

Members-at-Large NEWSLETTER

I Σ Π

National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry

June 2007

Editor Joanne Bedlek-Anslow

Donate to the MAL Award Fund!

You should notice the envelope in this issue of the MAL Newsletter in support of our MAL Award. It's a great way to support promising students, really neat ladies, and Iota Sigma Pi! Any amount is welcome and tax deductible. Please make your check payable to Iota Sigma Pi, and please put MAL Scholarship Fund on the memo line. The check can be mailed to Donna A. Iannotti, MAL Treasurer. Thanks to generous donations, we were once again able to present a monetary award for \$1500 this year. Congratulations to the winner and best wishes to our excellent applicants.

Julie A. Dionne MAL Award Winner

Julie Dionne is the recipient of the 2007 MAL Educational Re-entry Award. The award is given to a woman who is returning to school after an extended absence and has excellent academic potential.

Julie originally entered college in the 1970's and completed two years before leaving to raise a family of four children. However, she maintained her zeal for learning by actively participating in her children's education, which included helping to establish three Christian schools. Two of her children are now grown, one is attending university, and the fourth is finishing high school. Therefore, Julie has returned to college to continue her original goal to pursue a career in medicine. She is currently attending Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, OK, where she is majoring in Biomedical Chemistry. Her participation in a research project has lead to the submission of a manuscript for publication. She is active in student branches of the American Chemical Society, Tri Beta National Biological Honor Society, and Iota Sigma Pi.

Her professors describe Julie as diligent, committed, and exceptionally competent. Julie is an excellent example of a woman who has the perseverance and

skills to accomplish her goals and will be a fabulous representative of Iota Sigma Pi.

Jill Scott, MAL Award Committee Chairwoman

Thanks to the MAL Award Committee

Committee members included: Jodye Selco, Denise Mills, Clara Craver, MariJean Eggen, and Jill Scott. Your commitment to serving IΣΠ is much appreciated!

MAL Listserv

Any user can subscribe or unsubscribe by sending a blank message to:

ispmal-subscribe@whitman.edu or
ispmal-unsubscribe@whitman.edu

Make sure you send from the email address to which you wish to receive mail. You will receive a confirmation request to make sure you control the subscription address. Once this address is verified, the user is either subscribed or unsubscribed, depending upon the message sent to the list.

To send messages to the list, address them to **ispmal@whitman.edu**. It is a private list, meaning that only those of us subscribed can read the messages. If there are questions about the listserv, please contact Ruth Russo at **russorn@whitman.edu**.

Websites

For the national IΣΠ

<http://www.iotasigmapi.info/>

For MALs

<http://web.centre.edu/muzyka/ispmal>

Member Get-a-Member Campaign

As MALs, we have a policy in place for nominating new members. If you get two new members to join within a year, you are eligible for free IΣΠ merchandise from the supplies coordinator. National council lets you use the honor system, so when you've found two people tell the supplies coordinator, and she will send you something. The supplies coordinator is

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Look around you. Are there colleagues, subordinates, friends or students who qualify? Qualifications for membership can be found on our website mentioned above. Remember, students don't need to be majoring in chemistry but must have taken the minimum of chemistry courses (see the undergraduate qualifications). Professionals also just need to meet the minimum number of Chemistry credits; they don't need to be working as Chemists. Institutions and chemists in the area must be included.

In the News...

Overcoming the Catch-22 Minorities Face in the Workplace

When it comes to asserting one's visibility in the workplace, it turns out that "too much" can be as dangerous as "too little." Dr. Stacy Blake-Beard, a nationally recognized authority on mentoring, workplace diversity, and strategic networking, and Dr. Laura Morgan Roberts published "Releasing the Double Bind of Visibility for Minorities in the Workplace" for the Center for Gender in Organizations.

<http://www.mentornet.net/news/newsart.aspx?nid=22&sid=2>

My Career Path

One of our members, Clara Craver, D.Sc., F.A.I.C., C.P.C., is being honored by the Coblenz Society for her contributions to the field of infrared spectroscopy.

The Coblenz Society Announces its first solicitation of nominations for

THE CRAVER AWARD

In Recognition of Young Investigators in Applied Vibrational Spectroscopy

Description: The Craver Award is presented annually to an outstanding young molecular spectroscopist whose efforts are in the area of applied analytical vibrational spectroscopy. The

candidate must be under the age of 45 on January 1st of the year of the award. The work may include any aspect of infrared (NIR, MIR, or Far), and/or THz, and/or Raman spectroscopy in applied analytical vibrational spectroscopy. The nominees may come from an academic, government lab, or industrial backgrounds.

The award carries with it a \$2,000 honorarium, a plaque, plus a \$500 travel allowance. Files of candidates will be kept active until the age of eligibility is exceeded. Annual updates of candidate files are encouraged and will be solicited from the nomination source by the Award's committee chair.

Nominations for 2007 and 2008 must include a detailed description of the nominee's accomplishments, a curriculum vitae or resume, and minimum of three supporting letters. Nominations for 2007 close on March 31st, 2007; **2008 nominations close on July 31, 2007.**

Award Presentation

This award will be presented annually at the FACSS meeting.

Award Symposium

The awardee will be offered a 25-minute plenary lecture to the assembled FACSS Conference. Further, a separate half-day award symposium honoring the award recipient and highlighting the interests of the awardee will also occur at the same conference.

PLEASE SEND NOMINATION PACKAGES TO:

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Dr. Clara Craver knew she wanted to be a chemist from age ten or eleven, when she first heard of atoms and molecules. Since then she has wanted to learn more about them and still does. She grew up to attend Ohio State, where she was a Phi Beta Kappa and graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in chemistry. The first 3 years of her career were spent at Standard Oil Development Company in Elizabeth, NJ. She was hired after the man who came to the chemistry department of Ohio

State University succumbed to advice from her closest professor in analytical chemistry to interview her, even though SHE was a female! A difficult "sale" as she was later told. Since companies were only interested in men as scientists, and women were mostly viewed only as lab techs.

She had a bit of spectroscopy taught to her personally by the head of the OSU spec lab, Wallace Brode, one of the famous Brode scientific triplets. It was plenty to prepare her for a job in "spectroscopy," especially as another great professor at OSU, William McNevin, went to bat for her and asked that the Standard Oil man at least talk to her! At the Standard Oil analytical lab, Dr. Craver was assigned to a "geological research" program and had the opportunity to check on crude oils. It had not quite been realized that infrared spectra could identify complex mixtures as well as individual compounds and known compound blends! She just tried it to see – in the spirit of research. Dr. Craver was persistent in convincing her research leader to let her try, and in a matter of weeks, the major ESSO corporate office for discovering crude oil, located in NY City, wanted her to come and give a major report about what she was doing. It became the subject of patents...not to keep other people from doing it, but as a caution that someone else could recognize the value of what they were doing and try to get a patent. After she told them what she could do to identify seeps and drillings, she had fun with good research and patents, especially testing seeps world-wide. Fun for a 21 year old!

Dr. Craver loved the work and even earned the right to go to national scientific meetings: first the ACS, in which she has a long history of activity, and then to the Pittsburgh Conference, where she also has a long history of giving courses on the use of infrared spectroscopy in identifying complex mixtures. She expects to continue her teaching at this August's ACS meeting in Boston.

She soon became a foremost expert on spectroscopy and polymer characterization and was invited by Professor Nelson Fuson to give lectures at the Fisk Infrared Institute in Nashville. After 25 years, he took the opportunity to arrange for her contributions to be honored with an honorary D.Sc. from Fisk University in 1974. At the same time he also

arranged for an honorary degree for Norman Colthup who worked for American Cyanamide in Connecticut. He and Dr. Craver had always been a part of that famous course. Dr. Colthup gave systematic interpretation lectures, and Dr. Craver arranged the lab and helped in interpretation workshops on practical problems. They made a good team.

Dr. Craver also founded Chemir Laboratories in 1959, with her late husband, J. Kenneth Craver. She is a well respected chemical consultant and has served in some 60 legal disputes - never losing a case. To her credit, she will only take cases that she has great confidence in and can testify with solid scientific proof behind her. After a long and well established career, she takes on the occasional legal case but is more involved in enjoying life, spending time with her large family – 12 grandchildren, and sailing. Her advice is to follow your passion and do what you like when it comes to work and careers. There is no reason not to.

We congratulate Dr. Craver on her many accomplishments in the field of infrared spectroscopy.

Where have you taken your career? How did you get to where you are now? I am looking for stories from our MAL's about the paths that took them to where they are now. Whatever your story, I would like you to share your history with the other MAL's. Please send your contributions to my email address, drjba2000@yahoo.com, subject My Career Path, and I will include the responses in our next newsletter. Thank you ☺

Chapter News

Fluorine Chapter "A Day of Chemistry with the Girl Scouts" is an outreach activity that was organized by the members of the Fluorine Chapter of Iota Sigma Pi for two local girl scout troops. The event was held on March 31, 2007 at Cleveland State University. The girl scouts were invited for a day of chemistry activities that were intended to increase and maintain their interest in chemistry. The eight girl scouts were 11 to 15 years of age.

The girls toured three research laboratories: a chemical imaging facility, a cell culture facility, and an instrument center. At the chemical imaging

facility the girls learned about the chemistry of rocks and gemstones and how they can be classified and characterized by spectroscopy. Color change gems were viewed under different light sources to demonstrate the “Alexandrite effect.” A brief introduction was given about chemical imaging and its use as a diagnostic tool. The girl scouts attended a presentation on “What Chemists Do” in the instrument center. In addition, they looked at several of the instruments (FTIR, HPLC, GC/MS, UV/VIS) and were provided with a description of how they are used and the types of samples that can be analyzed by each. At the cell culture facility, the girls toured the laboratory, viewed cells under the microscope, and were given a brief presentation on the research conducted at the facility. In all three cases, the girl scouts observed women investigators working in their laboratories on real scientific research.

The girl scouts had the opportunity to interact on a personal level with professional chemists, graduate students, and undergraduate students at the luncheon. It was a good time for them to meet and talk with positive female role models in chemistry.

The hands-on laboratory experiments were held after the luncheon. A presentation on laboratory safety was given in the general chemistry laboratory. Members of the Fluorine Chapter and volunteers from the chemistry department hosted nine work stations to assist the girl scouts with the various experiments, provide information on the chemistry, and to answer questions. The girl scouts learned how to measure liquids into various containers, use a pipet, use a stir bar for mixing, use balances to measure out ingredients, test for acidity and basicity using cabbage juice as an indicator, perform a titration to test the effectiveness of antacids, analyze the vitamin C content in various juices, separate dyes by paper chromatography, and determine the calorie content in cashews and popcorn using a homemade calorimeter. Curds were separated from milk (girls observed a vacuum filtration system) to demonstrate the chemistry of cheese making, food coloring was added to oil/water to learn about hydrophobic and hydrophilic properties, and pennies and nails were put into a vinegar salt solution to demonstrate some properties of metals. In “Magic Writing” a starch iodine reaction was observed.

The girl scouts were presented with appreciation awards and chemistry gift packages for their participation in the event. The gift packages included calculators, periodic tables, beakers, pipets, notepads, chemistry stickers, chemistry refrigerator magnets, pH paper, labels, etc.

Anne O'Connor
Outreach Event Coordinator

Plutonium Chapter hosted “Chemistry Discovery Day with Iota Sigma Pi” with area Girl Scouts on April 14, 2007. Troops from the Girl Scouts of Central Indiana arrived early in the day to participate in hands-on chemistry experiments. Several troops drove one hour or more to arrive at Purdue by 8:30am.

Each of the four experiments was conducted in a designated laboratory. The girls rotated between the four rooms, completing two experiments in the morning and two experiments after lunch. The experiments included “Solubility and Snow Globes”, “Red Cabbage and pH” (with a “Witches’ Brew” demonstration), “DNA Extraction from Wheat Germ”, and “Making Glue from Cow’s Milk”. By participating in the day-long event, the Girl Scouts fulfilled the requirements for a “Science Discovery” badge.

At the completion of all four experiments, the girls were given badges and asked about their favorite activity of the day. The popular experiment was the snow globes, as they were all able to take their products home with them. A Girl Scout representative that was present issued a survey to the girls asking what they liked most and least about the activities. One survey from a girl exclaimed that she will most likely become a scientist after this experience! Without a doubt, the least favorite “event” was wearing the goggles.

In summary, this activity helped encourage several young women to develop an interest in chemistry and science in general. It also provided them with a better understanding of the field and an opportunity to interact with women scientists.

Jessica Fautch
Outreach Event Coordinator

General News

2007-2008 Dues are due! If you have not sent in your dues, please do so as soon as possible. The membership directory will be coming out shortly, and we want to make sure that we have everyone's information correct and up-to-date. Thanks! Please contact the IEP Treasurer, Margaret Workman, if you have not received a dues notice or have any questions concerning payment.

Iota Sigma Pi will be having a **social hour** at the Boston ACS National Meeting on Monday, August 20, 2007. The reception will be held at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center Room 251 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other Iotans, network, and introduce your colleagues to Iota Sigma Pi. Please stop by, no reservations are required. Check the Iota Sigma Pi website for updates and possible location changes as the date approaches <http://www.iotasigmapi.info/>

The Radium Chapter will be hosting the **29th Triennial Convention** in Cincinnati, OH, on June 26-29, 2008. Please stay tuned to the newsletter and website for further updates.

MentorNet Seeking Mentors

Learn more about becoming a mentor at www.MentorNet.net

Need a mentor, wish to be a mentor, please check out this worthy project.

Member News

Julie Dionne, 2007 MAL Reentry Award Winner writes, Thank you so much for selecting my application for the Re-Entry Award. I am just so excited about this...what an honor!! Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Gratefully,
Julie Dionne

We would like to congratulate Dr. Kalyani Banerjee, 1992 MAL Re-entry Award Winner for winning the 2006 Centennial Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. Dr. Banerjee is currently an adjunct professor at Oakton Community College, Illinois, Division of Science and Health Careers.

Daily Joke

I will never stop being amazed at the jokes that my former mentor/manager sends me. He is now a colleague again. Funny how life turns. Enjoy!!

10 Things it took me over 50+ years to learn. By: Dave Barry, Nationally Syndicated Columnist

1. If you had to identify, in one word, the reason why the human race has not achieved, and never will achieve, its full potential, that word would be "meetings."
2. There is a very fine line between "hobby" and "mental illness."
3. You should not confuse your career with your life.
4. The most destructive force in the universe is gossip.
5. You will never find anybody who can give you a clear and compelling reason why we observe daylight savings time.
6. The one thing that unites all human beings, regardless of age, gender, religion, economic status or ethnic background, is that, deep inside, we ALL believe that we are above average drivers.
7. A person, who is nice to you, but rude to a waiter, is not a nice person.
8. Your friends love you anyway.
9. Never be afraid to try something new. Remember that a lone amateur built the Ark. A large group of professionals built the Titanic.
10. Thought for the day: Men are like fine wine. They start out as grapes; and it's up to the women to stomp the crap out of them until they turn into something acceptable to have dinner with.

Newsletter Delivery!!!!

Do you wish to receive the newsletter electronically rather than by the traditional paper route? If so, please send me an email at drjba2000@yahoo.com with **ISP electronic newsletter** in the heading. I will put together a list of people and send you the newsletter electronically (pdf format) the next printing. If you like to get the paper version, please do not worry. I will continue to print it out and send it in the mail. Please respond only if you wish to receive the newsletter electronically.

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