



# THE FILTER PRESS

Newsletter of the Georgia Section of the American Chemical Society

Volume 17, Number 7

October 2007

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**October Meeting: Tuesday, October 9, 2007**

**Irreversible Changes to Paintings**

**Dr. Alexander Shedrinsky**

Any viewer's personal experience with a given work of art could be limited by some 50-60 years of museum going. We grow accustomed to the appearance of our favorite works of art, and in very rare instances one would ask a simple question about a painting made 400 years ago: "What did this picture look like when it was created?" In many cases, as has been demonstrated by the recent cleaning of the Sistine Chapel, the general public even resents the changing of the familiar image. We would like to examine different changes that occurred with many famous works of art, using as examples the paintings collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and some European museums, and to develop ideas about possibilities and limitations of restoration.

Alexander M. Shedrinsky graduated from the Chemistry Department of Leningrad State University in 1965. He continued his studies there and completed his postgraduate study in polymer chemistry in 1970. He was a lecturer in organic and general chemistry at Leningrad North-West Polytechnical Institute, First Leningrad Medical Institute, and Leningrad Pharmaceutical College. Dr. Shedrinsky continued his graduate studies at New York University, completing his M.S. in 1983 and his Ph.D. in 1986 in synthetic organic chemistry. He was Charles and Francis Atkins Fellow at the Paintings Conservation Department of the Metropolitan Museum of Art from 1984 to 1986, and a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Conservation Center of the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University from 1986 to

1988. He was Andrew Mellon Fellow at the Objects Conservation Department of the Metropolitan Museum of Art (1988-1990) while continuing as an assistant professor of chemistry at the Brooklyn Campus of Long Island University and a Kervorkian Fellow at the Conservation Center of the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University (1990-1992). Presently, Dr. Shedrinsky is a professor of chemistry at Long Island University and an adjunct professor of conservation at the Conservation Center of Institute of Fine Arts (NYU). Dr. Shedrinsky was a Fulbright Professor during the spring semester of 1995 at the Academy of Arts, St. Petersburg, Russia, teaching a course on Organic Chemistry of Museum Objects and a Forchheimer Visiting Professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem during spring semester of 1997. Professor Shedrinsky specializes in pyrolysis gas chromatography of organic materials of art and archaeology. His skills and knowledge have been sought in the analysis of a variety of subjects, such as materials from the Sistine Chapel, Egyptian oil of archaeological interest, and Italic amber carvings from the J. Paul Getty Museum, to name but a few. During the last ten years, his research interests have been heavily concentrated on the analysis of different ambers and amber look-alike materials.

Reservation deadline is 5:00 PM, Wednesday, October 3rd—see page three for all details. →→⇒⇨

**Science Elements:** A new ACS product. [www.chemistry.org/science\\_elements.html](http://www.chemistry.org/science_elements.html). These weekly podcasts began May 2, 2007, and feature about 10-12 minutes of science of popular interest. Recent titles include: nano scrub brushes for Renaissance masterpieces; new process boosts level of heart-healthy compounds in cocoa powder; potato chip flavoring boosts longevity of concrete; current breakthroughs in solar power; and protective coatings that could prevent bridge collapses. Check it out!



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## AWARDS

The Georgia Local Section was selected as a finalist for 7 ChemLuminary Awards. ChemLuminary awards are presented by numerous national ACS governance committees. These awards are given in recognition of different types of activities, as evidenced by the titles of the awards. The awards ceremony was held at the National ACS meeting in Boston on Tuesday, August 21, 2007, and the Georgia Section brought home 4 of these awards, the most given to any local section! It was an exciting moment. The Georgia Section has one two prior national awards, one Chemluminary and even earlier one Phoenix award (for the first National Chemistry Week celebration).

Committee on Local Section Activities -- Best Activity or Program in a Local Section Stimulating Membership Involvement—**Georgia won!**

Committee on Local Section Activities -- Outstanding Performance by a Local Section Large Size Category Award.

Committee on Public Relations & Communications -- Best New Public Relations Program of a Local Section—**Georgia won!**

Joint Committee on Local Section/Division Interaction -- Local Section/Division Interaction Award.

Society Committee on Education -- Outstanding Kids & Chemistry Award.

Women Chemists Committee -- Outstanding Outreach to Girls or Young Women—**Georgia won!**

Women Chemists Committee -- Outstanding Single Event Promoting Women—**Georgia won!**

These awards will be on display at the next several Georgia meetings.

Next Meeting: **Chemistry in Astronomy**, at Agnes Scott College, in the Planetarium! **Wednesday, November 28th**. This meeting will also feature a member-get-a-member, where local section members who invite and accompany a minority chemist will enjoy a buy-one-get-one-free dinner! The invitee must be ACS member eligible, or be an ACS member who has not attended a Georgia local section meeting. This meeting will be sponsored by K-Force.

## THE FILTER PRESS

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**October Meeting: Tuesday, October 9, 2007**  
**Irreversible Changes to Paintings**  
**Dr. Alexander Shedrinsky**

Time: 6:30 - 7:00 PM Arrive  
 7:00 - 8:00 PM Hors D'Oeuvres and Wine  
 8:00 - 9:00 PM Meeting and Presentation

Location: The Seen Gallery  
 321 West Hill Street Ste 7A, Decatur.  
 Tel: 404-377-0733

Dinner: The format for this meeting is different. There will be no sit-down meal, instead scrumptious Hors D'Oeuvres, wine, soda and water will be served. This will allow attendees to browse the Gallery prior to the presentation.

Directions and Parking: Directions can be found on Mapquest. There is parking behind the gallery, entrance off McKoy Street.

Cost: \$25 per person; \$20 for high-school teachers or full-time students with ID.

Payment should be made to the "Georgia Section ACS" and will be collected at the door.

If you make a reservation and then don't attend, you will be charged for the meal, as we have to guarantee the number of meals.

RSVP: Terry Say 404-625-2136 or [terrysay@aol.com](mailto:terrysay@aol.com) (preferred).

Deadline for reservations or cancellations is 5:00 PM on Wednesday, October 3rd, 2007.

**Women Chemists Committee Event:**  
**Wine: An Ancient Art and A Modern Science**

Date: **Thursday, November 1, 2007**  
 Time: 6 - 8:30 pm  
 Location: Atlanta Wine School, 1570 Holcomb Bridge Road, Suite 705 Roswell, GA 30076  
 Cost: \$15.00 per person

This promises to be a fun filled evening with wine and hors d'oeuvres as we learn about the Chemistry of Wine and plan other events for the coming year.

RSVP to Lynn Sullivan no later than Tuesday, October 23rd at [dsullivan@kforce.com](mailto:dsullivan@kforce.com) or 404-459-2254. Please make checks payable at the door to the Georgia Section of the ACS.

## National Chemistry Week 2007

The **SCIENCE CAFÉ** is tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, October 23rd** at the Starbucks in the Georgia Tech Barnes & Noble from 7-9 PM. The speakers are Dr. Nick Hud, Georgia Tech, and Dr. David Lynn, Emory University on **The Origins of Life**. Should be fun! Look for updates in the email blast.

National Chemistry Week (NCW) is an annual community-based program of the Office of Community Activities of the ACS that unites local sections, businesses, schools, and individuals in communicating the importance of chemistry to our quality of life. This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NCW program, created by past ACS president George Pimentel. The theme for this year is **The Many Faces of Chemistry**, and celebrates the diversity of individuals and their careers within the chemistry profession. NCW will take place **October 21-27**.

The Georgia local section encourages all members to visit the ACS NCW website [http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/acdisplay.html?DOC=ncw%5cncw\\_index.html](http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/acdisplay.html?DOC=ncw%5cncw_index.html) to learn about activities and resources available. If you have school-age children, pass this information on to their teachers for use in the classroom, or to the school's librarians, for display in the school's library.

Members of the Executive Committee of the Georgia Section have provided some of this information to the children's librarians in the public libraries in (at least) Fulton, Cobb and Gwinnett counties, so look for displays and/or events at your local library.

If you want to organize your own NCW event, contact David Gottfried ([david.gottfried@mirc.gatech.edu](mailto:david.gottfried@mirc.gatech.edu)) for assistance. Look for information on local section NCW programs in a special e-mail announcement in mid-October.

**Volunteers wanted** for a Girl Scout Science event on the Southern Poly campus on **Saturday, November 10th** (probably from 8AM-2PM): "The Case of the Kidnapped Cookies". We've done this a couple of times already, and it's always a great time (this was one of the award winning activities this year). The girls appreciate seeing women scientists, so this is a great opportunity for college age or younger scientists.

Please contact Jo Ann Arceneaux, TS&D Manager, Cytec Surface Specialties, at 678-255-4740 or by email to [joann.arceneaux@cytec.com](mailto:joann.arceneaux@cytec.com)

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