



Problem Solving: The Difference Between What We Do and What We Tell People We Do”

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Date: Tuesday September 19, 2000,
Time: 8:00p.m.
Place: Room L - 102
Library Building
Columbia Basin College
Pasco, WA.

Abstract: This talk examines the implications of research done at Purdue, which suggests that there is a fundamental difference between the process by which experts actually solve novel problems and the process they tell beginners to follow.

Speaker: George entered the State University of New York at Buffalo as a history/philosophy major. At SUNY he found, much to his amazement, that chemistry was fun, and he changed his major. After a mediocre career as an undergraduate (B.S., 1969), he entered graduate school at Indiana University (Ph.D., 1972), undoubtedly on the basis of letters of recommendation. He apparently did well enough in graduate school as a double major in inorganic and organic chemistry to gain an appointment as a visiting assistant professor at the University of Illinois (1972-75). Two things became self-evident during the tenure at Illinois. He found that teaching was fun and realized that his research could best be described as searching

for definitive answers to questions that no one ever asked. In 1977, an opening in chemical education was advertised at Purdue University. He applied for the position, and the faculty at the institution offered him the job. They have since compounded their error by promoting him to first associate professor and then professor of chemistry and education. He is the author of more than 80 papers and 28 books or laboratory manuals. He has been known to claim in public that his primary interest is epistemology. His interests also include the development of materials to assist undergraduate instruction, research on how students learn, and the history and philosophy of science.

Those who would like to have dinner at 6:30 PM at the Vineyards Steakhouse with Dr. Bodner at the Pasco Double Tree Hotel should contact Brian Rapko at Brian.Rapko@pnl.gov or at (509) 376-1571.

October Events

- ACS Meeting, Monday October 16, 2000; Dr Gary Comstock, “Football Chickens and Headless Mice: Ethical Issues in Genetic Engineering”; at La Grande, OR.
- Family Affair Saturday and Sunday, October 21-22, 2000.

November Events

- Social for 50 Year Members; Friday November 3, 2000.
- Election for Next Year’s Section Officers.
- ACS Meeting, Wednesday November 8, 2000; Dr. Robert Bates, “The Chemistry and Alchemy of Brewing.

Community Outreach - Family Affair

Mark your calendar for this year's Family Affair on 21-22 October. As usual, we will have a booth at the TRAC building, where we will be making putty, slime, etc. Perhaps you have some ideas for additions? If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please give Steve Krogrud a call at 372-2302.

Minority girls attend summer science camp

The Committee for Minority Affairs led by Beverly Crawford and Anna Cavinato obtained a \$500 grant from ACS to support two native-American children to attend a one-week summer science camp (July 31-August 4, 2000) at Eastern Oregon University. Thanks to John Cox of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the committee was able to identify Brittainey Spencer (left in the photo) and Molly Jim (right), both from Pendleton, OR. The camp provided an opportunity to participate on hands-on science activities in Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Geology.



Brittainey will be attending 8th grade this fall and wants to become a college science professor. She likes to "mix stuff", so chemistry was one of her favorite subjects during the camp. Molly will be attending 7th grade and would also like to pursue a career in science or, maybe, become a physician. Molly enjoys "building

stuff". Her favorite activity was to build a small battery-powered car.

The committee plans to continue fostering the interest that these children have in science by establishing a mentoring program that will guide them throughout their scholastic career and will involve them in section activities such as the celebrations for National Chemistry Week.

From the Chair

"...The advancement of chemistry in the broadest manner possible, the increase and dissemination of chemical knowledge, ...the stimulation of professional interests, and the fostering of public welfare and education of its members."

These are the objectives of our ACS section, as stated in the bylaws. The Richland section can certainly be proud of its efforts in achieving these objectives. Some of the activities which come to mind are the annual public outreach efforts during National Chemistry Week, which resulted in the section winning a Phoenix award in 1999, and the member social activities and speaker meetings.

This year we will be building on these successes. One effort to "Build value" for members recently resulted in the formation of a "Career Assistance" committee headed by former section chair Milton Campbell. Milt is looking forward to helping members with their career planning and job searches. Also, I am excited about the speakers and tours that are scheduled this year. I believe they will have wide appeal for the membership.

In the final analysis, the section will be what you, the membership, want. Help the Richland Section achieve its objectives.

Steve Krogrud
Chair

Nominations for Section Officers for 2001

It is time again to hold elections for next year's local section officers. Anna Cavinato is soliciting nominations for the various elected offices. Candidates are sought for chair-elect (3 year term – chair elect, chair, and immediate past chair); secretary (1 year term), and treasurer (1 year term). If you are interested or want to nominate a qualified candidate, please contact Anna Cavinato. To be a candidate the person has to be an active ACS member. Anna can be contacted by email: cavinato@eou.edu or call (541) 962-3561.

The Richland ACS Section Teams up for Building K-16 Connections

Though the efforts of Richland Section members, Karen Grant, Tim Hubler and Sam Bryan, the chemistry faculty at CBC, the Tri-Cities Sigma Xi Chapter, scientific staff at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, and the Richland Section of the ACS are undertaking a three year project to address the need for better critical-thinking and problem solving skills in high school and college chemistry students.

The participants to be served are regional high school teachers and 2yr/4yr college instructors. For additional information on the program and/or participation, contact Karen, Tim or Sam.

Neutron walked into to a bar and said: "How much for a drink?"
And the bartender said: "No charge!"

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Phone Number :

Upon confirmation of your paid membership, please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.

Q: Why did the white bear dissolve in water?
A: It was polar

Section News from the National ACS meeting

Dick Hermens informed us that at the National Meeting in Washington, D.C. the Richland Section received a certificate of achievement in the category of Greatest Community Involvement in support of National Chemistry Week – 1999. Dick mentioned that the poster Anna Cavinato prepared outlining all activities for National Chemistry Week 1999 was received with much interest by the crowd attending the event and that many took pictures of it.

The plaque is on display at Eastern for a few weeks and then it will be brought up to the Tri-Cities.

Call for Nominations for Regional Awards in High School Chemistry Teaching

Nominations are due November 15, 2000 for the Regional Award in High School Chemistry Teaching. For more information or a nomination form, contact Anna Cavinato by email: cavinato@eou.edu or call (541) 962-3561

Q: How many physical chemists does it take to change a light bulb?
A: Only one, but he will change it three times, plot a straight line through the data, and then extrapolate to zero concentration.

ACS Minigrant 2000 Program October 31,2000

The national ACS organization is providing funding for creative, innovative membership activities that go "above and beyond." This is an excellent opportunity for our section to receive a grant of up to \$2,000 to help try a new event or activity, or put a fresh spin on something that worked well in the past. If you have an idea that you would like to see the Richland Section pursue, please contact Steve Krogsrud at 372-2302.

Q: How many atoms are in a guacamole?

A: Avacado's number!

The September newsletter mailing is based on an updated mailing list from the ACS Headquarters and, to the extent possible, the latest MIN addresses. There were about 40 new names added and a similar number deleted. If we have inadvertently gotten the addresses wrong, please let David Lini know via the plant mail or e-mail linij@owt.com.

If you can receive the newsletter by e-mail or plant mail, there is a considerable savings to the Section.

RICHLAND SECTION HOME PAGE

<http://www.pnl.gov/acs/>



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Newsletter