

The
North American Catalysis Society



NEWSLETTER

October, 2002

<http://www.nacatsoc.org>

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Message from President Armor

I'd just like to tell the members about events/topics pertaining to the members of the NACS

- Please remember to submit your abstracts for the national, biennial meeting in Cancun, Mexico in June of 2003; abstract deadline (see web site) is 3 November 2002.
- Our web site continues to attract a large number of hits, now running over 1000 inquires to the site/month with climbing interest in the site as it becomes more popular
- I am pleased to report that we have added another local club to the NACS- welcome to the Southeastern Catalysis Society- see item in this Newsletter
- I received a strong set of nominations for both the Houdry and Emmett Awards and the nominations are now in the hands of the two juries who must make the selection. Results will be posted on the web site near the end of October and reported in the next Newsletter
- The NACS is incorporated within the State of Pennsylvania. Occasionally, we have made changes to our Bylaws to keep pace with changes in the way in which the Society operates and suggestions made by our legal counsel. At the last board meeting in March 2002, the Board adopted some minor revisions to the bylaws, which now must be voted on by the membership. This will be done at the Cancun meeting. In the Spring of 2003, I will post the proposed revisions to the bylaws on our web site and copies will be available to the membership prior to voting in Cancun. Many of the changes are cosmetic reflecting changes in the names of organizations we work with. Other minor changes include descriptions about the way the NACS operates the biennial meetings, the composition of the trustees of the Keith Hall Educational Fund, the nomination of officers for the national society, a process for replacing a vacancy created in the office of the president, a description of the Executive Committee, a procedure for passing resolutions of the Board on urgent matters, voting of the Board members, further specifics around the awards of the Society, and matters pertaining to the rules of our incorporation.
- The web site contains a folder on the History of Catalysis. This is a popular folder for which I get a lot of requests from those outside the field of catalysis seeking to learn about the subject. I've had some contributions, which are posted in this folder, but I certainly would like to get more items. Please consider adding some of your notes regarding the development of catalysis, and send them to me at armorjn@apci.com.

John Armor, President
October 3, 2002

Nominations Sought for The Robert Burwell Lectureship In Catalysis

The Robert Burwell Lectureship in Catalysis is sponsored and administered By The North American Catalysis Society. It is to be awarded biennially in odd-numbered years. The award consists of a plaque and an honorarium of \$5,000. An additional \$4,500 is available to cover traveling expenses. The award is given in recognition of substantial contributions to one or more areas in the field of catalysis with emphasis on discovery and understanding of catalytic phenomena, catalytic reaction mechanisms and identification and description of catalytic sites and species. The Awardee will be selected on the basis of his/her contributions to the catalytic literature and the current timeliness of these research contributions. The recipient may be invited to (1) visit and lecture to each of the affiliated Clubs/Societies with which mutually satisfactory arrangements can be made and (2) prepare a review paper(s) for publication covering these lectures. Publication will be in an appropriate periodical. Selection of the Awardee will be made by without regard to age, sex, nationality or affiliation. Selection of the Award winner will be made by a committee of renowned scientists and engineers appointed by the President of The North American Catalysis Society. Selection shall be made without regard for age, sex, nationality or affiliation. Posthumous awards will be made only when knowledge of the awardee's death is received after announcement of the Award Committee's decision. Nomination packages for the Award must be received before **15 December 2002** and should contain the nominee's qualifications, accomplishments, a nominating letter, a seconding letter and a biography of the nominee. A critical evaluation of the significance of candidate's qualifications should be made as well as a statement of the particular contribution(s) on which the nomination is based. Nomination documents should be submitted in six copies to the President of the Society along with no more than two seconding letters. All nomination packages for the Robert Burwell Award should be addressed to:

John Armor, c/o Air Products and Chemicals, Inc; 7201 Hamilton Blvd., Allentown, PA 18195 USA

Direct any questions to John Armor: armorjn@apci.com

The 18th North American Catalysis Society Meeting

The 18th North American Catalysis Society Meeting will be held at the Fiesta Americana Grand Coral Beach Hotel in Cancún, México, on June 1-6, 2003. Submission of papers dealing with original research in the following, non-limiting, list of topics is encouraged: Environmental catalysis and green chemistry; Hydrotreating and heavy crude upgrading; Catalysis by nanoparticles and nanostructures; Metal and oxides; Acid-base catalysis; Homogeneous catalysis and single site polymerization; Fuel Cells; Catalysis in organic synthesis; Combinatorial catalysis; Catalysts deactivation and reaction engineering; Computational catalysis; Biocatalysis; Advances in catalyst preparation and characterization; Industrial catalysis. The scientific program will consist of plenary Emmett and Houdry award lectures, keynote presentations, and oral and poster contributions. Among the confirmed keynote speakers are: D. Akporiaye, UOP-Norway; A. Baiker, ETH-Zurich; J. Dumesic, U. Wisconsin – Madison; S.D. Ittel, DuPont Central Research; H. Kung, Northwestern University; J. Lercher, TU Munich; I.E. Maxwell, Aventium Technol.; T. Okuhara, Hokkaido University; R. Sheldon, Delft University; G.A. Somorjai, U.C.-Berkeley; P. Stair, Northwestern University; H. Topsoe, Haldor Topsoe, Inc. A camera-ready two-page extended abstract is required. All abstracts (as MS-Word™ files) will be submitted electronically through the web page of the meeting. **Abstracts will be received from July 1 to November 3, 2002.** Notices of acceptance will be sent by February 3, 2003. Full format instructions and submittal links can be found at: www.18nam.org. An exhibit of instruments, products and services in the field of catalysis research will be held during the meeting. If you are interested, please contact Bob Finnegan bfinneg@aip.org or register through the web site. The early registration period will run from February 3 until March 24, 2003. Details of the registration process will be posted on January 2003. The Richard J. Kokes Student Travel Award will provide financial assistance to a limited number of eligible full time graduate students, who are co-authors of accepted papers. Details for application will be posted on early December, 2002. Special inquiries: 18nam@fisica.unam.mx.

The NACS has a New Local Society

The Southeastern Catalysis Society met for the first time on May 5-6, 2002 in Clemson, South Carolina with 44 participants from South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama. At the banquet on Sunday night, by-laws were passed and officers were elected. They are: President: Jim Goodwin (Clemson), President-Elect: Bob Davis (UVA), Secretary: Henry Lamb (NC State), Treasurer: Bud Rice (Clemson), Liaison Director: Jerry Spivey (NC State). On Sunday evening a poster session was held with 13 poster presentations. Monday, John Monnier of Eastman Chemical presented a plenary talk entitled "The Selective Epoxidation of Butadiene Using Molecular Oxygen Over Ag Catalysts". This was followed by 9 other oral presentations. The next meeting of the SCS was held in Asheville, NC at the Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort on September 29-30, 2002. People interested in joining the society should contact one of the officers: President: Jim Goodwin (Clemson), james.goodwin@ces.clemson.edu; President-Elect: Bob Davis (UVA), rjd4f@virginia.edu; Secretary: Henry Lamb (NC State), lamb@eos.ncsu.edu; Treasurer: Bud Rice (Clemson), budrice@ces.clemson.edu; Liaison Director: Jerry Spivey (NC State), jjspivey@unity.ncsu.edu.

Manzer, Grubbs Win ACS Awards

The American Chemical Society recognized Leo Manzer of DuPont with the 2003 E.V. Murphree Award in Industrial and Engineering Chemistry and Robert Grubbs of Caltech with the 2003 ACS Award in Homogeneous and Heterogeneous Catalysis. The Awards will be presented in March 2003 at the 225th ACS National Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Murphree Award recognizes individuals who have accomplished outstanding research of a theoretical or experimental nature in the fields of industrial chemistry or chemical engineering. The Award in Homogeneous and Heterogeneous Catalysis recognizes outstanding theoretical, experimental, or developmental research resulting in the advancement of understanding or application of homogeneous or heterogeneous catalysis. Manzer's involvement with various teams over the years has resulted in the commercialization of numerous catalytic processes which yielded hundreds of millions of dollars of revenue to DuPont. Some examples include the commercialization of a family of HFC's and HCFC's to replace the ozone depleting chlorofluorocarbons, a new catalyst for the production of phosgene that reduced byproduct emissions by 95% and novel Fischer-Tropsch catalysts which are in the process of being piloted by Conoco. Robert Grubbs is involved in the design, synthesis, and mechanistic studies of complexes that catalyze useful organic transformations. The major focus of the group over the past few years has been on the olefin metathesis reaction. This reaction has been used to prepare families of new polymeric structures from the ring opening polymerization (ROMP) of cyclic olefins which have useful mechanical, electronic or optical properties.

Call for 2003 Parravano Award Nominations

Nominations are invited for the 2003 Michigan Catalysis Society Parravano Award for Excellence in Catalysis Research and Development. The Award will be presented at the Twenty Fifth Annual Spring Symposium of the Michigan Catalysis Society, in May of 2003. The award winner will be invited to present an award address at the meeting. The award is given biennially to an individual from North America to recognize outstanding contributions to catalytic science and technology. The recipient of the award will be selected by a committee that is appointed by the officers of the Michigan Catalysis Society. The award consists of a medal and prize of \$500. The award is sponsored by the Memorial Trust Fund for Professor Giuseppe Parravano and is administered by the Michigan Catalysis Society. Letters of nomination and supporting documentation must be received by March 1, 2003 and should be sent to: David Barton, The Dow Chemical Company, Catalysis R&D, 1776 Building, Midland, MI 48674 USA. Ph: (989) 636-4753, Fax: (989) 638-9350, Email: dgbarton@dow.com.

Club/Society News

The Michigan Catalysis Society elected the following officers:
President, David Barton, Dow Chemical, dgbarton@dow.com;

Vice President, John Li, Ford Research Labs, jli6@ford.com;
Secretary-Treasurer, Wei Li, GM R&D Center, wei.1.li@gm.com.

The Mexican Catalysis Academy officers are: President, Margarita Viniegra, Depto. Quimica UAM-

Iztapalapa, mvr@xanum.uam.mx.
Vice President, Francisco
Hernández, Instituto Mexicano del
Petróleo, fjhernan@imp.mx.
Secretariat, Nancy Martin, UAM-I,
mgnc@xanum.uam.mx.

The New England Catalysis Society
will hold its annual Fall Symposium
on November 16, 2002 at Worcester
Polytechnic Institute. The keynote
speaker will be Dr. John Monnier of
Eastman Chemical, the F.G.
Ciapetta Lecturer. Dr. Monnier will
speak on selective isomerization of
dihydrofurans.

**The Pittsburgh-Cleveland Catalysis
Society** Officers: President, Andrew
Gellman, Carnegie-Mellon Univ.;
President-elect, Gregory Lowry,
Carnegie-Mellon Univ.; Secretary,
Edwin Kugler, West Virginia Univ.;
Treasurer, Chuan-Bao Wang,
Industrial Scientific Corp.; Director,
Dady Dadyburjor, West Virginia
Univ.

The Catalysis Club of Philadelphia
Announces its speaker schedule.
Sept 19, John R. Monnier, Eastman
Chemical Company; Oct 17, John T.
Gleaves, Washington University;
Nov. 20, Graham Hutchings, Cardiff
University
(Joint Meeting with New York); Jan
16, Theodore Krause, Argonne
National Laboratory, Feb. 20,
Steven D. Ittel - Catalysis Club of
Philadelphia Award Winner 2002,
DuPont; March 20, James G.
Goodwin, Clemson University;
April 10, Peter Stair, Northwestern
University; May 25, Spring
Symposium, University of
Delaware. Officers for 2002-3 are
Chair, Todd Ballinger, Johnson
Matthey; Chair-elect, Hasan Dindi,
Dupont; Secretary, Manoj Koranne,
Grace; Treasurer, Roger Grey,
Lyondell.

**The Catalysis Society of
Metropolitan New York** Announces
it's speaker schedule: September 18,
2002, John Monnier Eastman
Chemical [Ciapetta Lecture];

October 16, 2002, Xumu Zhang,
Penn State Univ.; November 20,
2002, Graham Hutchings, Cardiff
University[joint meeting w/ Phila.];
January 15, 2003, Anne Gaffney,
Rohm & Haas; February 19, 2003,
Conrad Zhang, Akzo-Nobel; March
19, 2003, Spring Symposium; April
16, 2003, Mark Davis, Caltech; May
21, 2003, Excellence in Catalysis
Award Lecture

**The Organic Reactions Catalysis
Society.** The 20th ORCS
Conference is scheduled as follows:
March 21-25, 2004, Crowne Plaza
Resort, Hilton Head Island, SC.
More information can be found at
the ORCS web-site: www.orcs.org.
The proceedings for the 19th
Conference have been submitted to
the publisher and publication is
expected very soon. The editor of
the Proceeding is Dr. Dennis
Morrell. -John Sowa
Chair, 20th ORCS Conference.
sowajohn@shu.edu.

This Newsletter is a publication of The North American Catalysis Society, President: Dr. John N. Armor, Air Products & Chemicals; V. President: Dr. Gary McVicker, ExxonMobil; Secretary: Dr. Umit S. Ozkan, Chemical Engineering Dept, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210, ozkan.1@osu.edu; Treasurer: Dr. John W. Byrne, Engelhard; Past President: Dr. M. Albert Vannice, Penn State Univ.; Directors-at-Large: Dr. Bruce Gates, UC, Davis, Dr. John Armor, Air Products & Chemicals, Dr. Gary McVicker, Exxon, Dr. Kathleen Taylor, General Motors. Club Representatives: California-Dr. E. Iglesia; Canada-Dr. C. A. Mims; Chicago-Dr. G. Antos; Mexico-Dr. G. Diaz; Michigan-Dr. G. Fisher; New England-Dr. W.C. Conner; New York-Dr. J. Byrne; Philadelphia-Dr. A. Gaffney; Pittsburgh/Cleveland-Dr. M. A. Vannice; Organic Reactions-Dr. S. E. Jacobson; Southwest-Dr. B. D. Murray; Tri-State-Dr. B. D. Davis; Western States-Dr. A. Datye. Contributions for the Newsletter should be directed to the Editor, Dr. Michael B. D'Amore, DuPont Company, P.O. Box 80262, Experimental Station, Wilmington DE 19880-0262, Ph: (302) 695-2488, Fax: (302) 695-8347, E-mail: michael.b.damore@usa.dupont.com. Society Web address www.nacatsoc.org.