

The  
**North American Catalysis Society**



## NEWSLETTER

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### NACS Scientists Honored with National Medal of Technology

In a ceremony on November 6, 2003, President Bush honored individual scientists and a company with the 2002 National Medal of Technology for their accomplishments in environmental innovation. The awardees are Haren Ghandi of Ford Motor Co., John Mooney and Carl Keith retired from Engelhard Corp, and the DuPont Company, represented by scientists Leo Manzer, Malli Rao, and Mack McFarland. Short citations of the awards are given below (full citation at [www.technology.gov/PRe1/pr031022.htm](http://www.technology.gov/PRe1/pr031022.htm)). We are pleased to report that Gandi, Mooney, Keith, Manzer and Rao are present or former NACS members.

**Haren Ghandi** “A research pioneer in automotive technology to improve environmental standards, for research, development, and commercialization of automotive exhaust catalyst technology, shaping the industry from its very beginning and continually pushing to improve the quality of the air we breathe. Dr. Gandhi has also led the automotive industry in ensuring the judicious use of precious metals, including conservation measures such as recycling of spent converters and technological advances in precious metal utilization.”

**John Mooney and Carl Keith** “Principal inventors of the three-way catalytic converter, For the invention, application to automobiles, and commercialization of the three-way catalytic converter. Through their persistent efforts this technology is the key emission control component in all new light-duty vehicles in the United States and all throughout the world.”

**DuPont Company** “For policy and technology leadership in the phase out and replacement of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in the environment during the past three decades.” Key to the development of alternates was the discovery of new catalytic processes for their manufacture.

### 19<sup>th</sup> NAM in Philadelphia

Considerable progress has been made over the past months in preparation for the 19th NAM to be held in Philadelphia, May 21-28, 2005 at the Wyndham Franklin Plaza Hotel. The hotel is located in the heart of Philadelphia’s historic center city, close to monuments, museums, theaters, restaurants, retail shops and is just fifteen minutes by car from the Philadelphia International Airport. The meeting will begin with a welcoming reception on Sunday evening, details to follow. Visit our Website at [www.19nam.org](http://www.19nam.org) for latest updates.

The technical program themes have been pulled together and approximately thirty scientists and engineers from academy and industry will be serving as chairs. Technical topics will include chemical, petroleum, and environmental themes along with sessions on fuel cells/fuel processing, hydrogen generation/catalysis and alternative processes, biocatalysis, catalysts for organic synthesis (including homogeneous catalysis), polymerization, photocatalysis, surface science, reactors and reaction engineering, combinatorial chemistry, applications of nanotechnology to catalysis, characterization/preparation, computational methods and special panel discussions. We anticipate having at least 4 parallel sessions.

The Local Arrangements Committee has provided possible sites for the reception and evening events along with a proposed spousal program and award banquet entertainment. Arrangements have been made to make US

Airways the preferred carrier. This will result in fare discounts ranging from 5 to 15% (depending on the fare type) from all points on US Airways route system, including codeshare flights on United Airlines. It will also result in complimentary US Airways Travel Certificates being credited to the NACS at a rate of one for every 40 passengers traveling round trip on US Airways. Specially negotiated rates with Avis Rent a Car are also available through this arrangement.

The Publicity Committee mailed the first meeting circular to all NACS members this summer.

The Fund Raising Committee has begun their drive seeking sponsorship for the 19th NACS Meeting. Funds received will ensure our success by offsetting the associated costs, including our ongoing publicity campaign, and thus allowing us to focus on the critical components of the meeting. Significant benefits and incentives are offered to potential corporate sponsors and we look forward to their favorable and timely collaboration. We appreciate any assistance from our NACS members by encouraging their companies to become a sponsor for the meeting.

## Visit our Web Site

You are all reminded to regularly visit the NACS web site at [www.nacatsoc.org](http://www.nacatsoc.org). The site serves as a major vehicle to advertise the activities of the Society and the education events we support. You will find postings of local club meetings, an up-to-date calendar of all international meetings in catalysis, citations to interesting papers from the literature, listing of the national and local club officers, a continuing update of the preparations for the 19th NAM in Philadelphia, a listing of News items as well as short courses, and many other useful items. Contact website editor John Armor ([armorjn@apci.com](mailto:armorjn@apci.com)) for additions, corrections, or questions.

## Club/Society News

***Organic Reactions Catalysis Society.*** The 20th Conference on the Catalysis of Organic Reactions will be held March 21 – 25, 2004 in Hilton Head, South Carolina. The meeting will feature oral and poster presentations involving the application of homogeneous and heterogeneous catalysts in the synthesis of organic compounds. Paul N. Rylander Awards will be presented to Prof. Donna Blackmond, University of Hull (Presentation title: tba) and Prof. Richard Larock, Iowa State University (Presentation title: Palladium-Catalyzed Annulation and Migration Reactions). The Murray Raney Award will be presented to Prof. Jean Lessard, University of Sherbrooke (Presentation title: The Electrocatalytic Hydrogenation of Organic Compounds at Raney Metal Electrodes, a Mild and Green Method of Hydrogenation: Mechanistic and Synthetic Aspects).

The deadline for pre-registration is February 15, 2004. For online registration, hotel information, scientific and networking programs see: [www.orcs.org](http://www.orcs.org). Contact Prof. John R. Sowa, Jr., Seton Hall University, [sowajohn@shu.edu](mailto:sowajohn@shu.edu) or 973-761-9034 for further information.

***The Catalysis Club of Philadelphia.*** Program Chair, Alan Allgeier, announced the 2003-4 schedule of speakers: Sept. 18, Nick Delgass, Purdue; Oct. 23, Frank Herkes, DuPont Textiles and Interiors; Nov. 13, Malcolm Chisholm, Ohio State; Jan. 15, John Yates, U. Pittsburgh; Feb. 19, Johannes Lercher, TU-Munich; March 18, Yi Chen, Nanjing Univ; April 15, Alex T Bell, Berkeley, Burwell Lectureship.

***The Catalysis Society of Metropolitan New York*** is seeking nominations for its twenty-third annual "Award for Excellence in

Catalysis." The award, sponsored by ExxonMobil Research and Engineering Company, consists of a plaque and a \$1,500 gift. It is granted to an individual or a research team from North America to recognize outstanding contributions in either applied or basic research in either homogeneous or heterogeneous catalysis. Particular effort is made to identify worthy individuals or teams who have not received sufficient recognition for their work. Nominations are solicited from anyone who is currently, or has been previously, active in the field of catalysis. Nominations previously submitted as well as new ones will remain active for a period of three years. Those wishing to submit a nomination should write a letter of recommendation for the individual nominee or team, including pertinent biographical information and a specific description of the impact of the

nominee's achievements in catalysis. The maximum length of the letter should be no more than two pages. It may be accompanied by copies of no more than two items presenting important documentation, such as papers or patents. Deadline for receipt of nominations is January 16, 2004. Contact Bala Ramachandran (973) 893-3153, (973) 893-2745 (FAX) bala.ramachandran@us.abb.com.

Upcoming speakers are January 19, 2004, Tom Pinnavaia, Michigan State; February 11, 2004, Alex Bell, UC Berkeley; March 12, 2004, Spring Symposium; April 14, 2004, Dan Resasco, University of Oklahoma; May, 2004, Excellence in Catalysis Award.

The **Pittsburgh-Cleveland Catalysis Society** had its Fall Symposium on December 5 at Carnegie Mellon University. The meeting will focus on nano-scale processes from iron nanocatalysts for environmental remediation, nano surfaces for macro applications, and carbon nanotubes for hydrogen-storage applications. The invited speakers are: Thomas Mallouk, Penn State University; Dominic Alfonso, National Energy Technology Lab, Pittsburgh; Karl Johnson, University of Pittsburgh; Devinder Mahajan, Stony Brook University and Brookhaven National Laboratory; and Bradley Bockrath, National Energy Technology Laboratory, Pittsburgh.

**The Catalysis Club of Chicago** is soliciting nominations for the 2004 Herman Pines Award for outstanding research in the field of catalysis. Herman Pines was an outstanding research scientist, and his work revolutionized the general understanding of organic chemistry, particularly the chemistry of hydrocarbons interacting with

strong acids. The award in his honor is sponsored by UOP where Herman began his industrial career in 1930 and amassed 145 US patents over a 23 year period. The award is being co-sponsored by the Catalysis Club of Chicago of which Professor Pines was a founding member. The award will be presented at the 2004 Spring Symposium of the Catalysis Club of Chicago. The recipient will receive a cash award of \$1,000 and reimbursement for travel and lodging as a plenary speaker at the Spring Symposium. The recipient will be chosen based on the following criteria: Importance of catalysis research completed in the past five years. Alternation of the award between industrial and academic/national laboratory researchers. Recipient must be a resident of North America. For the award to be given in 2004, nominations for an **Industrial Researcher** are sought by January 31, 2004. Nominations should describe the specific work for which the nominee should be recognized. Please send your nomination either through Internet Nomination Form [www.cmt.anl.gov/cc/Pines\\_Award/Nomination\\_form.html](http://www.cmt.anl.gov/cc/Pines_Award/Nomination_form.html) or directly via regular mail by the deadline to: Ken Poeppelmeier, Department of Chemistry, Northwestern University 2145 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60208. The recipient will be notified in February of 2004, and the award address will take place at the Spring Symposium in May of 2004.

Speakers for 2003/2004: October 13, 2003: Professor Roel Prins, ETH Zurich; November 10, 2003: Professor Thomas E. Mallouk, Pennsylvania State University; December 8, 2003: Professor Alexis T. Bell, University of California/Berkeley; January 12, 2004: Dr. Aleksey Yezerets, Cummins Inc.; February 10, 2004:

Professor Franz Geiger, Northwestern University; March 8, 2004: Speaker TBA; April 12, 2004: Speaker TBA; May 18, Spring Symposium. For an update, see [www.cmt.anl.gov/cc/](http://www.cmt.anl.gov/cc/) or contact the Club's secretary Jifei Jia, (847) 491 2755, [j-jia@northwestern.edu](mailto:j-jia@northwestern.edu).

**The Catalysis Division, The Canadian Society** announces that the **winner of the 2003 Canadian Catalysis Lectureship Award is Professor Charles Mims of the University of Toronto**. The Award is made to a researcher who is recognized as a leader in a particular field of catalysis or someone who has just completed a new and interesting/controversial piece of work but is not widely recognized. It is restricted to Canadians who are currently working in Canada in the area of catalysis, and is intended to provide exposure to Canadian scientists and engineers. The lectures are given in several locations in Canada and could be offered to a limited number of locations in the USA. This Lectureship is sponsored by the Canadian Catalysis Foundation. For more information on Professor Mims' Lecture Tour, please contact Professor Flora Ng, at [ftng@cape.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:ftng@cape.uwaterloo.ca).

The **18th Canadian Symposium on Catalysis** which will be held in Montreal from May 16 to 19, 2004 ([www.polymtl.ca/18CSC2004](http://www.polymtl.ca/18CSC2004)). The organizing committee has prepared an exciting technical program that includes a number of sessions on currently important topics related to catalysis.

**The Mexican Catalysis Club** (ACAT A. C.) is pleased to announce the 19<sup>th</sup> Iberoamerican Symposium on Catalysis (XIX SICAT 2004). The XIX SICAT will

be held on September 5-11, 2004 in the Fiesta Americana Hotel in Mérida, Yucatán. Deadline for submission abstracts is January 15, 2004. Additional information in the web site: [www.xixsicat.org](http://www.xixsicat.org)

***The Michigan Catalysis Society*** (MCS) held its 25th Annual Spring Symposium on May 21, 2003 at the Dow Chemical Company Corporate Center in Midland, Michigan. **The Giuseppe Parravano Memorial Award for Excellence in Catalysis Research and Development was presented to Dr. Bruno Notari, Northeastern University**, who spoke concerning the “Catalytic Chemistry of TiO<sub>2</sub>-SiO<sub>2</sub> Mixed Oxides.” Invited lecturer Galen Fisher, Delphi Research Labs, speaking on “Future Vehicle Emission Control Technologies and On-Board Hydrogen Generation” highlighted another eleven lectures. Easwar Ranganathan of University of Michigan was awarded best student presentation for his contribution “Methanol Reforming over Supported Palladium Catalysts.”

The MCS held elections for the 2003-2004 officers. John Li, Ford Research and Advanced Engineering, was elected as the new President of the Section. Wei Li, General Motors R&D Center, will serve as Vice-President while Eric Stangland, The Dow Chemical Company, was selected Secretary/Treasurer. David Barton, The Dow Chemical Company, will transition to the role of Past-President.

Speaker Schedule: February 5, 2004: Professor Alex Bell, University of California at Berkeley, Burwell Lecture; March 3, 2004: Professor Jochen Lauterbach, University of Delaware; April 6, 2004: Professor Nicholas Delgass, Purdue University; May 18, 2004: Professor Enrique Iglesia, University of California at Berkeley.

***The Tri-State Catalysis Club*** hosted the following seminar speakers: Dr. Roel Prins Institute for Chemical and Bio-Engineering, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH),

Zurich, Switzerland. Seminar: Transition Metal Phosphides as Hydrodenitrogenation Catalysts; Dr. Miguel A. Bañares Institute of Catalysis and Petrochemistry, CSIC, Madrid, Spain. Seminar: Raman Spectroscopy During Catalytic Reaction: The Operando Approach.

***The Western States Catalysis Club*** announces that its 18th annual symposium will be held February 27, 2004 at the Marriott Hotel in Provo, Utah. All are invited to submit a one-page abstract (including references) on a catalysis related subject for oral presentation. A poster session will be added if there is sufficient interest. Participation by students and laboratory technicians in the program is encouraged. Student presentations will be judged for technical merit and presentation skills, with first, second, and third place cash prizes awarded. Please contact Jim Miller at (505) 272-7626 or [jemille@sandia.gov](mailto:jemille@sandia.gov) for further information.

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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](mailto:ozkan.1@osu.edu); Treasurer: Dr. John W. Byrne, Engelhard; Foreign Secretary: Dr. Curt Conner, University of Massachusetts; 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. Club Representatives: California-Dr. E. Iglesia; Canada-Dr. J. Monnier; Chicago-Dr. G. Antos; Mexico-Dr. M. Viniegra; Michigan-Dr. G. Fisher; New England-Dr. W.C. Conner; New York-Dr. J. Byrne; Philadelphia-Dr. A. Gaffney; Pittsburgh/Cleveland-Dr. D. Dadyburjor; Organic Reactions-Dr. S. E. Jacobson; Southwest-Dr. B. D. Murray; Tri-State-Dr. P. Doolin; 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, Wilmington DE 19880-0262, Ph: (302) 695-2488, Fax: (302) 695-8347, E-mail: [michael.b.damore@usa.dupont.com](mailto:michael.b.damore@usa.dupont.com). Society Web address [www.nacatsoc.org](http://www.nacatsoc.org).