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Chemistry Division News

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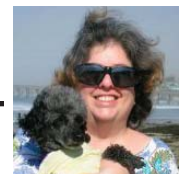
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Chemistry Division

Teri Vogel, Chair



The Chemistry Division is concerned with chemistry and chemical technology, and the economics, educational advances, and information handling of developments in the field of chemistry and related subjects.

I hope that your 2010 is off to a good start!

I'm delighted to be writing this column for the first online *SciTech News*. Thanks to James Manasco and the rest of the Sci-Tech News staff for making this happen.

We had our board meeting on February 4, with most of the DCHE board members able to join us on the conference call. The meeting opened with a welcome for our new board members: Bill Armstrong as 2010 Chair-Elect, and 2010-2011 Secretary Lee Pederson.

The hot topics were the upcoming conference, the SLA Alignment project, and our division's upcoming strategic plan. We also discussed two reports:

- A strategic planning report focusing on DCHE's fiscal future, which came out of a conference call Luray Minkiewicz, Bob Buchanan, Bill Armstrong and I had last fall. We reviewed our financial position as reflected in the recent membership and financial trends, identified the challenges our division (and no doubt other divisions) are currently facing, and recommended strategies to ensure the continued financial health of DCHE.
- A summary report of the DCHE survey on the proposed name change for SLA. 103 members completed the survey we sent out in late November, and our results generally reflected the final vote. Most of the respondents also expressed their dissatisfaction over how the name change was handled by the SLA leadership. This report is still a first draft, but will be completed and posted before the conference.

One of the major initiatives for 2010 will be the new strategic plan. From the extensive feedback you provided in last year's survey, we identified clear themes the new plan should address in professional development, communication, our

web presence, and social networking—along with what we identified in the abovementioned fiscal future report. Linda Shackle, with assistance from the DCHE Board, will prepare a strategic planning draft that we can discuss in New Orleans.

From our two surveys, two things came out loud and clear. First, you care deeply about DCHE and SLA, as evidenced in your passionate responses about the name change. And second, many of you have expressed an interest in getting more involved in the Chemistry Division. That is a demand we are happy to accommodate.

Another goal this year is to increase member involvement by creating committees where before there was just a chairperson working alone. We now have a Membership committee (chaired by Judith Currano), and we hope to follow that with additional groups.

A list of these leadership and professional development opportunities will be posted on our website shortly, but here are some key areas we need volunteers:

- Alignment Ambassador
- Sponsorship/Fundraising
- Professional Development
- Mentoring
- Newsletter (*SciTech News*)
- Strategic Planning
- On-Site Volunteers at the Conference in New Orleans
- Program Planning for 2011 (please contact Bill Armstrong, notwwa@lsu.edu)

Please contact me if you interested in serving in one or more of these areas, or if you have any questions or suggestions regarding DCHE in 2010. ❖

Teri Vogel
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Chemistry Division

William W. Armstrong, Chair-Elect

Greetings and a Happy New Year to All!

This year is certainly off to an interesting start. As I write this, it's snowing in Baton Rouge for the second time this winter and the New Orleans Saints just won the Super Bowl. As it was widely held here for many years that the Saints would win a Super Bowl when hell freezes over, this could provide some illumination into the strange weather patterns we've been experiencing.

But weather and football aside, the Chemistry Division is looking forward to a wonderful Annual in New Orleans, which is being expertly coordinated by Chair Teri Vogel and Cory Craig.

Planning has now begun for the 2011 Annual Conference in Philadelphia. I recently returned from the SLA Leadership Summit in St. Louis where I had the pleasure of meeting with our colleagues in the other science divisions. Many ideas have been bandied about for Philadelphia, but the process is only beginning. I would like to put out a call to you, the membership, for ideas you have regarding programs that you would like to see; programs that will excite, inspire, and perhaps even increase your productivity.

Chemistry is a wonderfully stimulating field in many ways, and certainly for the information

professional. It is a field whose information flow is evolving rapidly and dramatically, where tools are being developed to code and mine structures within the scholarly communication flow to provide greater and more immediate access to research information from those who produce it. Publication models, distribution models of this information flow are themselves in flux. Where are these changes heading? What is our role as information professionals in all of this? Though our fundamental role, that of bringing the sought-after information together with the individual seeking it will not change, the way in which we effect this certainly will, and indeed is already changing.

So please send me your ideas. How best can the Division help you during this tumultuous time, further complicated by an uncertain economy? What kind of programs can we offer that will enable you to do your jobs better? I will be putting together our planning team for Philadelphia very shortly, and we will look forward to putting your ideas into play.

And I certainly look forward to seeing everyone in New Orleans in June! It's a wonderful city which will delight in seeing you, just as I will. ❖

William W. Armstrong
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Chemistry Division Conference Preview

The SLA Conference Planner is up, and as you'll see we are in the process of adding session information. Here are some highlights of the program that Cory Craig, Jack Bashian, Ted Baldwin and I are putting together:

CE Courses – Chemistry for the Non-Chemist Librarian (full-day course on Saturday June 12) and Chemical Information Sources, Request, and References (half-day course on Sunday June 13). Judith Currano, Bartow Culp and Dawn French will be the instructors.

Academic & Corporate Roundtable Breakfasts – networking, breakfast and exchanging ideas with colleagues.

Science on Mobile Devices – How information professionals and providers are using mobile devices for science and chemical information.

Science of Hot Sauce – This year's "Science of..." program, organized by FAN.

Renewable Resources in Materials Science – Organized by the MRM Section.

Polymers: Science & Resources – Learn about the key information resources on polymers.

All-Sciences Poster Session & Reception – One of the best places at the SLA Conference to showcase you and your organization's accomplishments and innovation. This year's themes are New Strategic Alignments, Survival and Success Beyond an Economic Recession, and Information Literacy, User Instruction and E-Learning in the Sciences During and Beyond an Economic Recession.

<http://dche.blogspot.com/2010/02/call-for-posters-2010-conference.html>

Along with our No-Host Dinner and Business Meeting, we're also co-sponsoring sessions on collection intelligence and data curation, and if all goes well we will also have a vendor roundtable—our first in several years.

See you in New Orleans!! ❖

Teri Vogel (tmvogel@ucsd.edu)

Seeking Chemistry Division Articles for *SciTech News*

Teri Vogel, Chair, Chemistry Division

Have you started playing with a technology that might be of interest to chemical information professionals? Would you like to share something going on at your library: a new project or initiative, or how your library is adapting to the financial pressures facing so many of our organizations? Want to report about an interesting conference you attended recently?

Then please consider writing an article for *SciTech News*, the official newsletter for the Chemistry, Sci-Tech and Engineering Divisions. Now that the newsletter is online, your work will reach a greater audience than just the members of the three divisions who received this in print. Build your writing skills while enhancing the professional development component of your resume.

If you are interested in contributing to the Chemistry Division Section of *SciTech News*, please contact Kiem Ta (kiem.ta@okstate.edu).