators via emails using the ACS legislative Action Network, (5) publicizing COLGA activities frequently in The Filter Press newsletter of the Section, and (6) presenting Outstanding Professional Service Awards to selected COLGA members. During the Section's 100th year in 2003, members organized a special legislative forum on Federal Science, Education, and Technology Policy (FedSet) for all chemists in the Southeast. Section officer Rigoberto Hernandez served as organizer-moderator, and nationally known speakers included ACS Past President Eli Pearce, former NSF Director Neal Lane, Georgia Tech President Wayne Clough, Brad Smith of the ACS OLGA Office, and George Dusenbery who manages the office of Georgia 5th District U.S. Representative John Lewis.

Innovative Undergraduate Programs at the 2003 Southeastern Regional ACS Meeting

Dr. Jennifer Powers-Kennesaw State University, Dr. Paul Franklin-Georgia State University, and Lillian J. Butterworth-Georgia Section Chair

The undergraduate programming events at SERMACS 2003 were successful beyond our wildest dreams! The 453 undergraduates registered were 27 % of all the 1672 SERMACS attendees. There were 171 poster and 30 oral undergraduate research papers presented on Sunday afternoon, plus 4 undergraduate presentations on Monday.

The four undergraduate programming events included (1) various undergraduate research paper sessions on Sunday afternoon, (2) a graduate school fair with 28 universities participating....also on Sunday afternoon, (3) a "tips from successful ACS student affiliate chapters" session on Monday, and (4) a student affiliates "night out" social that was a tour of CNN headquarters on Monday afternoon. Organizers believe the principal reasons for success were (A) extensive and early efforts to contact Southeast SAACS faculty advisors and advertise the program with multiple reminders of important dates, (B) having the undergraduate research paper sessions on the weekend....with the graduate school fair in the same area at the same time plus having free food available, and (C) the fact that more colleges are now offering research opportunities to undergraduates.♦

CAREER SERVICES AT ACS REGIONAL MEETINGS

Visit the Career Resource Center at your ACS regional meeting for an array of professional development programs and services. Features may include an employment clearinghouse (RECH), career management workshops and one-on-one resume critiques.

Next meeting: Southeast Regional Meeting, November 10-13, Raleigh/Durham, NC. For more information, job seekers and employers may visit the ACS website <http://chemistry.org/careers> or call 1-800-227-5558 x6209.♦

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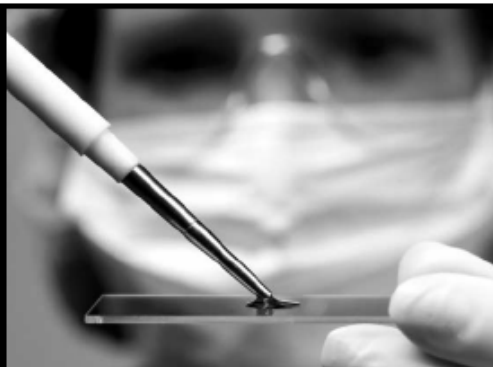
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Newsletter of the Georgia Section of the
American Chemical Society

<http://chemistry.gsu.edu/ACS>

Periodicals Postage
PAID
Atlanta, GA
Publication No. 571-180