

SEAC *communications*

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President's Message

Moving Forward—Thanks to Ex-Prez Steve Weber, and the Recruiting Campaign

Greetings from Ann Arbor!! Fall begins, classes resume, and the entire world attempts to deal with the tragedy of the recent terrorist attacks, so it is difficult to concentrate on anything other than trying to explain how such horrendous acts could possibly take place in the U.S. While the victims and their families will always be in our thoughts and prayers, we must begin to move forward with our lives and work, as difficult as that may be. One of the most exciting elements of our profession is to attend scientific meetings around the world to disseminate our latest results and learn about the research of others. I dare say that traveling to such meetings will now be more difficult than ever, due to both heightened security and anxiety!

During the recent summer months, Steve Weber, our now ex-El-Prez, passed the leadership baton of SEAC to me. The success of any organization depends on able leadership, and our society is no exception. Steve's enthusiasm, dedication, and attention to detail in leading SEAC over the past two years will indeed be a tough act to follow. Steve was particularly effective in dealing with the Society of Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh, our host for the yearly SEAC meeting. So on behalf of all SEAC members, I extend to Steve our sincere thanks and appreciation for doing such an outstanding job during his term as our president. Our society is stronger today because of his leadership.

SEAC's main event each year is our Awards Symposium at the Pittsburgh Conference. It was great seeing so many of you last March in New Orleans. The attendance was excellent and it was a real honor for me to organize the session that recognized the outstanding research contributions to our discipline by Richard Buck (Reilley Awardee) and Eric Bakker (Young Investigator Award). It was unusual that neither awardee displayed even a single cyclic voltammogram during his lecture!!! I guess we all know that you can't plot $I-E$ curves when you only measure potential, and both Dick and Eric clearly demonstrated that there is still plenty of "potential" left for research in the area of membrane electrodes!

The coming year's Awards Symposium promises to be equally enlightening, with the Reilley Award to be presented to Christian Amatore, École Normale Supérieure (ÉNS), Paris, and the Young Investigator Award to Andy Hillier, University of Virginia. Congratulations to both awardees! All SEACers should immediately mark 20 March 2002 on your calendars and plan to attend this event, along with the annual society mixer that will likely take place the evening prior to the session. More information of these events will be forthcoming in the January/February newsletter!

The key to our future success as an organization is expanding our membership base. In his presidential message in last January's issue of this Newsletter, Steve Weber invoked the name of Carly Simon in pleading for "part-tis-i-pa-a-shun" in our society. Membership is becoming even more critical. Unfortunately, the number of active members is shrinking at a time when electrochemistry is expanding rapidly into new frontiers, including new electrode materials for fuel cells, micro-imaging with electrochemiluminescence, electrochemical-based portable instruments for measuring lead and many other species in blood, etc. I ask that each current SEAC member make it a goal to recruit at least one new member during the current academic year. Membership has its privileges, and this Newsletter is just one example of the benefits of participating in our society. The Society has made it easy to join online, with membership applications and fee payment available through the SEAC website (a special thanks to Sam Kounaves for helping make this on-line payment a reality!!). Also, as has been our custom in recent years, all new student members who are sponsored by a current SEAC member receive complimentary membership for the first year! So tell a student, colleague or friend to join SEAC and begin to experience the collegiality that electroanalytical chemists can offer through association with our society.

With best wishes to all for a productive autumn period,

Mark E. Meyerhoff

Editorial

With this issue, I will close out five years as Your Editor. It is time for a new Editor of *SEAC Communications*—one with new ideas, new goals, and who has different links throughout our diverse community of electroanalytical chemists, bioanalytical chemists, physical electrochemists, materials scientists, *u.s.w.* So that we may keep Dick Durst's eight-year tenure as SEAC Newsletter Editor gloriously intact, my last issue as Your Editor will be the pre-Pittcon issue of late January/early February 2002.

I will wax nostalgic (probably not!) in my Jan/Feb editorial, but in the meantime: **Last Call!!!** Send me those tidbits, observations, irreproducible phenomena, and photographs of "Electrochemists-in-Action" for my final issue... or take your chances with Your New Editor!

Cheers,

Debra Rolison

A Surfin' SEAC update from SEAC's Webmeister

On-line dues payment!!!

On September 14th, SEAC membership applications and dues payments became easier than ever with the inauguration of our on-line credit card payment system. The first SEACer to convert her electrons to membership on that date was Charlene Crawley at Virginia Commonwealth University. During the past two months, with only one announcement of the availability of the

system, we have had over 35 members join or renew their 2002 membership.

Now, the plan is to leverage this ease of joining SEAC and initiate a membership drive during the coming year that will help grow SEAC and make it more valuable to all members. Currently, regular one-year membership dues for 2002 are \$15, student dues are \$7.50 and the lifetime membership option for North American based members is for \$250. To become a new member of SEAC or to renew your membership, you may now either print out the application and remit your dues via snail-mail, or apply and pay on-line using Mastercard, VISA, or American Express at: <http://seac.tufts.edu/membership.html>

For months, rumors have run rampant through SEAC that this amazingly low price of membership will be increasing in the coming year. But for now you can still take advantage of these lower dues and make a commitment to supporting the only professional society that is solely dedicated to promoting electro-analytical science and technology.

In the coming year the SEAC Board of Directors and officers will be seeking ways to make SEAC even more valuable to all members. We ask all who are interested in seeing SEAC grow to provide us with feedback and suggestions as to what additional membership benefits and services you would like to see SEAC institute. You can do this by sending an email to any director or officer (see the listing at the end of this issue), through our feedback form at:

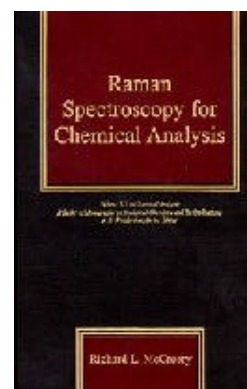
<http://ase.tufts.edu/chem/seac/feedback.html>, or directly to me at samuel.kounaves@tufts.edu

Sam Kounaves

—New Book Alert!—

Professor Rick McCreery's new book, *Raman Spectroscopy for Chemical Analysis*, which is Volume 157 in Wiley-Interscience's Series on Chemical Analysis, recently claimed the honor of Book of the Week from ChemWeb <http://www.chemweb.com/>. McCreery's book details the history, fundamentals, and applications of the Raman effect. To read the book review <http://www.chemweb.com/alchem/articles/991146527640.html>, login with an account at ChemWeb.

—more on Rick at <http://www.chemistry.ohio-state.edu/~rmccreer/Raman.html> —



—Recent Honors to SEAC Members—

—Kudos to Former SEAC El Prez and Reilley Awardee, Royce Murray—

RECIPIENT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA AWARD FOR SCIENCE

At an Awards dinner in Raleigh on 5 November 2001 hosted by the Governor and First Lady of North Carolina, **Royce W. Murray**, Kenan Professor of Chemistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was honored with the North Carolina Award for Science. Royce was cited for his work as an outstanding educator, editor, and scholar. In particular, he was cited for his development of new concepts and chemical materials for exploiting surface molecular design, invention of new ways to study and observe electrochemical reaction in novel environments, and his service as Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Analytical Chemistry* since 1991.



A short video presentation shown at the Awards banquet captured Murray in situ at Chapel Hill and highlighted his dedication to research and to his students and research associates. Negotiations are underway to upload the video to the SEAC website for the delight of surfing electrochemists everywhere.

—see <http://artsandsci.unc.edu/news/news.xml?id=1948> for more on Royce's recent honors and awards, including a Festschrift in honor of his 65th birthday (the 20 September 2001 issue of *The Journal of Physical Chemistry B*), and <http://seac.tufts.edu/Murray.html> or *SEAC Communications*, 1989, 7(4) for Royce's Reilley Musings—

—Kudos to Bill Heineman, Your Editor, and Mark Wightman—

ELECTED FELLOWS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE



William R. Heineman, Distinguished Research Professor of Chemistry at the University of Cincinnati, **Debra R. Rolison**, Head of the Advanced Electrochemical Materials Section at the Naval Research Laboratory, and **R. Mark Wightman**, Kenan Professor of Chemistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, were elected in September 2001 as Fellows of the AAAS.

Bill Heineman (left, hard at work) is being recognized for “studies of analytical chemistry, including spectroelectrochemistry, bioelectrochemistry, development of radiopharmaceuticals, immunoassay by electrochemical techniques, polymer modified electrodes, and chemical sensors.” Your Editor (center, also hard at work) is being honored for her “distinguished contributions to understanding electrochemical behavior of nanomaterials and for vigorous leadership in advancing women in the

chemical sciences.” [Note: Your Editor treasures that “vigorous.”] Mark Wightman (right, goofing off) can't quite remember what his letter from AAAS Executive Director Richard Nicholson said (... yes, the electrochemical Nicholson), because he accidentally threw it away. We are sure it must have said something about his outstanding contributions to the development of microelectrodes and for his exploration of chemistry in microenvironments.

The AAAS acknowledges the distinguished scientific contributions of the new Fellows with a certificate and blue and gold rosette pin to be presented during the AAAS Fellows Forum on 16 February 2002 as part of the Association's Annual Meeting [14–19 February 2002 in Boston].

—More about Bill at: http://www.che.uc.edu/fac_staff/heineman.html and Mark at: <http://www.chem.unc.edu/faculty/wightmanrm/rmwindex.html> —

SEAC on the Move!

—Bob Rodgers writes [Sun, 16 Sep 2001 08:27 -0400]—

Debra—I have taken a position at GAMRY Instruments, working with fellow SEAC-er (SEAC-ite?) and past-Director Pete Peterson (also ex-PAR)! Although Gamry has been known mainly as a corrosion-electrochemistry company in the past, they have recently introduced software for CV, chronoamperometry, chronocoulometry, and chronopotentiometry with an Electroanalytical bent. So, there is yet one more contact address/email for me. I'll be keeping the ConsultRSR email and website active, although the website will not offer contract services—but the Resources section will remain.

Bob

[brodgers\(at\)GAMRY.com](mailto:brodgers(at)GAMRY.com)
[bob.rodgers\(at\)ConsultRSR.com](mailto:bob.rodgers(at)ConsultRSR.com) <http://www.ConsultRSR.com>

—Susan Hendrickson writes [Tue, 30 Oct 2001 15:29 -0500]—

Hi, Debra—Since my big move back to Raleigh in May, I've been working very hard as evidenced by the included photo. The **Feldheim** group was nice enough to include me in their solar chemistry experiments last summer (below). Unfortunately these experiments have been suspended until next spring.



In my short time at North Carolina State, I have discovered that managing classes of 200 is quite a task. Email has made communicating personally with the professor so easy that each and every one of them emails me for their every need. It's nice to be needed but this is a little overwhelming. Truthfully, it is much more like teaching at Davidson than I expected. My students say, "Hello" when

they see me at the gym or walking across campus. The only difference is that I recognize their faces but don't usually have a name to go with it. Also, I have a few "groupies", the few who come to get help or just visit almost every day.

All in all it has been a great move. Raleigh is a terrific town to live in and I don't miss the drive back and forth to Davidson.

Susan

PS: Otis wanted to say, "Hello" ("Woof") to all of his electrochemistry buddies too. He welcomes you back to our house anytime.

[hendrick\(at\)chemdept.chem.ncsu.edu](mailto:hendrick(at)chemdept.chem.ncsu.edu)

—John-Bruce Green writes [Thu, 1 Nov 2001 23:39 -0600]—



Hello all—I have recently departed from the warm and humid climes of Southern Illinois University, and come to a cold and dry winterland at the University of Alberta, where in mid-October we have received 5" of snow and my car doors have already frozen shut! Well, at least it's a dry cold, and there are three full bars on campus.

As the new guy in charge of analytical chemistry seminars, I can assure you that if you come up in the cold of winter, you can expect a bucket of beer at the end of your rainbow and a blank check at the bar.

See you at Pittcon!

John

[john.green\(at\)ualberta.ca](mailto:john.green(at)ualberta.ca)

—Frank Zamborini writes [Tue, 13 Nov 2001 15:56 -0500]—

Hey Debra—Thank you for the email. Things are going very well in Louisville. My family and I are enjoying the city and the job is great. I spend my time teaching Advanced Analytical Chemistry, serving on a search committee for an endowed chair in Nanotechnology, and serving as guest editor for a special issue of *Analytica Chimica Acta* dedicated to young North American Analytical faculty. I am working on this special issue with **Rick Baldwin**, who is also a professor here and SEAC's membership chairman. I am also setting up my lab, searching for a postdoc, and, of course, writing proposals. The people in the Chemistry Department are extremely nice and the University of Louisville has been very supportive.

Away from work I watch the Green Bay Packers on Sundays and spend time with my wife Erin and daughter Isabella. I have attached a picture displaying my devotion to the Packers and also a picture of my family and me after carving pumpkins on Halloween. I would have come up with funnier pictures, but since Rick Baldwin forces me to run 6 miles every Saturday morning with a group of people, I am pretty much shot for the rest of the weekend after that. I didn't realize that was part of the deal when I agreed to come here. Ha ha!



Frank

[f.zamborini\(at\)louisville.edu](mailto:f.zamborini(at)louisville.edu)

—Submission of Award Nominations—

SEAC established and administers the Charles N. Reilley Memorial Award and The Young Investigator Award. In conjunction with the presentation of these awards, SEAC arranges an Award Symposium and an informal reception in honor of the Awardees at the Pittsburgh Conference. In this way, SEAC serves as the focal point for analytical chemists who wish to exchange ideas about electroanalytical chemistry at the conference.

Charles N. Reilley Award

The Charles N. Reilley Memorial Award, sponsored by Bioanalytical Systems, Inc., recognizes an active researcher who has made a major contribution to the theory, instrumentation, or applications of electroanalysis. Nominations for the Reilley Award should include a letter of nomination describing the individual's significant contributions to electroanalytical chemistry, at least two seconding letters of support, and curriculum vitae for the individual. All nomination materials will be retained by SEAC. Once nominated, any individual will be considered for three years, but submission of any additional supporting information or a renomination is welcome. **The decision for the 2003 Reilley Award will be based upon the material that is available to the Award Committee by 1 March 2002.**

Young Investigator Award

The Young Investigator Award, sponsored by Cypress Systems, recognizes accomplishments by a researcher in the early stages of her or his career. Nominees must be within seven years of obtaining their Ph.D. or other terminal degree at the time of nomination. Any member of SEAC may submit a nomination. Nominations should include a letter describing the individual's promise in the area of electroanalytical chemistry, at least one seconding letter of support, and curriculum vitae for the individual. All nomination materials will be retained by SEAC. Candidates for the YI Award must be renominated each year during their year of eligibility. **The decision for the 2003 Award will be based upon the material that is available to the Award Committee on the 1st of March 2002.**

Requests for further information or submissions of nominations should be directed to:

Professor Richard M. Crooks

SEAC Awards Committee
Department of Chemistry; P. O. Box 30012
Texas A&M University
College Station TX 77842-3012

Tel: 979-845-5629

Fax: 979-845-1399

Email: [crooks\(at\)tamu.edu](mailto:crooks(at)tamu.edu)

—Reminders to SEAC Members—

—Reminders to the Surfin' SEAC non-members—*Join us!*

... and when you do, you now have two options:

(1) print out a SEAC membership form <http://seac.tufts.edu/membership.html> and then send all NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS and INITIAL DUES PAYMENTS to SEAC's Membership Chairman, **Rick Baldwin** [rick.baldwin\(at\)louisville.edu](mailto:rick.baldwin(at)louisville.edu) at:

Professor Richard Baldwin
Department of Chemistry
2320 South Brook Street
University of Louisville
Louisville KY 40292
USA.

— or —

(2) APPLY AND PAY YOUR DUES DIRECTLY ON-LINE: <http://seac.tufts.edu/membership.html>

Plan your attendance accordingly!!

**GRC on Electrochemistry
Ventura, CA
20–25 January 2002**

Chair: Henry S. White ([white\(at\)chemistry.utah.edu](mailto:white(at)chemistry.utah.edu))
Vice-Chair: Mark Spittler ([mark_spittler/QET\(at\)SupercriticalCombustion.com](mailto:mark_spittler/QET(at)SupercriticalCombustion.com))

Sunday, 20 January — NANOSTRUCTURES AND ELECTRON TRANSFER

Sun p.m. Discussion Leader: **Stephen W. Feldberg** [Brookhaven National Laboratory]
7:30–8:30p **Jim K. Gimzewski** [UCLA]—NANOARCHITECTONICS of nano- and micro-systems
8:30–9:30p **Christopher E. D. Chidsey** [Stanford University]
What electrochemistry can tell us about long-distance electron tunneling and a possible molecular electronics

Monday, 21 January — MACHINES AND NANOSTRUTURE; STM AND QUANTUM WIRES

Mon a.m. Discussion Leader: **Mary Elizabeth Williams** [Penn State University]
9:00–9:50a **C. J. Kim** [UCLA]—Micromechanical machines driven by electrochemistry
9:50–10:40a Coffee Break/Poster Session I
10:40–11:00a Photo Op
11:00–11:45a **Chad A. Mirkin** [Northwestern University]
Dip-pen nanolithography towards combinatorial nanotechnology
11:45a–12:30p **Shaowei Chen** [Southern Illinois University]
Nanoparticle assemblies: Ion-induced rectification of single electron transfers
5:00–6:00p Social Hour/Poster Session I
Mon p.m. Discussion Leader: **Michael J. Weaver** [Purdue University]
7:30–8:30p **Nongian Tao** [Arizona State University]—Electrochemistry of metallic quantum wires
8:30–9:30p **Kerry W. Hipps** [Washington State University]
STM and spectroscopy of electroactive molecules: oxidation and reduction in UHV and the connection with solution phase electrochemistry

Tuesday, 22 January — PHOTONS AND CHIRAL SURFACES;

Tue a.m. Discussion Leader: **Héctor D. Abruña** [Cornell University]
9:00–9:50a **Gary A. Attard** [Cardiff University]
Electrochemical reactions at chiral platinum and platinum alloy electrodes
9:50–10:50a Coffee Break/Poster Session II
10:50–11:40a **Jerome Lenhard** [Kodak, Inc.]
Redox chemistry of dyes for one- and two-electron sensitization of silver halide
11:40a–12:30p **James L. Wilbur** [Meso-Scale Discovery, Inc.]
New detection technologies based on electrochemiluminescence

5:00–6:00p Social Hour/Poster Session II

Tuesday, 22 January — PLANETARY SCIENCE, MAGNETIC FIELDS, AND PACEMAKERS

- Tue p.m. Discussion Leader: **Lawrence Bottomly** [Georgia Institute of Technology]
7:30–8:10p **Sam Kounaves** [Tufts University]
Electrochemical analysis at the frontiers of planetary science
8:10–8:50p **Johna Leddy** [University of Iowa]—The spin on magnetic fields and electron transfer
8:50–9:30p **John Norton** [Medtronic, Inc.]—Electrochemistry in life-sustaining medical devices

Wednesday, 23 January — ELECTROCHEMICAL PROBES AT SMALL LENGTH SCALES

- Wed a.m. Discussion Leader: **David Wiph** [Mississippi State University]
9:00–9:50a **Julie Macpherson** [University of Warwick]
High resolution electrochemical imaging with combined SECM-AFM
9:50–10:50a Coffee Break/Poster Session III
10:50–11:40a **Andy Hillier** [University of Virginia]
Using scanning electrochemistry and in-situ mass spectrometry to measure electrocatalytic activity on a local scale
11:40a–12:30p **Douglas Wall** (Sandia National Laboratory)
The study of small length-scale corrosion processes using micro-electrodes
5:00–6:00p Social Hour/Poster Session III
7:30–9:30p **OPEN SESSION**—Discussion Leader: Mark Spittler [ChemMotif, Inc.]

Thursday, 24 January — ORGANIC AND INORGANIC ELECTROCHEMISTRY

- Thu a.m. Discussion Leader: **Diane Smith** [San Diego State University]
9:00–9:50a **Dennis Evans** (University of Delaware)
Electrochemical studies of electron transfer to, from, and within organic molecules
9:50–10:50a Coffee Break/Poster Session IV
10:50–11:40a **Mark S. Workentin** (The University of Western Ontario)
Mechanistic aspects of reactions initiated by a dissociative electron transfer to peroxides and endoperoxides
11:40a–12:30p **Christian Amatore** (École Normale Supérieure)
Palladium catalysis: Are "well known" mechanisms so well known?
5:00–6:00p Social Hour/Poster Session IV
7:30–9:30p **INTERFACIAL FIELDS AND STRUCTURE**
Discussion Leader: **Keith J. Stevenson** (U. Texas–Austin)
7:30–8:30p **T. Kyle Vanderlick** (Princeton University)
Direct force measurements of double-layer forces over large potential ranges
8:30–9:30p **Jeanne E. Pemberton** (University of Arizona)
Studies of emersed electrochemical interfaces: What goes in comes out!
10:00p–6:00a WETS PARTY!!!!

—*For further information and to register, check out:*
<http://www.grc.uri.edu/programs/2001/elechem.htm> —

Plan your attendance accordingly! Part Deux!!

European Society for ElectroAnalytical Chemistry
Society for Electroanalytical Chemistry
University of Mining and Metallurgy at Cracow

ESEAC 2002—9th International Conference on Electroanalysis

9–13 June 2002, Cracow, Poland

Supported by: University of Mining and Metallurgy at Cracow, Committee of Analytical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Kosciuszko Foundation, International Society of Electrochemistry

The previous conferences in this series were held in Dublin (1986), Turku (1988), Gijon (1990), Noordwijkerhout (1992), Venice (1994), Durham (1996), Coimbra (1998) and Bonn (2000).

International Scientific Committee

- A. Lewenstam (Finland/Poland), Co-chair
- Z. Stojek (Poland), Co-chair
- P. N. Bartlett (UK)
- S. Daniele (Italy)
- H. Emons (Germany)
- A. Ivaska (Finland)
- K. N. Mikhelson (Russia)
- M. Smyth (Ireland)
- P. Tunon-Blanco (Spain)
- J. Wang (USA)

Local Organizing Committee

- ◆ J. Golas, (Cracow), Chairman
- ◆ J. M. Banas, (Cracow)
- ◆ A. Bobrowski, (Cracow)
- ◆ Z. Brzozka, (Warsaw)
- ◆ J. Gorecki, (Cracow)
- ◆ M. Jaskula, (Cracow)
- ◆ P. Koscielniak, (Cracow)
- ◆ A. Kowal, (Cracow)
- ◆ W. Kubiak, (Cracow)
- ◆ Z. Lukaszewski, (Poznan)
- ◆ M. Macherzynski, (Cracow)
- ◆ A. Parczewski, (Cracow)
- ◆ G. Sieminska, Conference Office

Scientific program

The meeting will address all aspects of modern electroanalysis. New developments in the methodology and the theory of potentiometry, voltammetry, amperometry, coulometry and conductometry, as well as innovative applications in clinical, environmental, pharmaceutical and industrial analysis will be covered. Papers reporting on the combination of electroanalytical detection with other analytical methods are also welcome.

The following colleagues have already agreed to present plenary lectures:

- ◆ Prof. Johan Bobacka (Finland)
- ◆ Prof. Ernö Pretsch (Switzerland)
- ◆ Prof. Andrzej Wieckowski (USA)
- ◆ Prof. Richard Compton (UK)
- ◆ Prof. Marek Trojanowicz (Poland)

Contact and Info:

Ms Grazyna Sieminska, Conference Office, International School of Technology, University of Mining and Metallurgy, Al. Mickiewicza 30, 30-059 Cracow, Poland

E-mail: eseac@uci.agh.edu.pl

Phone: +(48 12) 617 33 34, phone/fax: +(48 12) 617 25 34

Conference web page: <http://www.agh.edu.pl/eseac>

—New Band Alert!—dbiWiDE!!!

Returning to his (not yet bleached-blond) roots, **Charles** (a.k.a. “Chuck”, a.k.a. “The Colonel”, a.k.a. “Endless Summer”) **Martin**, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Florida and Director of the Center for Research at the Bio/Nano Interface, has gone full-bore rockabilly with dbiWiDE. The Gainesville-based band (right) blends



The Colonel's love of early rock 'n' roll and country music and showcases many songs written by Prof. Martin himself (left, honing his retro look). Adding information not known to many in SEAC, the press stories on dbiWiDE reveal that The Colonel was born Bill Monroe Martin in the tiny hamlet of California, Kentucky the year that Hank Williams died; due to his penchant for trouble, the Colonel was caught in the cross-fire at Kent State University and spent the next 20 years in a vegetative state in Longview State Mental Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio. [Editor's note: this fact may explain the Texas and Colorado years...] Martin, no fool he, doesn't lead with his day job as chemist: “I don't like to tell people that initially,” he states



somewhat sheepishly, “I like them to see the band first.”

—check out dbiWiDE's music and upcoming gigs, at <http://www.dblwide.com/> and read more about the band at <http://www.dblwide.com/press.html> , which includes eight press clippings, parts of some of which may even be real, none of which trumpet his *Loser-Electrochemist* status... —

—Hot off the Presses (not!) ... A SEAC Exclusive Report: Murray into the Millennium!!!—

—A Celebration of Royce Murray's 40 Years (And Counting!) at the University of North Carolina—

In October 2000, a wonderful celebration was held in Chapel Hill, North Carolina to honor **Royce Murray's** 40th anniversary at UNC. The event centered on a two-day program that began with a reception and poster session on a crisp, fall Friday evening and ended with an amusing and enjoyable dinner at the Carolina Inn on Saturday night. It was a time for many former student and postdoctoral fellow colleagues, as well as UNC colleagues of Royce, to reminisce about “the good old days” at North Carolina, while also paying homage to Royce's career in chemistry. It was an unforgettable event, thanks in part to all of the efforts of the organizing committee; in particular, the celebration would not have been possible without the hard work and advice of **Debbie**

Norton, Megan Austin, and Mirtha Umaña-Murray.

As far as facts and figures go, “Murrayfest” had nearly 30 poster presentations during Friday evening at the Carolina Inn. In addition, over 100 people came to a splendid Saturday-night dinner that had a great amount of entertainment value, as we will soon see.

The high point of the two-day program (at least for those of us who did not visit *He's Not Here* and *The Cave* on Friday night), was a symposium on the UNC campus in the very same building where Royce got his start as an instructor in 1960—Venable Hall. Some 40 years later, Royce, as Kenan Professor of Chemistry, was honored by presentations from a group of his former student and postdoctoral

colleagues. Those giving talks included **Bill Heineman**, **Mark (“R-dot”) Wightman**, **Mike Elliott**, **Debra Rolison**, **Héctor Abuña**, **Cindy Lundgren**, **Steve Creager**, **John McDevitt**, **Robin McCarley**, **Radha Pyati**, and **Mary Beth Williams**. Topics covered by the “Murrayites” ranged from macromolecular redox species to the “electronic tongue”, with the latter topic having received previous exposure (so to speak) on *The Tonight Show*.

Besides the excitement of Mike Elliott’s talk on redox-polymers (see Henry White thoroughly enjoying himself (below, right) during Mike’s talk—to **Frank Zamborini**’s amusement), Mark Wightman demonstrated why he is so good at ad-libbing in the research arena—not one but two slide projectors were broken by Robin McCarley and **Joe Templeton** in an attempt to sabotage Mark’s presentation. Mark, as expected, did not flinch, but gave an excellent talk on his recent work on ultra-fast voltammetry of neurotransmitters.



During the talks, we all got to see some very interesting photos of Royce and his group members over the years. In fact, little known to us, Royce had done a stand-in for a commercial product often times seen on late-night TV, namely, a “Chia Head” product that promotes organic hair growth on the cranium of humans.

Royce followed up the talks by his academic offspring with a presentation that clearly demonstrates why Royce is who he is today, both as a scientist and mentor. His thanks to all of us—students, postdoctoral fellows and scientific collaborators—were heartfelt, genuine, and kind. In addition, Royce reminded us that this celebration was commemorating the beginning of a new decade in his life at UNC,

not the end of 40 years in “the Southern Part of Heaven.”

The scientific program concluded with an awards ceremony for Royce, which culminated



with the presentation of a new official Murray Group Shirt by **Pete Wuelfing** (above, left).



The two-day event was topped off by a dinner not often times enjoyed by the current Murray group members (above)—or former! (below, L-to-R: Mary Beth Williams, Henry White, and Your Editor).



A great selection of food and wine (Chilean wine is wonderful!) was enjoyed by all, after which an entertaining dessert course was presented by the curators of the Carolina Inn and Professor Joe Templeton. Of course, those of you who were a Murray graduate student recall the many fine times spent in Joe's "Mechanisms" class, which Royce required his students to take.



As the official emcee for the "roasting of Royce," Joe did his best to be careful not to offend Royce or any of the attendees. However, he failed—much to the enjoyment of the audience. From Royce's early life in Alabama to his current position at UNC, Joe regaled us with a hilarious account of Royce's development into a top-flight academician. Particularly interesting was Joe's rationale as to why Royce and the current chancellor of UNC were successful administrators—they both had "taken a drink" at various points in their lives. As a result, Joe joined in and took a drink himself (above). Note that **Jim Jorgenson** (seated, far left) was confused by Joe's action, for Jim had supposedly never heard of drinking alcoholic beverages as a child in Wisconsin. Tito Abruña followed up with a foray into the past of several Murray group members. In addition, Tito expressed everyone's thanks to Royce for his many years of service to the electrochemical community.

Finally, presentations to Royce and his wife, Mirtha, were made by Robin McCarley. Royce was given a plaque commemorating his work at UNC, as well as a well-deserved commendation from the governor of North Carolina. Of course, behind every great person stands an even greater individual, and in this case, it is Mirtha. A rose bush from *Witherspoon Rose Culture*, and the labor for its planting (NOT provided by Royce!), was given to Mirtha in appreciation for her hard work associated with "Murrayfest."



Robin (L) and Tracy McCarley flanking Royce during the celebration and dinner at the Carolina Inn (along for the festivities is Nathan, at ca. five months, who also enjoyed Carolina cooking courtesy of mom-to-be Tracy).

In closing, the two-day celebration in Chapel Hill could not have been a more fitting demonstration of the honor of being among the "Murrayites." The authors wish to thank all of those who contributed to this event, including **Charles Goss** and **Jocelyn Hicks**. In addition, financial support from UNC and the journal *Analytical Chemistry* are gratefully acknowledged.

Robin McCarley
Mary Beth Williams

—From the (E-)Mailbag—

In message Fri, 20 Jul 2001 16:40:50 -0500,
Robert Ensman writes:

Debra—Just a note, FYI, concerning the SENSORS publication announcement in the Spring issue of *SEAC Communications*. There may be some confusion between the European SENSORS publication and the USA publication also titled SENSORS—The Journal of Applied Sensing Technology [published by ADVANSTAR Communications Inc., One Phoenix Mill Lane, Suite 401, Peterborough, NH 03458]. This is an instrumentation-focused magazine that does not usually feature electro/bio chemical sensors—except as a manufactured product ready for installation. I have been getting this magazine for many years (this year is numbered Vol. 18) free of charge with a professional qualification.

Thanks and I do appreciate the extraordinary effort and quality of the SEAC Newsletter. See you in New Orleans 2002! Bob
Ensman Instrumentation

[rensman\(at\)indiana.edu](mailto:rensman(at)indiana.edu)

In message Mon, 17 Sep 2001 10:16 -0400,
Carolyn Ribes writes:

RE: ON-LINE payment of dues!!

This is much appreciated! Thanks to all who made it possible.

Carolyn
Dow Chemical
Freeport Texas
[cribes\(at\)dow.com](mailto:cribes(at)dow.com)

In message Tue, 16 Oct 2001 22:35 -0400,
Charlene D. Crawley writes:

Sam—I'm writing to inform you of my success in finding an excellent candidate for the position that I posted with SEAC on 16 Sept 2001 for a postdoctoral scientist to work in my group here at Virginia Commonwealth University. For your information, I received 7 respondents from the webpage ad, three by mail and the remainder by email. Two are currently residing in the U.S. as Visiting Scientists and the remainder were from outside the U.S. The individual that I hired was an exceptional match for the position, and as an added bonus, had already acquired a green card. Thank you and SEAC for your help and

you may withdraw the ad from the website.

Charlene
Department of Chemistry
Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, VA 23284-2006
[cdcrawle\(at\)atlas.vcu.edu](mailto:cdcrawle(at)atlas.vcu.edu)

—**Larry Bottomley**, Professor Chemistry at Georgia Tech and a member of SEAC's Board of Directors, recently spent six months (Feb–Aug 2001) as Vice President of Research for Protiveris, Inc. Protiveris www.protiveris.com is a biotech startup in Rockville, MD that is developing microcantilever arrays as biosensors for application in medical diagnostics, panel testing, high throughput screening and drug discovery. Larry sends SEAC the following observations on which to muse—

In message Wed, 14 Nov 2001 10:50 -0500,
Larry Bottomley writes:

Debra—My tenure at Protiveris provided this life-long academician with a taste of the real world and some administrative experience. I learned more in my six months out in the real world than in the previous two years at Tech. It will forever change what and how I teach grad students.

First, academicians are too reliant on partial credit. More emphasis needs to be placed on getting the correct answer the first time. Because of a simple calculational error in the design phase, the company paid over \$50K to a subcontractor for fabrication of a component that cannot be used. In the post mortem that followed, I realized that had this been a problem on an exam, the "student" would have been awarded almost full credit for the effort. One wonders how many students get through degrees without ever having to work a problem out completely and correctly.

Second, most programs have very flexible deadlines (especially for grad students). My experience with a start-up firm suggests that these practices don't instill the sense of urgency, accuracy, and precision needed to succeed in the real world.

Larry
[lawrence.bottomley\(at\)chemistry.gatech.edu](mailto:lawrence.bottomley(at)chemistry.gatech.edu)

—**Larry suggests we say a prayer for his next batch of students, because they'll need all the help they can get!**—

**** OUR CONTINUING AND HIGHLY POPULAR SEAC FEATURE ****
— Name That Electrochemical Nerd ‡ !!



Pictured above is last issue's entrant in "*Name that Electrochemical Nerd.*" The mystery man was a great mystery indeed: he is none other than **Tito Abruña**, Emile M. Chamot Professor of Chemistry at Cornell University [and to read more about our latest EN, check out:

<http://www.chem.cornell.edu/department/Faculty/Abruna/abruna.html> .

— Tito wins! —

No one correctly guessed our Loser-Electrochemist du Jour. One SEAC Surfer, (now) wishing anonymity, even suggested that the EN was Dick Crooks...

So that SEAC experts can work on their electrochemical recognition skills, Tito sent in a more recent depiction of the Essence of Electrochemical Nerdiness.



—Pictured below is this issue's entrant in "Name that Electrochemical Nerd." Again, the first correct guess (as determined by directly contacting the pictured-herein EN—*this still ain't fine print, folks!*)—will win an autographed copy of the EN's latest reprint.



—...and please send in your candidates (and mystery photographs) for next issue's entrant in "Name That Electrochemical Nerd"!!—

‡ **a.k.a. "Loser-Electrochemist!", see SEAC Communications, 1998, 14(1).**

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