



# THE FILTER PRESS

Newsletter of the Georgia Section of the American Chemical Society

Volume 18, Number 7

October 2008

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## What's new in the new field of Astrochemistry

Dr. Yorke Rhodes, New York University

**October Meeting: Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

At the dawn of the space age in the 1960s, a handful of molecules were known to exist off Earth. Since those days of early robotic exploration of the Moon and Mars, fly-bys with spectroscopy of the outer planets, and radio astronomy of distant areas of our own galaxy and parts of the universe have brought forth a burst of molecular information. About 120 molecules, some new and some known, have been identified to date. What types and kinds of molecules exist? What varieties of molecular species have been found? How did they form, where do they occur, and what mechanisms exist for molecular formation? Can we model and predict what other molecules may occur? How has interstellar organic chemistry evolved? These are a few of the questions that will be addressed by our speaker, Dr. York Rhodes.

Yorke Rhodes received a B.S. in soil chemistry from the University of Delaware (1957), an M.S. in organic chemistry (1959) with William A. Mosher and Darrel Lynch. After completing his Ph.D. at the University of Illinois (1964) with Prof. James C. Martin, he was a NIH Postdoctoral Fellow with Kenneth B. Wiberg at Yale University. He joined the faculty of New York University at the University Heights campus in 1965 and developed research areas in SO<sub>2</sub> solvent chemistry, electrocyclic reactions, small ring chemistry, and carbocations, especially neighboring group cyclopropane-assisted cation rearrangements. He moved to the Washington Square campus in 1973 after a sabbatical leave with Horst Prinzbach at the Universitat Freiburg in West Ger-

many. Work in carbocations led to alkyl group migratory aptitude studies and to synthetic studies in silyl ketene acetal chemistry for synthesis of quaternary neopentyls. In 1977, he was a State Department exchange visitor to Prague, Czechoslovakia, and Zagreb, Yugoslavia, and was also Gastprofessor and an Alexander von Humboldt US Senior Scientist Awardee with Ivar Ugi at the Technische Universitat Munchen (TUM). Nasa/IEEE Summer Fellowships were held at the Jet Propulsion Laboratories at Cal Tech in Pasadena with Wes Huntress in 1980-81 (astrochemistry). In 1987, he was professor associe at the Centre d'Astrophysique, Universite de Grenoble, France, with Alain Omont (astro-polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon chemistry). Rhodes was twice awarded the Golden Dozen Award for Teaching Excellence in the College of Arts and Science. Professor Rhodes is director of the Dual Degree Program in Science and Engineering at NYU and Stevens Institute of Technology, and is very active in the NY Academy of Sciences and ACS local section activities, sponsoring a variety of symposia, poster sessions and other activities for students. He has served as the chair of the ACS New York Local Section. As an ACS Councilor he has served on several national committees, and welcomes discussions about local sections. He has served on Department of Education review panels and is an educational consultant/evaluator for several undergraduate and high school research mentoring programs. **Reservation deadline is 5PM, Monday, October 20th —see page three for all details.**

The Georgia Local Section is sponsoring a **Science Cafe** for National Chemistry Week on the topic of "**The Ethics of Sports Enhancement?**" on **Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30PM**, featuring Edward L. Queen, Ph.D., J.D., the Director of the Ethics and Servant Leadership Program at The Center for Ethics at Emory University. Location: **Java Vino** in the VA Highlands neighborhood. (<http://www.javavino.com/>) Appetizers provided for attendees. See page 2 for more NCW events.



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## National Chemistry Week 2008 Having a Ball with Chemistry



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. The theme for this year, **Having a Ball with Chemistry**, is all about the chemistry of sports, including materials (shoes, equipment, clothing) and performance (metabolism, nutrition, doping). NCW will take place **October 19-25, 2008**.

The Georgia local section encourages all its members to visit the ACS NCW website, [www.chemistryweek.org](http://www.chemistryweek.org), to learn about activities and resources available for students, educators, media, ACS and non ACS NCW coordinators and industry representatives. If you have school-age children, pass this information on to their teachers for use in the classroom. Local section programming for this year, involving more than a dozen volunteers, will include library displays and activities in several counties, a Science Café, Fernbank Chemistry Day, as well as numerous school events. More details on these NCW programs will be included in the e-mail announcement later in October.

We also encourage section members to ask their business or school to recognize NCW on their websites. Please contact David Gottfried ([david.gottfried@mirc.gatech.edu](mailto:david.gottfried@mirc.gatech.edu)) to obtain suggested wording and logos.

**Join in the celebration of NCW 2008!**



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**October Meeting: Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>****What's new in the new field of Astrochemistry**

Dr. Yorke Rhodes, New York University

Time: 6:15 PM Arrive, Cash Bar

6:30 PM Dinner

7:30 PM Meeting &amp; Presentation

Location: Petite Auberge Restaurant  
 2935 North Druid Hills Rd NE  
 Toco Hills Shopping Center  
 Atlanta, GA 30329 404-634-6268

Menu—Buffet style, featuring  
 Vegetarian Linguini  
 Beef Burgundy  
 Potatoes  
 Carrots with Honey Sauce  
 Green Beans with Almonds  
 Tomato Salad  
 Apple Tartlets  
 Tea and Coffee Cash bar available

Cost for meal option: \$30 per person; \$15 for teachers, students and retirees. 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 for dinner reservations** to Deborah Sauder, [dsauder@ggc.usg.edu](mailto:dsauder@ggc.usg.edu) (preferred) or 678-407-5844 **by 5PM on Monday, October 20th.**

**Mini-grants Awarded**

Congratulations to the following 2008-09 American Chemical Society—Georgia Section Mini-grants recipients. These projects will improve public understanding, appreciation and knowledge of chemistry and the chemical sciences in the greater Atlanta area.

Chulsung Kim, Dave Pursell, Mai Yin Tsoi, Patrice Bell, and Richard Pennington at Georgia Gwinnett College received a grant to create a campus wide animation/short movie competition on the appreciation of chemistry.

Stephanie May and Cennie Ruley at Stephenson High School received a grant to refurbish the outdoor learning center for multi-disciplinary science.

**2008 ACS ChemLuminary Celebration**

At the 236<sup>th</sup> ACS National Meeting in Philadelphia, PA, the Georgia Local Section was nominated for seven awards. The national ACS Committee on Minority Affairs selected the Georgia Local Section for the ChemLuminary Award for the **Best Overall Local Section Minority Affairs Committee. Congratulations** to the members of the Georgia Local Section Minority Affairs Committee!

In addition, one of the honors given the recipient of the Award for Volunteer Service to the American Chemical Society is to preside as the keynote speaker at the next Chemluminary Celebration in the year the Award is given. Professor Tom Netzel of Georgia State University won this award at the Spring ACS National meeting, and Tom's daughter, Rivka Monheit, made a heartfelt and inspiring presentation about the 4 basic parts of effective volunteer leadership in Philadelphia on August 19<sup>th</sup> on her father's behalf. The members of the Georgia Local Section were all extremely proud to have been there. This was videotaped, and Tom and his family in Atlanta watched it several days later.

Thomas Leonard Netzel passed away September 4<sup>th</sup> from aggressive prostate cancer.

Tom will be missed as a scholar, teacher, mentor, and friend. The Netzel Scholars fund has been established in his name at Georgia State ([http://www.cas.gsu.edu/directing\\_gifts.html](http://www.cas.gsu.edu/directing_gifts.html)).

There will be a Girl Scout Science event "The Case of the Kidnapped Cookies" on the Southern Poly campus in Smyrna on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> (from 8AM-2PM). If someone would like to be a volunteer (guide the girls in the right scientific direction), please contact [joann.arceneaux@cytec.com](mailto:joann.arceneaux@cytec.com).

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