

NACS Newsletter

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NACS Newsletter

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Professor Bert Weckhuysen is the recipient of the 2011 Paul H. Emmett Award in Fundamental Catalysis



Professor Bert Weckhuysen of the Debye Institute for Nanomaterials Science of Utrecht University (The Netherlands) is the recipient of the 2011 Paul H. Emmett Award in Fundamental Catalysis, sponsored by the Grace Davison operating segment of W.R. Grace & Co. and administered by The North American Catalysis Society. The Award consists of a plaque and an honorarium of \$5,000. The plaque will be presented during the closing banquet ceremonies at the 22nd North American Meeting of the Catalysis Society to be held in Detroit, Michigan on June 5-10, 2011. Professor Weckhuysen will present a plenary lecture during this conference.

The Paul H. Emmett Award in Fundamental Catalysis is given in recognition of substantial individual contributions in the field of catalysis with emphasis on discovery and understanding of catalytic phenomena, proposal of catalytic reaction mechanisms and identification of and description of catalytic sites and species.

Professor Weckhuysen is being recognized for his pioneering development and use of in-situ spectroscopic methods to probe solids at the micrometer and nanometer scale during their activation and their function as catalysts. These studies have led to fundamental insights into the distribution of active sites and the mechanism of molecular diffusion and deactivation phenomena in zeolite and Fischer-Tropsch catalysts. Specifically, spatial heterogeneities in activity, selectivity and coking within individual ZSM-5 zeolite crystals were detected using a novel combination of micro-spectroscopy and rate data and interpreted in terms of complex but broadly applicable zeolite intergrowth models directly relevant to molecular diffusion and to mesoporosity generation during synthesis. In other studies, X-ray microscopy combined with an in-situ reactor led to unprecedented details of nanoscale processes involved in Fischer-Tropsch synthesis, especially as they pertain to the dynamic evolution and the catalytic relevance of the various inorganic and organic phases formed during catalysis.

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Professor James A. Dumesic is the recipient of the 2011 Boudart Award in Catalysis



We are pleased to announce that Professor James A. Dumesic of the University of Wisconsin-Madison is the recipient of the 2011 Michel Boudart for Advances in Catalysis, sponsored by the Haldor Topsøe Company and administered jointly by the North American Catalysis Society and the European Federation of Catalysis Societies. The Award will be presented at the 22nd

North American Meeting of the Catalysis Society (Detroit, June 2011) and at Europacat X (Glasgow, August 2011).

This Award recognizes and encourages individual contributions to the elucidation of the mechanism and active sites involved in catalytic phenomena and to the development of new methods or concepts that advance the understanding and the practice of heterogeneous catalysis. It is meant to recognize individuals who bring together the rigor and the international impact that exemplifies the accomplishments and the career of Professor Michel Boudart.

Professor Dumesic is being specifically recognized for his pioneering work on the transformation of biomass-derived molecules to chemicals and fuels. In a combination of discovery and refinement, driven by catalytic insight that is his hallmark, Dumesic and his coworkers used thermodynamic and kinetic considerations, combined with catalyst optimization to develop a one-step aqueous phase reforming route from sugars and other biomass-derived oxygenates to hydrogen and/or alkanes. The work was guided by mechanistic insights about the relative rates of C-C cleavage, leading to the formation of H_2 and CO/CO_2 , and C-O cleavage, which forms alkyl moieties, and led to the optimization of aqueous phase reforming for either H_2 or alkane products. His studies elucidated catalysts and reaction conditions for polyol reforming that favor C-C cleavage with minimal water-gas shift, thereby allowing glycerol reforming

and Fischer-Tropsch synthesis to occur within a single reactor. These discoveries were quickly followed by two new and innovative catalytic conversion processes. One approach employs a cascade of reactors, each designed to sequentially attack specific functional groups; these reactions remove oxygen, achieve carbon-carbon bond synthesis, and steer the final upgrading steps towards the desired fuel molecules. These studies have shown how metal functions, moderated by another metal, can convert sugars and polyols to mono-functional intermediates, such as ketones, alcohols, and carboxylic acids, by balancing the rates of C-C and C-O cleavage. This approach led to strategies to form new C-C bonds via coupling of these mono-functional intermediates to adjust chain length, as in the case of ketonization catalysis of carboxylic acids on mixed oxides and subsequent aldol-condensation to react ketones and alcohols on solid bases. Another novel approach involved γ -gamma-valerolactone decarboxylation to butene and its oligomers and, in related work, the use of metal-acid bifunctional catalysts to convert valerolactone to C_9 ketones by coupling ring-opening and C=C bond hydrogenation with the ketonization of resulting pentanoic acid.

This body of work has redefined the frontiers of fundamental catalysis while simultaneously addressing the critical worldwide needs for renewable energy sources and epitomizes the confluence of elegance and relevance in catalysis that the Boudart Award intends to recognize.

Enrique Iglesia
President, North American Catalysis Society

Avelino Corma Canos
President, European Federation of Catalysis Societies

22nd North American Meeting, June 5-10, 2011: Register soon

The NAM 22 Organizing Committee is happy to report an excellent response to the Call for Papers with a record submission of nearly 1000 abstracts. These abstracts were assigned to over 300 reviewers who are scoring the abstracts for acceptance and to help determine whether they will be oral or poster presentations. With such a strong level of submissions we are looking forward to welcoming a great attendance from the catalysis



community to our 22nd biennial meeting of the North American Catalysis Society in Detroit, Michigan, June 5-10 of this year. **The NAM 22 web site, www.22nam.org, will be open for meeting registration during the first week in February!**

The NAM 22 technical program will include plenary lectures by NACS 2011 Award winners: Dr. James C. Stevens, The Dow Chemical Company, Houdry Award; Prof. Bert Weckhuysen, Utrecht University, Emmett Award; and Prof. James A. Dumesic, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Boudart Award. In addition, more than 20 distinguished scientists will give keynote lectures supporting the theme of the meeting, "Driving Catalysis Innovation." The meeting will

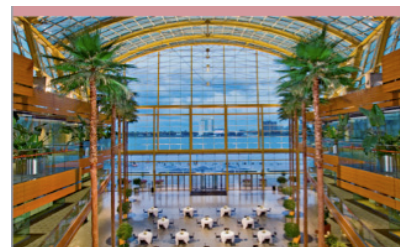
open with a reception on Sunday at the renowned Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, an inviting display of applied technology from sewing machines to locomotives, including automobiles, of course. Those of you who attended the 1989 NAM 11 meeting in Michigan will well remember the reception in the same museum, which now includes many new exhibits.

NAM 22 will be held at the Detroit Marriott at the Renais-



sance Center along the shores of the 5-mile long Riverfront Walk of the Detroit River looking across at Windsor, Ontario. The meeting rooms are conveniently close together on two floors of the Marriott. Exhibits, posters, and food/drink during breaks will all be available in one exhibit hall to encourage interaction between exhibitors, poster presenters, and attendees. All attendees, including students (many of them winners of Kokes Awards), will be accommodated in this 75-story hotel designed by John Portman with its large food court for breakfast and lunch, five restaurants, and stunning views of the Detroit River, downtown Detroit, and the city of Windsor, Ontario. The hotel is surrounded by the four buildings of the

GM World Headquarters. Room rates will be \$175/night with special rates for students and government employees. Walking or taking the circular downtown aerial tram loop or "People Mover" makes it easy to visit more restaurants, live theatre, casinos, or downtown venues of the Detroit Tigers, Detroit Redwings, and the Detroit Lions. Hosting the Super Bowl, the Stanley Cup, the NCAA Final Four, and the Detroit Grand Prix has improved all aspects



of the downtown area.

The meeting is hosted by the Michigan Catalysis Society and co-chaired by Galen Fisher and Johannes Schwank (University of Michigan). Dr. Charlie Kresge (The Dow Chemical Company) serves as the Honorary Chair for the meeting. The technical program will include plenary lectures by NACS Award winners, a range of keynote lectures, oral presentations, and posters. Robert McCabe (Ford Motor Company), Eric Stangland (The Dow Chemical Company) and Levi Thompson (University of Michigan) serve as the Technical Program Co-Chairs and have been working hard to bring out the best program possible. The major topical areas of the meeting are catalysis, materials,

22nd NAM

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and reaction engineering for:

- Environmental protection
- Industrial chemicals production
- Energy and Fuel production & utilization
- Emerging issues in novel catalytic materials, theory, and experimental methods.

There will also be a special session in honor of the late Dr. Haren Gandhi of the Ford Motor Company.

Exhibits will showcase the latest



innovations in instrumentation and process control technology from around the globe. With a number of renowned plenary and keynote speakers and parallel technical sessions covering a wide range of contemporary topics in heterogeneous and homogeneous catalysis, this meeting is shaping up to be one you won't want to miss in 2011. We invite researchers from all countries to attend. For more information, please check out the website, www.22nam.org and register for the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you all at NAM 22 this June!

The Robert Burwell Lectureship in Catalysis

The Robert Burwell Lectureship in Catalysis is sponsored by Johnson Matthey Catalysts Division 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 in North America. The awardee is expected to lecture at many of the local catalysis clubs.

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 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 should indicate the nominee's qualifications, accomplishments with CV, a nominating letter, no more than two seconding letters 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 packages for the Award must be received by 1 April 2011 in one complete package.**

All nomination packages (one ELECTRONIC COPY) for the Burwell Award should be sent to Enrique Iglesia, President, North American Catalysis Society at iglesia@berkeley.edu. Receipt of any nomination, will be confirmed by an email message sent to any nominator.

Clubs & Societies News

Catalysis Club of Chicago

Herman Pines Award

The Catalysis Club of Chicago is soliciting nominations for the Herman Pines Award for outstanding research in the field of catalysis. The Award will be presented at the 2011 Catalysis Club of Chicago Spring Symposium and consists of a plaque, a cash award of \$1,000 and reimbursement for travel and lodging as a plenary speaker at the Spring Symposium.

(All the details about this award is on : http://www.catalysisclubchicago.org/Pines_Award/2011PinesAwardCall.pdf)

Can you please share this nomination announcement with your club members?

The nominee must meet the following criteria:

- Great achievements of catalysis research in the past five years.
- For year 2011, the award will be given to Academic / National Lab researcher.
- Active member in catalysis community
- A resident of North America.

Deadline for nomination is February 25 th , 2011. Nomination should describe the specific work for which the nominee should be recognized. Complete curriculum vitae with letters of support for the nominee must be included in the nomination, together with the description of work.

Letters of nomination and supporting documentation must be sent by February 25th, 2011 as a single PDF document to:

Siddhesh Shevade

President – Catalysis Club of Chicago (2010-2011)

BP

Naperville, IL-60563

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Catalysis Club of Philadelphia

Student Poster Competition

The Catalysis Club of Philadelphia held the 2010-2011 Student Poster Competition October 21st, 2010 with 28 student entries, and one post-doctoral presenter. The four runners-up included, Kevin Doura (Lehigh University) with “Catalyst by Design: Tuning the Selective Oxidation of CH₃OH to Dimethoxymethane over Supported V₂O₅ – WO₃/TiO₂/SiO₂ with TiO₂ Nanoligands”; Gholamreza Ros-tamikia (Pennsylvania State University, University Park) with “First Principles Design of Electrocatalysts for Direct Borohydride Oxidation”; Andrew Ferens (Villanova University) with “Oxidative Dehydrogenation of Ethanol to Acetaldehyde and Ethyl Acetate by Graphite Nanofibers”; and Xin Li (University of Delaware) with “Selective Oxidation of Propane to Acrylic Acid over Single Phase M1 MoVTaNbOx Cata-

lysts”. Top honors went to Kevin Bakhmutsky from the University of Pennsylvania, with his poster titled “The Influence of Cobalt Loading on Oxidation of Supported Catalysts for Fischer-Tropsch Synthesis”. Along with top honors, Kevin also received an invitation to present his research at the Catalysis Club's Annual Spring Symposium to be held in May 2011 at Villanova University.

Nominations Open for 2011 Catalysis Club of Philadelphia Award

Each year the Catalysis Club of Philadelphia recognizes an outstanding member of the catalysis community, who has made significant contributions to the advancement of Catalysis. Such advancement can be scientific, technological, or in organization leadership. The Award consists of a plaque and a \$1000 cash prize.

We appreciate your help in submitting nominations. The entire nomination package, including a resume and recommendation letters, should not be more than 10 pages. The deadline for the receipt of nominations is April 15, 2010. Prior nomination packages sent in 2007 or later will automatically be considered for the 2010 Award.

Clubs & Societies News

Nomination letter along with supporting materials should be emailed to michael.a.smith@villanova.edu.

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610-519-5968

Mexican Academy of Catalysis (Academia de Catálisis)

Academia de Catálisis, A.C. from Mexico is organizing the upcoming XII Mexican Congress on Catalysis, organized jointly by our Academia and the Universidad de Guanajuato. This congress will take place April 13-15, 2011. The venue is the beautiful colonial city of Guanajuato, Guanajuato located in the central region of Mexico and we are estimating an attendance of nearly 100 scientists and students working in different fields of catalysis and related topics. The congress will include plenary lectures, keynote lectures, oral and poster presentations. Contact:

Dr. Esthela Ramos
ramosre@quijote.ugto.mx
Dr. Nancy Martín e-mail: mgnc@xanum.uam.mx
Web link: <http://www.acat.org.mx>

Michigan Catalysis Society Meeting Schedule

Our Fall 2010 dinner meeting schedule began on September 22 with an excellent presentation by Dr. Maria Flytzani-Stephanopoulos of Tufts University on the use of gold ions for the water-gas-shift reaction and for the steam reforming of methanol. Then on December 8 we hosted Dr. Fabio Ribeiro of Purdue University, who gave a very interesting talk about the water-gas-shift reaction on gold and platinum catalysts, including the effect of the catalyst particle size and the nature of the support.

For Spring 2011 we have an excellent schedule of four additional dinner meetings. Susannah Scott from the University of California at Santa Barbara will be speaking on January 26. Then Enrico Tronconi from the University of Milano (Italy) will give a presentation on his group's work in February, Christopher Jones from Georgia Tech will speak in March, and Aditya Bhan from the University of Minnesota will speak in April.

Normally the MCS hosts a Spring Symposium with a number of technical presentations, student poster sessions, and the announcement of the winner of the Michigan Catalysis Society Giuseppe Parravano Memorial Award for catalyst research. However, we will not be having a Spring Symposium in 2011 because many of our members are

busy preparing for the 22nd North American Catalysis Society meeting (NAM22), to be held June 5-10 in Detroit.

2011 Giuseppe Parravano Award Nominations

Nominations have been received for the 2011 MCS Giuseppe Parravano Memorial Award for Excellence in Catalyst Research, given biennially in odd numbered years to an individual from North America to formally recognize outstanding contributions to catalytic science and technology. The winner of the award is expected to be announced soon. Sadly, Mrs. Ernestina Parravano, who established the award in memory of her late husband, Professor Giuseppe Parravano, passed away in October of this year. Their four sons will continue to fund the award for the next 10 years.

NAM22 Status

Michigan and the Michigan Catalysis Society are busy preparing for the 22nd NAM in Detroit, Michigan, to be held on June 5-10, 2011 in the Marriott Hotel at the Detroit Renaissance Center, home of the General Motors World Headquarters. Galen Fisher and Johannes Schwank of the University of Michigan are chairing the meeting. Approximately 1000 abstracts

Clubs & Societies News

have been submitted for the oral presentations and poster sessions. Committees are working to coordinate the fundraising and technical sessions. **The deadline for early registration is in April, 2011.**

Organic Reactions Catalysis Society

The Organic Reactions Catalysis Society is currently soliciting nominations for the 2011 Paul N. Rylander Award. This annual award is sponsored by ORCS in order to recognize an individual who has made significant contributions to the use of catalysis in organic reactions. Nominations may be sent to the ORCS Chair, Dr. John Holladay, at chair@orcs.org.

Also, don't forget to mark your calendars for the upcoming 24th ORCS Conference to be held April 15-19, 2012 in Annapolis, MD.

Southeastern Catalysis Society

Ninth Annual Symposium

The Southeastern Catalysis Society held its Annual Symposium at the Crowne Plaza Resort in Asheville, NC on September 26-27, 2010. The meeting began on Sunday afternoon with the SECS-Eastman poster session featuring 13 contributed posters followed by dinner and lecture. This year the after-dinner lecture was by Dr. Jeff Miller, currently Heterogeneous Catalysis

Group Leader at Argonne National Laboratory, who is the recipient of the 2010 F.G. Ciapetta Lectureship in Catalysis Award sponsored by the Grace Davison operating segment of W.R. Grace & Co. and The North American Catalysis Society. The title of his lecture was "X-Ray Spectroscopy in Catalysis Research: Application to Au Catalysts". Cash awards, sponsored by Eastman Chemical Company, were presented at the dinner for the top two student poster presentations. The first place winner was Matthew Ide, Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Virginia for his poster on "Selective Hydrogenation of α,β -Unsaturated Ketones and Aldehydes over Supported Ru, Pt, Pd, and Au Catalysts". Ide is advised by Prof. Robert J. Davis. A second prize award was given to John Copeland, School of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology for his presentation entitled "Interactions Between Biomass Molecules and Metal Oxide Catalysts". The presentation was co-authored with his advisor Assistant Professor Carsten Sievers. On Monday, September 27, the Symposium continued with 17 oral presentations as well as a brief

ASTM D32 membership introduction by Dr. Martin A Thomas from Quantachrome Instruments during lunch break. The oral presentations included international speakers from Chiba University, Japan, U. Poitiers, France and a Swedish student (Chalmers University of Technology) currently working in Oak Ridge National Lab. This year there were about 50 attendees (of which 18 were students) from eleven Universities, three national labs and five commercial labs and suppliers. The SECS acknowledges generous support of the Symposium from Eastman Chemical, Savannah River National Laboratory, Altamira, Cilas Particle, Micromeritics and Quantachrome.

In addition, we are working with NACS for this year's Student Travel Grant, allowing the Society to award many of the graduate student presenters.

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Venue: The University of Glasgow

It is the second oldest university in Scotland and the fourth oldest in the UK. Glasgow students walk in the footsteps of scientist Lord Kelvin, economist Adam Smith and pioneer of television John Logie Baird, among many others.

Founded in the fifteenth century, the University operated from Glasgow Cathedral during its fledgling years. Over the next 400 years it expanded in scope and size and was a centre of both the Industrial Revolution and the Scottish Enlightenment. The University relocated to its present home in the West End of the city in 1870.

The University has more than 6,000 staff, including 2,500 researchers, more than 15,000 undergraduate students, 4,900 postgraduate students and around 5,000 adult learners. It has been voted as having the best campus in Scotland and is a founder member of Universitas 21.

Accommodation

There are over 17,000 rooms in the Metropolitan Glasgow area. All are within easy reach of the conference venue. Choose from international 5 star resorts, attractive boutique style properties or budget and university accommodation.

Social Programme

An exciting programme is being planned. The conference will open in style with a welcome reception. This event is free to all delegates. Day tours can include visits to Stirling Castle, Loch Lomond and Edinburgh, as well as a city tour of Glasgow, featuring the Burrell Collection. A pre or post-congress tour can visit the Highlands and the Isle of Skye, taking in Loch Lomond, Glencoe, Loch Ness, the Spey Valley, distilleries.

Website

www.europacat.co.uk

KEY DATES

- Call for abstracts - 1st Nov 2010
- Deadline for submission - 28th Feb 2011
- Notification of Acceptance - 30th April 2011
- Registration Opens - 1st Jan 2011
- Conference - 28th August – 2nd Sept 2011

CONGRESS THEME

“Catalysis – Across the disciplines”

- Biocatalysis
- Chemical Engineering
- Homogeneous Catalysis
- Heterogeneous Catalysis
- Surface Science

GLASGOW

- Glasgow: Scotland’s cultural and shopping capital
- Access: Three international airports with direct flights from Europe, Middle East and North America
- Compact city: Easy to get around with a comprehensive public transport network
- Taste of Scotland: Over 800 restaurants and bars
- Gateway to Scotland: The Highlands, golf, distilleries and Loch Lomond, all within 35 minutes

THE CITY

At the heart of Scotland, Glasgow is undoubtedly one of Europe’s most dynamic cities: steeped in culture, rich in history, with its elegant streets, squares, parks and gardens. Glasgow has the finest civic arts collection in the UK, including the works of Botticelli, Degas, Van Gogh and Rembrandt to whet your appetite. All 27 museums are free. Glasgow, the first UK city to be a Cultural Capital of Europe, is home to Scottish Opera, Scottish Ballet and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.