

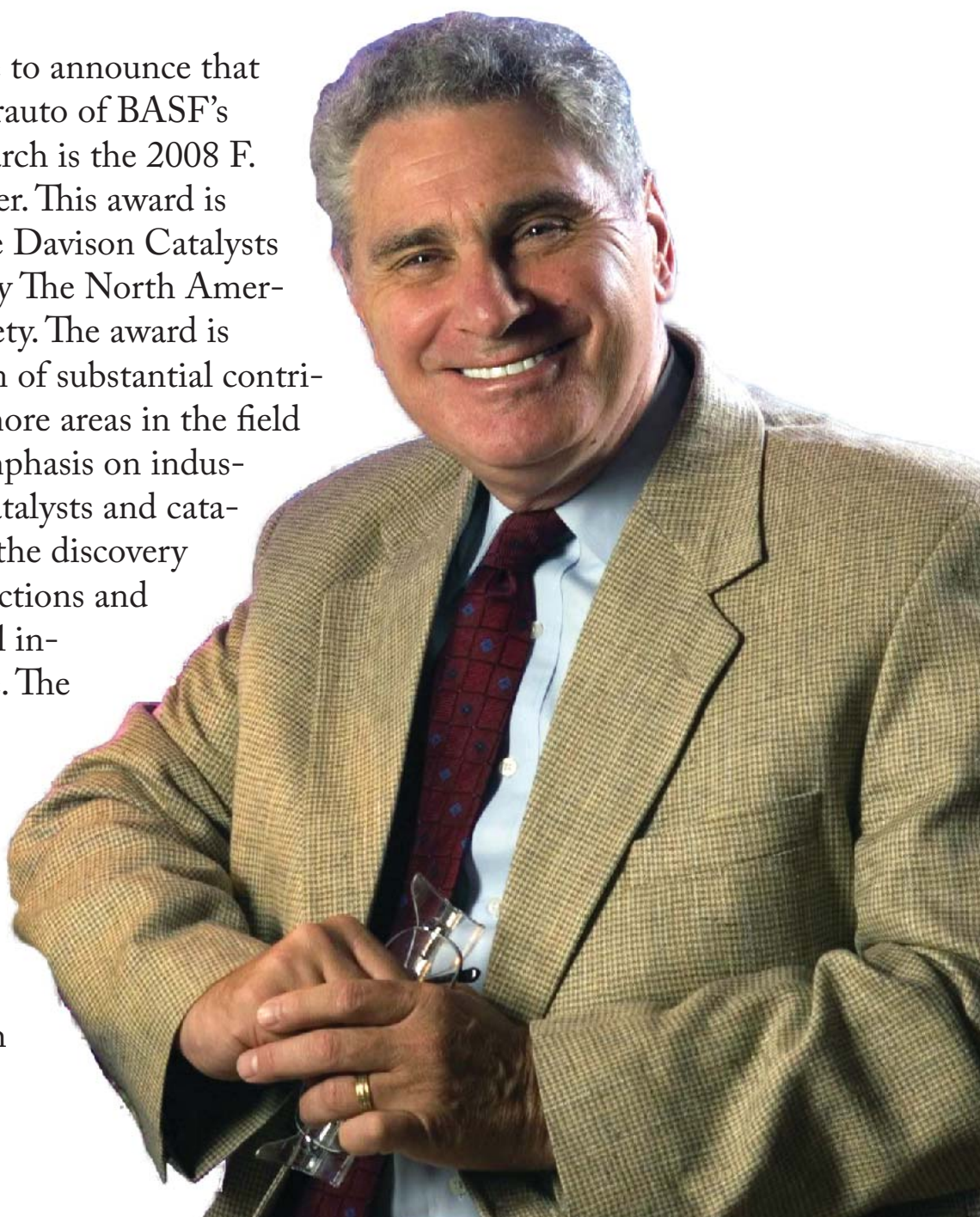
# NACS Newsletter

DECEMBER 2007 • VOLUME XLX, ISSUE 3 • WWW.NACATSOC.ORG

## Robert Farrauto is the 2008 Ciapetta Lecturer

**I**t is my pleasure to announce that Dr. Robert Farrauto of BASF's Catalysis Research is the 2008 F. G. Ciapetta Lecturer. This award is sponsored by Grace Davison Catalysts and administered by The North American Catalysis Society. The award is given in recognition of substantial contributions to one or more areas in the field of catalysis with emphasis on industrially significant catalysts and catalytic processes and the discovery of new catalytic reactions and systems of potential industrial importance. The Award consists of a plaque, an honorarium and additional money is available to cover traveling expenses to visit many of the local clubs in North America.

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# Robert Farrauto is the 2008 Ciapetta Lecturer

*(continue from page 1)*

Bob has a long and distinguished record in industrial research. Among his important contributions to industrial catalysis has been the development of catalysts for the abatement of engine emissions, in particular, diesel engines. One gauge of the impact of his discoveries in this area is in the \$300 million sales they generated for his company of 30 years, now BASF Catalysts (formerly Engelhard Corporation). Another important discovery was the use of a zeolite additive to trap the heavy molecular weight hydrocarbon emissions during cold start, which allowed the technology developed originally for heavy duty engines to be used for diesel engines for passenger cars. Bob has also contributed to many other successful commercial developments. One such example occurred in 1986 when, as a co-inventor at Engelhard, he developed a fast light off ammonia oxidation catalyst for the production of nitric acid. This technology, commercially known as Hylite™, is still in practice today. It enhances the light off of the catalyst gauze in hours as opposed to days. He and his team also developed the fundamental mechanism of the deactivation of the Pt recovery gauze. This knowledge, coupled with the Hylite™ catalyst technology, virtually eliminated this mode of deactivation, adding increased lifetime and nitric acid yield to the process. This has resulted in over \$10 million in revenues for Engelhard. Within the last 7 years Bob and his team have pioneered in the development of precious metal catalyzed monoliths and heat exchangers for distributed hydrogen for fuel cells and the hydrogen economy. The team has commercialized over 25 new catalysts.

Bob's innovations have spanned a wide range of areas involving reductants, oxidants, high and low temperature applications, liquid and gas phase reactants, and catalysts in pellet and monolithic forms. This broad patent portfolio is a strong testament to his creativity. His achievements have been recognized recently by the 2005 Catalysis and Reaction Engineering Division Practice Award from the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the 2001 Henry Albert Award for excellence in precious metal catalysis by the International Precious Metals Institute, and the 2000 Cross-Canada Catalysis Lectureship Award.

Also, Bob Farrauto has made remarkable contributions to educating students and mentoring young industrial colleagues, contributing to the scientific literature, and providing service to the catalysis community. Bob has a passion for teaching. He taught courses in industrial catalysis after his regular working hours at Engelhard at the New Jersey Institute of Technology from 1990 to 1997. The excellence of his lectures was recognized by a teaching award given to the best Adjunct Professor. He continues his academic affiliation with his current position as Adjunct Professor in the Earth and Environmental En-

gineering Department at Columbia University in the City of New York. There he started the BASF-Columbia program to fund research for graduate students and post docs. It links Columbia and BASF through programs of mutual interest in environmental and green chemistry. He also co-authored two textbooks describing Industrial Catalytic Processes, one in collaboration with his colleague Ron Heck, the other with Professor Cal Bartholomew. He has contributed over 75 papers to the scientific literature ranging from reviews to contributions in new fields. He is a co-inventor of 50 US patents. He is a gifted lecturer and has presented his

various research findings to a wide international audience. Bob has also served the catalysis community in many ways, including being responsible for the technical program at the very successful 2005 NAM in Philadelphia. He was the editor of Applied Catalysis B for North and South America for seven years.

Bob received his BS degree from Manhattan College in New York City and PhD from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. Local clubs should contact Dr. Farrauto directly (732-205-5306) to make travel arrangements.

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## Federal Tax Exempt Status for Local Catalysis Clubs and Societies

The NACS encourages local catalysis clubs/societies to incorporate in their respective States as nonprofit organizations and apply for Federal tax-exempt status, and also state tax exemption depending on the state. The advantages of becoming an IRS registered, tax-exempt nonprofit organization are that local clubs/societies can legally receive contributions from foundations and corporations, and donors can take a tax deduction on their donations. It is also very beneficial when local clubs host NAM meetings. We are aware that several local clubs/societies have obtained or are in the process of applying for Federal tax-exempt status. They include: Catalysis Club of Philadelphia, Chicago Catalysis Club, Michigan Catalysis Society, Catalysis Society of Metropolitan New York, Pacific Coast Catalysis Society, Pittsburgh-Cleveland Catalysis Society, and Southwest Catalysis Society.

The NACS provides assistance in obtaining Federal tax-exempt status. If your club/society has not started the process and is interested in getting a tax ID number, incorporation, and tax-exempt status, please contact Dr. Hong-Xin Li (610-651-4787, Hong.Li@zeolyst.com), who volunteers to handle the interface between local clubs/societies and the NACS and can provide necessary information, experience, and paperwork examples to assist filings.

# Nominations open for The Tanabe Prize for Acid-Base Catalysis

The Tanabe Prize for Acid-Base Catalysis is sponsored by The International Acid-Base Catalysis (ABC) Group. It is administrated by The ABC Group and will be awarded at ABC-6 and at all subsequent ABC conferences. Each awardee will be asked to give a plenary lecture. The award consists of a plaque and a prize of \$2,000. Up to an additional \$1,000 will be made available for otherwise non-reimbursed travel expenses.

The award is given in recognition of substantial contributions to the field of acid and/or base catalysis. It may be given either to a young person who has demonstrated real promise in the early part of his/her career, or to an individual at any stage of his/her career (subject to the age requirement below), who has made significant contributions to the area within the six years preceding the award.

Selection of the awardee will be made by a committee appointed by a vote of the board members of The ABC Group. The nominees should not have passed their 56th birthday on 10 May 2009 on which date the award will be presented at the ABC-6 conference. Nomination packages should indicate the nominee's qualifications, accomplishments, nominating letter, one optional seconding letter and a biography of the nominee. A critical evaluation of the significance of the candidate's qualifications should be made as well as a statement of the particular contribution(s) on which the nomination is based. Nomination packages for the Award must be received by **1 June 2008**.

All nomination packages (one electronic copy) should be sent to Jacques Vedrine, President, The ABC Group at [vedrine@ccr.jussieu.fr](mailto:vedrine@ccr.jussieu.fr). An email receipt message will be sent to each nominator.

## Future NACS Award Nominations

In 2008, 3 major NACS Awards will open for nominations. The closing dates will be:

- Eugene J. Houdry Award in Applied Catalysis, May 1, 2008
- Paul H. Emmett Award in Fundamental Catalysis, September 1, 2008
- Michel Boudart Award for the Advancement of Catalysis, November 17, 2008

Nominations open about three months before the closing date for nominations. Details of the descriptions and procedures for these awards are given on the NACS website under the Awards subfolder: [www.nacatsoc.org/awards\\_desc.asp](http://www.nacatsoc.org/awards_desc.asp)

*John Armor, President*

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Exxon Mobil Research and Engineering Co.

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## Video Clips added to NACS History



For several years the NACS has been continually building a part of its website to include historical items of interest to the catalysis community. We have some white papers posted on key catalytic technologies, as well as news items on many of the past leaders in the catalysis community. Much of the slides that Heinz Heinemann presented at the 2005 NAM banquet are already posted on this site. More recently, I've added some new photos to the biographies that we have on the NACS History folder and added some more bios that I found on the web.

Now the NACS has initiated a brand new feature to enhance the historical content of its popular website. We have begun to provide a historical collection of video clips of popular figures in catalysis. We hope these first 7 video clips will grow to a large collection of such video clips providing a glimpse of some of the notable speakers in catalysis over the past decades. The purpose of these postings is to give the membership, the public and new entrants into the catalysis community a glimpse of high profile speakers and popular topics in catalysis.

Several years ago, the NACS began to record videos at NACS events as a means of collecting a video history of notables in the catalysis community. This effort by Professor Burt Davis (our volunteer, but dedicated videographer) was often limited by poor audio or lighting in large conference rooms and was not easily shared with the membership. Newer video recording technology and storage of

video in web servers, now allows these video clips to be shared with the worldwide community.

We chose the recent 20th NAM meeting in Houston as the first featured set of clips. The five minutes of the five plenary lectures and the banquet acknowledgements are now posted on the website. While each, entire presentation was recorded, these would be too long for posting on the WWW. Sometimes the video quality is sub par, but it is a beginning of what we hope will be a memorable posting of leaders among the catalysis community, and I am sure new technology will improve the quality of the videos in the years to come. I've asked Burt Davis to find other good quality video clips for additional postings. If some of the membership have video good quality clips that they might wish to have posted on the NACS website, please contact me, John Armor ([nacs@verizon.net](mailto:nacs@verizon.net)). Initially, we will offer these as short (about 5 minute) segments of the full lectures and interviews.

To review your video clip, go to the NACS web site ([www.nacatsoc.org](http://www.nacatsoc.org)), select the History Folder and then the historical video clips section. If you don't already have the Flash drive installed on your PC, there is a

link to a download available, which you will need to view the videos. Speakers are listed with the title of their lecture. Start the video clip by clicking on the lower right button below their photo.

Let me have any suggestions or comments which might improve this new website feature. Burt Davis has done a great deal of voluntary work to record, compile, edit, and consolidate these videos, and we thank him for his efforts. Thanks also go to Ray Buchta who edits our website has been invaluable in setting up and designing the graphics of our website.

*John Armor*  
President, North American Catalysis Society

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# Gordon Research Conference on Catalysis

**T**he GRC on Catalysis is one of the most prestigious catalysis conferences as it brings together leading researchers from around the world to discuss their latest, most exciting work in catalysis. The 2008 conference will continue this tradition. The conference will cover a variety of themes including new catalytic materials, theoretical and experimental approaches to improve understanding of kinetics and transport phenomena, and state of the art nanoscale characterization probes to monitor active sites. The conference promotes interactions among established researchers and young scientists. It provides a venue for students to meet, talk to and learn from some of the world leading researchers in the area. It also gives them a platform for displaying their own work during the poster sessions. The informal nature of the meeting, excellent quality of the presentations and posters, and ability to meet many outstanding colleagues makes this an excellent conference.

Also, for students, postdocs and new faculty, there will be some rebate of registration costs, based on the total support that is raised for the conference. Applications for this meeting must be submitted by June 1, 2008.

## 2008 Program

**Chair: Stuard Soled, Vice Chair: Abhaya K. Datye**

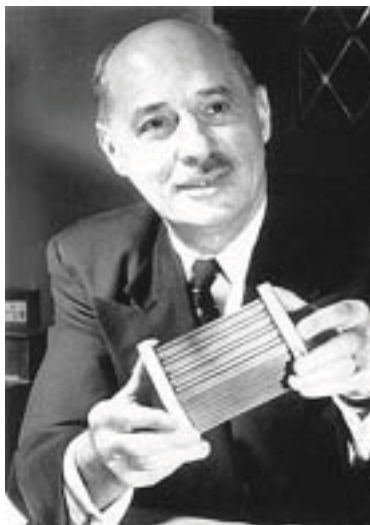
**Dates: June 22–27, 2008**

**Conference Site: Colby–Sawyer College**

<b>Omar Yaghi</b> , UCLA	"Zeolite Imidazolate Frameworks"
<b>Tony Cheetham</b> , University California, Santa Barbara	"Trends and Properties in Hybrid Inorganic-Organic Framework Materials"
<b>Mizuki Tada</b> , University of Tokyo	"Novel Molecularly-Organized Materials for O <sub>2</sub> Activation in Catalysis"
<b>Krijn De Jong</b> , Utrecht University	"Precision in the Preparation of Supported Catalysts - Fundamentals and Applications"
<b>Sebastian Reyes</b> , ExxonMobil	"Diffusion Processes in Microporous Materials: Window Size Effects"
<b>Ferdi Schueth</b> , Max Plank Institute	"Pre-formed Metal Nanoparticles In Heterogeneous Catalysis"
<b>David Barton</b> , Dow	"Low Temperature Oxygen Activation On Gold Nanoparticles for Selective Olefin Oxidation"
<b>Jeroen A. van Bokhoven</b> , ETH, Zurich	"The Structure of Catalytically Active Sites in Heterogeneous Catalysts"
<b>Bob Davis</b> , University of Virginia	"Conversion of Biorenewable Molecules to Fuels and Chemicals"
<b>Flemming Besenbacher</b> , University of Aarhus	"Surface Reactivity and Catalysis at the Atomic Scale Studied by High Resolution STM"
<b>Günther Rupprechter</b> , University of Vienna	"Spectroscopic Studies of Functioning Catalysts: Model and Applied Studies"
<b>Enrique Iglesia</b> , University California, Berkeley	"A Link Between Reactivity and Spatial Constraints: Shape Selectivity Revisited"
<b>Fabio Ribeiro</b> , Purdue	"Catalytic NO <sub>x</sub> Traps For Exhaust Emissions Reduction"
<b>Jeffrey White</b> , Oklahoma State	"Alkane Reactivity in Solid Acid Catalysts: Mechanistic Perspectives"
<b>Bill Schneider</b> , Notre Dame	"Incorporating Environmental Effects in Computational Catalytic Models"
<b>Bruce Gates</b> , University California, Davis	"Catalysis: A Veteran's Perspective and Fearless Forecasts"

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# Nominations Open for Eugene J. Houdry Award in Applied Catalysis



**T**he Eugene J. Houdry Award in Applied Catalysis is sponsored by Süd-Chemie, Inc. It is administered by The Catalysis Society and is awarded biennially in odd numbered years, generally at the

North American meeting of The Catalysis Society, where the awardee will be asked to give a plenary lecture. The award consists of a plaque and a prize of \$5,000. An additional \$1,000 is available for otherwise unreimbursed travel expenses.

The purpose of the Award is to recognize and encourage individual contributions in the field of catalysis with emphasis on the development of new and improved catalysts and processes representing outstanding advances in their useful application.

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. Nominations for the Award must be made before May 1, 2008 and should present the nominee's qualifications, accomplishments and biography. A critical evaluation of the significance of publications and patents should be made as well as a statement of the particular contribution(s) on which the nomination is based. Nomination documents should be submitted electronically to the President of the Society in one complete package along with no more than two seconding letters.

All nomination packages (*one electronic copy*) for the Houdry Award should be sent to John Armor, President, North American Catalysis Society; at [jnagcat@verizon.net](mailto:jnagcat@verizon.net). Receipt of any nomination, will be confirmed by an email message sent to each nominator.

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## 14<sup>th</sup> ICC — Pre & Pos Symposia

The ICC meeting in Seoul in July 2008 will also have a host ([www.icc2008korea.com/symposia.asp](http://www.icc2008korea.com/symposia.asp)) of pre and post conferences in Asia. The web site for the week-long international meeting ([www.icc2008korea.com](http://www.icc2008korea.com)) provides information about registration, accommodations, and programming for the Seoul meeting.

### Pre - Symposia

#### **Creation and Control of Advanced Selective Catalysis**

Kyoto, Japan, July 9-11, 2008  
[http://www.shokubai.org/index\\_e.html](http://www.shokubai.org/index_e.html)  
Organizer: Prof. Y. Iwasawa

#### **Nanocatalysis: Fundamentals and Applications**

Dalian, China, July 9-11, 2008  
<http://www.nano.dicp.ac.cn/>  
Organizer: Prof. C. Li: [canli@dicp.ac.cn](mailto:canli@dicp.ac.cn)

#### **Hydrocarbon Selective Oxidation and Syngas Conversion Catalysis**

Xiamen, China, July 9-11, 2008  
<http://pcss.xmu.edu.cn/14icc-pre/>  
Organizer: Prof. Y. Wang: [yewang@xmu.edu.cn](mailto:yewang@xmu.edu.cn)

### Post - Symposia

#### **Catalysis for Hydrogen Energy Production and Utilization**

Gyeongju, Korea, July 20-22, 2008  
<http://post-icc08.postech.ac.kr/english/portal.php>  
Organizer: Prof. J.S. Lee: [jlee@postech.ac.kr](mailto:jlee@postech.ac.kr)

#### **First International Combinatorial Catalysis Symposium**

Daejeon, Korea, July 20-22, 2008  
<http://www.iccs2008.org/>  
Organizer: Prof. S.I. Woo: [siwoo@kaist.ac.kr](mailto:siwoo@kaist.ac.kr)

#### **International Symposium on Catalysis for Ultra Clean Fuels**

Dalian, China, July 21-24, 2008  
Organizer: Prof. C. Song: [csong@psu.edu](mailto:csong@psu.edu)

### Mark your Calendars

- Jan. 27 - Nomination deadline, NY Award in Catalysis
- Jan. 31 - Nomination deadline, Chicago's Herman Pines Award
- Mar. 14 - Western States Annual Symposium
- Mar. 25 - NY Spring Symposium
- Mar. 28 - Nomination deadline, Philadelphia Catalysis Award
- May 8 - Michigan Annual Spring Symposium
- May 22 - Philadelphia Spring Symposium
- Jun. 15-18 - 20<sup>th</sup> Canadian Symposium on Catalysis

## Clubs & Societies News

### Canadian Catalysis Division

#### Dr. Flora Ng Receives 2008 Catalysis Award

Dr. Flora Ng, Professor of Chemical Engineering at the University of Waterloo, is the winner of the 2008 Catalysis Award of the Chemical Institute of Canada for her innovative work in fundamental and applied catalysis. Sponsored by the Canadian Catalysis Foundation, the prize is given in even-numbered years to a researcher who, while resident in Canada, has made a distinguished contribution to the field of catalysis. Dr. Ng will receive a rhodium-plated silver medal and travel expenses to present her award lecture in June 2008 at the 20th Canadian Symposium on Catalysis in Kingston, Ontario.

#### 20th Canadian Symposium on Catalysis: Clean Air, Climate Change and Catalysis: 15 – 18 June, 2008 in Kingston, Ontario

The Twentieth Canadian Symposium on Catalysis will encourage the exchange of knowledge between researchers from the heterogeneous and homogeneous catalysis communities. A major theme will be how catalysis can address issues of air quality and greenhouse gas emissions through improved efficiency and selectivity. Papers from all areas of catalysis research are invited. Topical areas that have been chosen for additional focus include:

- Catalysis for Fuel Cells and Fuel Cell Systems
- Transition Metal Catalysis
- Catalysis for Biomass Utilisation
- Computational Modelling of
- Catalytic Processes
- Catalysis for Cleaner Energy
- Catalysis for Green Chemistry

An abstract of 300 – 350 words (excluding references) should be submitted as an attachment (MS Word or Adobe PDF format only) to an email to [abstracts@20csc2008.ca](mailto:abstracts@20csc2008.ca) before February 22, 2008. See website ([www.20csc2008.ca](http://www.20csc2008.ca)) for detailed instructions.

The plenary speakers include F.T. Wagner from General Motors, M. Bochmann from the University of East Anglia, and T. Ziegler from the University of Calgary.

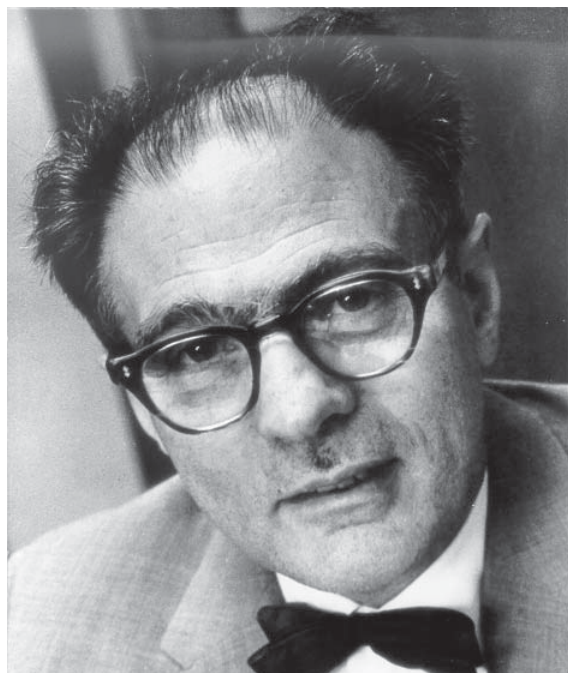
The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Kingston Waterfront Hotel, located in the heart of Kingston. Situated at the eastern end of Lake Ontario, Kingston is within convenient driving distance of several northeast US cities. There are also a number of daily regional shuttle flights from Toronto Pearson airport to Kingston through Air Jazz (Air Canada regional partner).

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# Clubs & Societies News

## Chicago Catalysis Club



### Herman Pines Award in Catalysis – Solicitation for Nominations

The Catalysis Club of Chicago is soliciting nominations for the 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 2008 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 to be held on May 15th 2008.

Past winners of the Herman Pines Award have been:

- 1999 - Professor Harold Kung (Northwestern University)
- 2000 - Dr. John Monnier (Eastman Chemical Company)

- 2001 - Professor Lanny Schmidt (University of Minnesota)
- 2002 - Dr. James Brazdil (BP)
- 2003 - Professor James A. Dumesic (University of Wisconsin)
- 2004 - Dr. Alak Bhattacharyya (BP)
- 2005 - Professor Israel Wachs (Lehigh University)
- 2006 - Dr. Jeffrey T. Miller (BP)
- 2007 - Professor Chunshan Song (Pennsylvania State University)

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. For year 2008, nominations are sought for candidates who are INDUSTRIAL RESEARCHERS.
  - Recipient must be a resident of North America.
- Deadline for Nomination: January 31, 2008
- Nominations should describe the specific work for which the nominee should be recognized.
  - Nominations should consist of a complete CV with letters of support for the nominee

Nominations should be emailed (single PDF document) on or before January 31, 2008 to:

*Randall J. Meyer*

President-Catalysis Club of Chicago  
Dept. of Chemical Engineering  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
810 S Clinton St.  
Chicago, IL 60607  
312-996-4607  
rjm@uic.edu

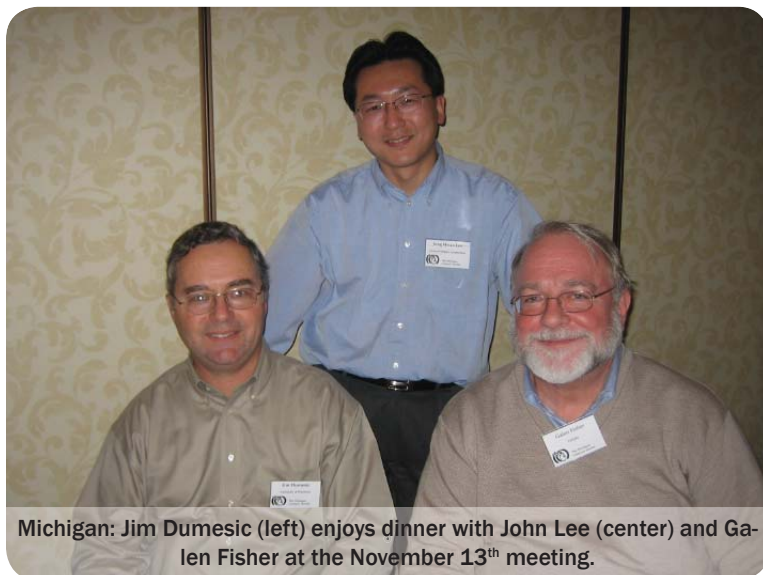
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## Notes from the Michigan Catalysis Society

To the catalysis community in the state of Michigan, the approach of fall means that soon the leaves will change color and the snow will fall. But, it also marks the beginning of a new season of science, discussion, and fellowship at the Michigan Catalysis Society dinner meetings. It was decided that the 2007–08 season would focus on the topics of energy and the environment, and the season started strong with three presentations in the fall.

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## Clubs & Societies News



Michigan: Jim Dumesic (left) enjoys dinner with John Lee (center) and Galen Fisher at the November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.



Michigan: Galen Fisher (left), Shinichi Matsumoto and Mordecai Shelef (first president of the MCS) at the November 26<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting.

The 2007-08 season began on October 25<sup>th</sup> with a presentation from Dr. Yong Wang from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. He presented his research on the catalytic conversion of biomass to fuels and chemicals. In a similar vein, the MCS was visited on November 13<sup>th</sup> by current NACS Burwell Lecturer James Dumesic from the University of Wisconsin — Madison. Dr. Dumesic presented some of his research on the catalytic production of fuels and chemicals from oxygenated hydrocarbons. The final presentation of the calendar year represented a shift in both theme and geography as the MCS hosted its first presenter from Japan. On November 26<sup>th</sup>, Dr.

Shinichi Matsumoto from the Toyota Motor Corporation presented his work on the dynamic behavior and characterization of automobile emissions control catalysts.

The spring session of dinner meetings should prove to be equally interesting. The next meeting will be held on February 6<sup>th</sup> as the MCS will be hosting John Vohs from the University of Pennsylvania. In March and April, the MCS will welcome both Bob Davis and Matt Neurock from the University of Virginia. The 2007-08 season will come to a close on May 8<sup>th</sup> at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Symposium of the Michigan Catalysis Society. This year's Symposium will be held at the General Motors Technical Center and will feature keynote lectures from Fred Wagner of the GM R&D — Fuel Cell, as well as from the winner of the 2008 Michigan Catalysis Society Giuseppe Parravano Memorial Award for Excellence in Catalysis Research and Development (to be announced in February).

### Catalysis Club of Philadelphia

#### Call for Nominations for The Catalysis Club of Philadelphia Award for 2008

Each year the Catalysis Club of Philadelphia recognizes a person, preferably from the Philadelphia area, who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of catalysis. Such advancement can be scientific, technological, or in organization leadership. The award goes to an individual; no split Award to two or more persons will be given. The Award consists of a plaque and a \$1000.00 cash prize.

The entire nomination package, including a resume and recommendation letters, should not exceed 10 pages. The deadline for the receipt of nominations is March 28, 2008. Prior nomination packages sent in 2005 or later will automatically be considered for the 2008 Award.

Nomination letters along with supporting materials should be emailed to:

*Dr. Roger Grey*  
Research Advisor  
LyondellBasell Industries  
3801 West Chester Pike  
Newtown Square, PA 19073  
Email: [roger.grey@lyondellbasell.com](mailto:roger.grey@lyondellbasell.com)  
FAX: 610-359-2434  
Phone 610-359-2286

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# Clubs & Societies News

## 2008 Spring Symposium

The Catalysis Club of Philadelphia Spring Symposium will be held on May 22, 2008, at Clayton Hall, University of Delaware. The theme of the symposium will be Environmental Catalysis.

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Catalysis Society of  
Metropolitan NY

## Request for Nominations, 2008 Award for Excellence in Catalysis

The Catalysis Society of Metropolitan New York is seeking nominations for its twenty-seventh annual "Award for Excellence in Catalysis." The award, sponsored by Exxon-Mobil 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.

This award will bring due recognition to the recipient(s), and we appreciate your help in seeking first-rate candidates. We especially need to fortify our active nomination list! 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 27, 2008. Send or email nominations for the Excellence in Catalysis Award to:

*Dr. Ruma Ghosh*  
ABB Lummus Global  
1515 Broad Street  
Bloomfield, NJ 07003  
ruma1\_ghosh@yahoo.com

## 2008 Spring Symposium, Call for Abstracts

The Catalysis Society of Metropolitan New York invites you to submit abstracts of papers for oral or poster presentation at the annual 2008 Spring Symposium on March 25th. As a heading of the abstract please list the title, author(s) (underline the speaker) and affiliation. The length of the abstract should not exceed one page, single-spaced. Approximately twenty minutes will be allotted for each oral presentation, followed by a short discussion period. Times will be strictly monitored so as to encourage a thorough discussion. In addition awards will be given to the best posters. Graduate students will be awarded a first prize of \$125, a second prize of \$75 and a third prize of \$50 for their poster presentations.\* Post-doctoral fellows will be awarded a first prize of \$125 for their poster presentation.\* You are all urged to reserve the date and participate in the Spring Symposium.

The deadline for receipt of abstracts is Wednesday, January 31, 2008. You will be notified of consideration for the Symposium by Friday, February 9, 2008. Those submitting paper(s)/poster(s) for consideration for the Spring Symposium should send or e-mail them to:

*Dr. Ruma Ghosh*  
ABB Lummus Global  
1515 Broad Street  
Bloomfield, NJ 07003  
ruma1\_ghosh@yahoo.com

\*Award value and distribution may change based on the number of poster submissions in each category.

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## Pacific Coast Catalysis Society

The Pacific Coast Catalysis Society held its annual meeting on November 2 in Pasadena, CA. Alex Bell presented the Boudart Award Lecture. Other speakers included Mark Davis, Charlie Campbell, Dan DuBois, Tom Harris, Suzanne Blum, and Bruce Gates. The officers elected for the coming year are: Jim Haw, President; Alex Katz, Vice President; Yong Wang, Secretary; Kaidong Chen, Treasurer; and C. Y. Chen, NAM Representative. Following the technical and business sessions a dinner was hosted in Old Town Pasadena.

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# Clubs & Societies News

## Pittsburgh-Cleveland Catalysis Society

The Pittsburgh-Cleveland Catalysis Society held its annual Fall meeting on December 12, 2007. Paul Salvador (Carnegie Mellon University) presented his work on thin oxide films for photochemistry and solid oxide fuel cell cathodes. Ayusman Sen (Penn State) discussed the use of catalysis in driving nanomotors. James Dumesic (University of Wisconsin) discussed the conversion of biomass to synthetic fuels and platform chemicals. Anne Gaffney (ABB Lummus Global) presented a new alkylation process that is being commercially developed by ABB. Dominic Alfonso (National Energy Technology Laboratory) showed his work on the chemistry of sulfur on Pd surfaces. Charles Sykes (Tufts University) showed scanning tunneling microscopy and spectroscopy results on Cu/Pd and Au/Pd alloys. The Spring meeting has not been scheduled yet, but we are targeting a date in June and will hold the meeting at Penn State. The meeting will feature invited talks and contributed talks from students and postdocs.

## Southeastern Catalysis Society

The Southeastern Catalysis Society held its Annual Symposium at the Crown Plaza Resort in Asheville, NC on September 30th to October 1st. The meeting began on Sunday afternoon with a poster session featuring 17 contributed posters from eight Universities, followed by dinner and lecture. This year the after-dinner lecturer was James Dumesic, who is the Steenbock Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering at the University of Wisconsin, in Madison, Wisconsin. Dumesic is also the recipient of the 2007 Robert Burwell Lectureship awarded by the NACS. The title of his lecture was Catalytic Conversion of Carbohydrates to Liquid Fuels. Awards were presented at the dinner for the top two student poster presentations. The winners were Karen Uffalussy and John D. Brooks. Uffalussy, from University of South Carolina Department of Chemical Engineering presented a poster entitled Kinetic Characterization of Multimetallic Cluster-Derived Catalysts Used for Selective Hydrogenation of Citral, and the coauthors were Richard D. Adams, Ana B. Hungria, John R. Monnier, and her advisor Michael D. Amiridis. Brooks, from Virginia Tech Department of Chemical Engineering, presented a poster entitled The Reaction of Ethyl and Ethylidene Surface Intermediates Over the Stoichiometric  $\alpha$ -Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>(10 2) Surface, co-authored by his advisor David F. Cox. On Monday, October 1st the Symposium continued with 15 oral presentations ranging from experimental to computational. Overall

there were more than 50 attendees from Universities and institutions throughout the Southeastern region.

## Western States Club

The 22nd Annual Symposium of the Western States Catalysis Club will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico on Friday, March 14, 2008 at the Hotel Albuquerque. Dr. James Dumesic, recipient of the 2007 Robert Burwell Lectureship, will give the keynote address. For information about attending the meeting or submitting an abstract contact Abhaya Datye (datye@unm.edu) or Jim Miller (jemille@sandia.gov)

## Organic Reactions Catalysis Society

The 22nd Conference of the Organic Reactions Catalysis Society will be held on March 30 – April 3, 2008 at The Jefferson Hotel in Richmond, Virginia. The focus of this conference is on the application of catalysis to solve synthetic challenges. Sessions on Catalysis in the Pharmaceutical Industry and Catalysis in the Fine Chemical Industry are being organized. We are seeking presentations from industrial speakers for these sessions. Please contact Mike Prunier at chair@orcs.org if you are interested in submitting an abstract. The initial call for Abstracts for the 22nd Conference will be issued shortly.

The 22nd Conference will also feature a Pre-conference Tutorial on Catalysis. This will be a series of presentations made by industrial experts and is designed for scientists and engineers with responsibility for organic synthesis as well as professionals in the catalyst supplier organizations. Those just starting jobs in industry or national labs, or with less than five years experience, may especially find the tutorial helpful. A small additional fee will be charged for this tutorial and seating will be limited. More details will be found at [www.orcs.org](http://www.orcs.org) as the tutorial plans are finalized.

# 2008 Club Meetings

January 14	Catalysis Club of Chicago	<b>Prof. Umit Ozkan</b> , Ohio State University	Role of Catalysis in Fuel Cells: Nanostructured CNx Catalysts for Oxygen Reduction Reaction in PEMFCs and DMFCs
January 16	Catalysis Society of Metropolitan New York	<b>Prof. John Warner</b> , University of Massachusetts	"Noncovalent Derivatization" - Crystals, Catalysis and Catastrophic Events at the Molecular Level
January 17	Catalysis Club of Philadelphia	<b>Dr. Leo E. Manzer</b> , President, Catalytic Insights LLC	New Opportunities for Catalysis: Biomass to Renewable Fuels and Chemicals
February 11	Catalysis Club of Chicago	<b>Dr. Peter Nickias</b> , Dow Chemical Company	Single Site Polymerization Catalysis
February 20	Catalysis Society of Metropolitan New York	Speaker TBA	Title TBA
February 21	Catalysis Club of Philadelphia	<b>Prof. Robert J. Madix</b> , Stanford University	Structure Sensitivity of Styrene Epoxidation on Silver: Mechanistic Origins
March 10	Catalysis Club of Chicago	<b>Prof. James Dumesic</b> , University of Wisconsin/Madison	Catalytic Conversion of Carbohydrates to Liquid Fuels
March 13	Catalysis Club of Philadelphia	<b>Prof. Robert Davis</b> , University of Virginia	Title TBA
March 13	Catalysis Club of Philadelphia		Student Poster Competition
March 25	Catalysis Society of Metropolitan New York	Seton Hall University	Spring Symposium
March 30 – Apr 3	Twenty-second Conference on Catalysis of Organic Reactions	Contact: Conference Newsletter	Jefferson Hotel in Richmond Virginia
April 14	Catalysis Club of Chicago	<b>Prof. Wayne Goodman</b> , Texas A&M University	Towards an Understanding of Catalysis by Supported Metal Nanoparticles
April 24, 2008	Catalysis Club of Philadelphia	<b>Prof. Robbie Burch</b> , Queen's University, Belfast	In situ Structural and Mechanistic Investigation of the Catalytic Properties of Silver and Gold Nanoclusters
April 30, 2008	Catalysis Society of Metropolitan New York	<b>Prof. Krzysztof Matyjaszewski</b> , Carnegie Mellon University	Vanadium Oxide Catalysts in AAO Scaffolds
May	Catalysis Society of Metropolitan New York	Speaker TBA	Title TBA
May 15	Catalysis Club of Chicago	Keynote speaker: <b>Prof. Bruce Gates</b> of the University of California at Davis	2008 Spring Symposium
May 22, 2008	Catalysis Club of Philadelphia	Clayton Hall, University of Delaware	Spring Symposium

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