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Chemistry Division

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News from the Chemistry Division

Chemistry Division

William Armstrong, 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.



One of the first things I'd like to do as the new Chair is to thank our outgoing Chair, Teri Vogel, for the wonderful job she did shepherding this august group during the course of this past year. In addition, I'd like to extend a special thanks to our outgoing Treasurer, Bob Buchanan, who also served this division in an exemplary fashion for the past two years. And to the Secretary, Lee Pedersen, and all our hardworking committees and committee chairs, a special thanks as well!

I'm excited about prospects for the division during this emerging year. The 2011 Conference Planning Committee, CE Planners, and Sponsorship Committee have been working hard to bring to fruition what we hope will be a rewarding conference for you in Philadelphia. An outline along with highlights can be viewed in the following article.

There will be fundamental changes to the web site in the next few months as we migrate to a new format being offered by SLA—one that should provide a great deal more flexibility. I will write more on this later.

We hope to get as many of you involved in

division activities as want to be; your inclusion and participation will help make our activities all the more relevant and meaningful to you, and that is pretty much the point of the division. It must be relevant to you, to all of us. Continued contributions and participation from the membership are crucial to our health as an organization.

Over the course of the coming months, I will try to communicate via our division listserv specific opportunities to help and to become involved. But please don't hesitate to contact me directly whenever an idea may strike you or an issue may emerge; don't wait for me. The best ideas are likely to come from you! I'll be happy to speak with each and every one of you about your ideas and/or concerns. This is OUR organization, not mine; you are an integral part of it.

I look forward to hearing from you as the year progresses, to communicating with you, and with a little luck, to seeing you in person at 2011 SLA Annual Conference in Philadelphia! ❖

Bill Armstrong, Chair
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Chemistry Division Conference Preview

A complete schedule of Chemistry Division events can be found at <http://units.sla.org/division/dche/2011/index.htm>.

Highlights of some programs the Chemistry Division will be leading are as follows:

CE Courses –

- Chemistry for the Non-Chemist Librarian (full-day course on Saturday, June 11).
- Chemical Information Sources, Request, and References (half-day course on Sunday, June 12).
- Extreme Structure Searching: Organics, Organometallics, Polymers, and Markush – a new half-day course on Sunday afternoon for searchers with intermediate level experience. Should be exciting!

Instructors for the CE Courses will be Judith Currano, Dawn French, Susan Cardinal, and Denise Callihan.

Academic & Corporate Roundtable Breakfasts – networking, breakfast, and exchanging ideas with colleagues. Topics to be announced.

Update on Materials Science Research & Resources – Join your colleagues for an overview of recent trends in materials science research and related resources.

Developments in Informatics – Come hear the latest developments in informatics in the fields of chemistry, biological sciences, and physics and astronomy. Dr. Steve Heller, Project Director of the InChI Trust; Dr. Diane Rein, Bioinformatics and Molecular Biology Information Resources librarian at the University at Buffalo; and Dr. Alberto Accomazzi, Project Manager of the NASA Astrophysics Data System, will be the featured speakers in these fields, respectively, promising an informative and exciting discussion of developments important to all information professionals working in these subject areas.

International Year of Chemistry: Perils and Promises of Modern Communication in the Sciences – A view of changes in communication in the sciences - promises and perils they may hold. Dr. Jean-Claude Bradley, Associate Professor of Chemistry and E-Learning

Coordinator for the College of Arts and Sciences at Drexel University, will detail some emerging trends in the dissemination and analysis of scientific information with an emphasis on chemistry. This includes Open Notebook Science - the public sharing of all experimental details in real time, post-publication review in the blogosphere, and the proliferation of web services to facilitate processing of scientific data in machine readable formats. His colleague at Drexel, Dr. Lawrence Souder, Associate Teaching Professor of Communication, will examine some modern pitfalls that may be emerging.

Tour of the Chemical Heritage Foundation – Participants will enjoy a tour of the Chemical Heritage Foundation's museum and its Othmer Library of Chemical History. With its outstanding collections of instruments, fine art, photographs, papers, and books, the Chemical Heritage Foundation conveys the story of chemistry and its effect on and role in society across the centuries. It is within walking distance of the Convention Center. The tour is free.

In addition, we'll be co-sponsoring:

- **the All Sciences Poster Session and Reception**, always a favorite event with members.
- **Energy Issues in Libraries: Biofuels and other Alternative Energies.**
- **The Science of Ice Cream** – it will be summer, after all.
- **Collaborations Across Disciplines**, where one can hear speakers talk about Mendeley, Collexis, VIVO, and BibApp.
- a program on **data visualization**.

Many thanks are due the following individuals who have been instrumental in helping put these programs together:

- CE Course Planning: Ted Baldwin
- Planning Committee: Jim Martin and Mindy Peters
- Sponsorship Committee: Teri Vogel, Luray Minkiewicz, and Loren Mendelsohn
- Tour: Elsa Atson

It promises to be an exciting conference, and we sincerely hope to see you there! ❖

Bill Armstrong, Chair (notwwa@lsu.edu)