

# Members-at-Large NEWSLETTER

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National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry

March 2008

Editor Joanne Bedlek-Anslow

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## Donate to the MAL Award Fund!

Thank you to everyone who has made a contribution to the very worthy MAL Award Fund. It is much appreciated! If you have not made a contribution and would still like to make one, 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. This is a great way to support promising students, really exceptional ladies, and Iota Sigma Pi! Any amount is welcome and tax deductible.

## MAL Listserv

Effective next summer, the MAL Listserv will no longer be accessible from the Whitman servers. As of now, there are only fifteen of us subscribed. Is there anyone that is interested in hosting the listserv? I have not heard any response back to this concern. Please let me know what you think. Until then, we will continue to use our current listserv.

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

[ispmal-subscribe@whitman.edu](mailto:ispmal-subscribe@whitman.edu)  
[ispmal-unsubscribe@whitman.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:russorn@whitman.edu). Thank you to Ruth for hosting our listserv. We appreciate all that you do.

## 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 have two new members 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 have found two people, tell the supplies coordinator, and she will send you something. The supplies coordinator is

## Reiko M. Simmons

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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 do not need to be majoring in chemistry but must have taken the minimum of chemistry courses (see the undergraduate qualifications). Professionals also need to meet the minimum number of Chemistry credits; they do not need to be working as Chemists. Institutions and chemists in the area must be included.

## In the News...

### New Study Suggests Current Journal Practices are Biased against Female Authors

Virginia Valian's 1999 book, *Why So Slow? The Advancement of Women* documented evidence that operating across our society are *gender schema*, meaning that many of us, frequently unintentionally and without realizing it, undervalue the accomplishments and abilities of women compared to those of men. A new piece of research casts further light on how this unconscious bias affects the practice of peer review in scientific journals,

and suggests a strategy for improving the practice to help eliminate such bias.

<http://www.mentornet.net/news/newsart.aspx?nid=32&sid=1>

### **The Mentoring Gap for Women in Science**

Differences between the ways male and female science students relate to mentors could have a significant impact on efforts to attract more women to certain fields, according to a new study focused on chemistry and published in the journal *Sex Roles*.

The study tracked those who graduated from top doctoral programs in chemistry from 1988 to 1992, and asked the graduates a series of questions about their experience with mentors, finding notable differences. Authors of the study say that while much has changed in society since the period studied, the findings are consistent with more recent analyses of women in science, and also promote understanding of a generation of women currently in academe.

<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2008/02/28/mentor>

### **Reclaiming Life from Work**

It's easy for scientists to be consumed by their work. But striking a balance between work and life outside the lab – whether its family responsibilities, hobbies, or time spent with friends – can improve both personal well-being and scientific productivity.

[http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career\\_development/previous\\_issues/articles/2007\\_12\\_07/career\\_development\\_a0700176](http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_development/previous_issues/articles/2007_12_07/career_development/2007_12_07/career_development_a0700176)

### **Carnegie Foundation Rethinks the Future of Doctoral Education**

A five-year look at doctoral education by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching examined the challenges—shifting student demographics, new kinds of competition, growing pressures for accountability, and shrinking public investment—facing doctoral programs in the United States.

<http://www.carnegiefoundation.org/news/sub.asp?key=51&subkey=2477>

### **My Career Path**

We are honored to spotlight **TWO** of our members with this newsletter (in no particular order). The Career Path spotlight shines on, Zaida C. Morales Martinez. In her own words...I was born in a small Puerto Rican town named Naranjito (small orange) in the center of the island about 1 hour from the capital city. I attended the town public elementary and junior high schools. For high school I went to St. Therese Academy, a private Catholic school run by the American Dominican Nuns from New York. Besides the nuns, there was a secular lady who taught Spanish and History and her brother who taught Mathematics and Science. Even though I had an early love for Math and Science, he was the one teacher who gave me confidence and encouragement. My career goal was to become a pediatrician.

After graduation in 1953, I enrolled at the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) – Rio Piedras Campus as a pre-med major. In my third year, I took the Organic sequence and Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis. I did not enjoy Organic nor the Biology courses but LOVED Qual and Quant! So at the end of my third year, I changed my major to Chemistry. The Qual and Quant professor asked me to be his student assistant, and I accepted and worked in this capacity during my senior year. I received my BS in Chemistry with a minor in Mathematics in 1957. I was asked by the Qual and Quant Professor if I wanted to be an instructor for a year, teaching Qual and Quant., since he was going on a sabbatical leave. I never thought of teaching as a career, but I accepted the position. One year was extended to three.

In 1960, I attended The Pennsylvania State University (PSU) to work towards my MS in Analytical Chemistry. With my MS in hand in 1962, I returned to UPR to continue teaching Qual and Quant. In 1965, I got married and moved to Tallahassee. I was hired as an Instructor by Florida State University (FSU) until 1968, when my family moved to Bridgeport, Ct. There, I taught at the University of Bridgeport for 2 years. In 1970, we

returned to FSU. While at FSU, I worked with excellent, dedicated professors who nurtured and mentored me. It is here where I matured as a university professor.

In 1973, with 2 children in tow, my family moved to Miami, Florida, where my husband and I were hired by the one-year-old state university, Florida International University (FIU), that was established in an abandoned airport. It was an upper division commuter school where the average student was older, working, females with families, most of them Hispanics, but with great expectations to obtain a college degree. Because of necessity, since most of the Chemistry faculty were “new” PhD’s, besides teaching Quant (by then Qual had disappeared from the curriculum as a separate course and was included in GenChem), I started overseeing the day-to-day operations of the laboratories. It was there where I felt I had the most impact on the development of the department.

During my tenure at FIU, I became the Chemistry advisor, the “mother” and later “grandmother” of students, faculty, and some administrators. For many years, I was the advisor for the award winning SAACS Chapter. I received the Teaching, the Advising, and the Service Awards. Upon my retirement in June 2003, at the FIU graduation, I was granted the title of Professor Emeritus, received the University Service Medallion and a coach signed football helmet. (I was a big supporter of athletics).

In 1986 when I became single and my last child left for college, I decided to become involved in the ACS again. I was elected Councilor of the Florida Section. At the national level, I was appointed to the SEED Committee and was the Coordinator of the SEED Program at FIU for many years. In 1989, I was appointed by ACS Past President S. Allen Heiniger to the Task Force on Minorities in the Chemical Sciences. As the result of this task force, the ACS Committee on Minority Affairs and the ACS Scholars Program were established. In 1999, I went half time at FIU to accept the position of Mentoring Consultant for the ACS Scholars Program. I still hold this position where every year I find mentors and mentor about 350 African Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans pursuing careers in the chemical sciences. In 2002,

I received the Women Chemists Committee Southeast Regional Award for Diversity. and in 2004, I received the ACS Award for Encouraging Disadvantaged Students into Careers in the Chemical Sciences sponsored by the Dreyfus Foundation.

By the way, the license tag for my car is MS QUANT. That says it all!

The Career Path spotlight also shines on, Johanna D. “Joan” Landsberg. In her own words...My career was spent as a Research Chemist with the USDA Forest Service investigating the effects of fire and prescribed fire on nutrients and tree growth in ponderosa pine forests. Highlights included being selected as the Principle US Investigator of a joint US-Spain research program on the effects of prescribed fire in forests of Southern and Northwestern Spain. I was also selected to be one of two US team members on a United Nations Development Program to teach Fire Management Planning in Bhopal, India. Later, I was selected to represent all the countries of the developed world addressing the general topic-Fire in our Forests - at the XXth World Congress on Forestry in Antalya, Turkey.

Having retired from the USDA Forest Service, I am now teaching Spanish in a Community Education program at Central Oregon Community College. Immediately after obtaining my MS in Food Science from Oregon State University in 1964, I joined the Peace Corps. My assignment was to teach in the Chemistry Department of the University of Costa Rica while some of their faculty were in the US gaining advanced degrees. Once arrived in Costa Rica, I taught Organic Chemistry Lab; Food Manufacturing Methods, lecture and lab; and Food Analysis, lecture and lab, in Spanish at the University of Costa Rica in San José. In addition, I taught English as a second language to the faculty of the Chemistry Department. During these two years, the University of Costa Rica provided weekly Spanish lessons. This background - living, speaking, teaching, and studying Spanish for two years – has given me the opportunity to work part-time in a second, very highly rewarding, career teaching adults. (In addition, I am taking university level German.) Oregon State University, BS 1962, MS 1964, Ph.D. 1992

We congratulate both Ms. Morales Martinez and Dr. Landsberg on their many career and personal achievements and thank them for their contributions to our newsletter.

I have had some wonderful emails from other MAL's telling me that they are enjoying these autobiographies. Thanks to all who have submitted.

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](mailto:drjba2000@yahoo.com), subject My Career Path, and I will include the responses in our next newsletter. If you would like to comment on any of the autobiographies/biographies you have read, please send me your comments, and I will include them in the next newsletter. Thank you ☺

### Chapter News

No new updates from the other chapters.

### General News

#### The 29th National Triennial Convention Knowledge is Flowing

We are holding the convention at the **Cincinnati Marriott at River Center, 10 W River Center Blvd., Covington, KY 41011**; (859) 261-2900. Bring your family, come and meet with your colleagues from around the country, share your ideas about the future of Iota Sigma Pi, and be a part of keeping our society strong and vibrant.

**Deadline for convention registration is April 18, 2008.** Upon receipt of registration forms and fees, Yvonne Gagnon ([YGagnon@cdc.gov](mailto:YGagnon@cdc.gov), work: (513) 841-4260, cell: (513) 235-3521) will send confirmation and other information to the registrants. Lodging is based on double occupancy; roommates will be assigned. A specific roommate may be requested on the registration form.

Alternately, Iotans may pay a *Single Supplement* to reserve a room for single or family occupancy. Convention check-in begins at 3:00 pm on Thursday for those who arrive early to participate in

the poster session and reception hosted by the local Radium Chapter.

Iotans who attend the convention are encouraged to share their accomplishments, research, and professional activities at the poster session. Posters may be set up at 6:30 pm; the reception begins at 7:00 pm. A light dinner will be served. Abstracts of no more than 250 words should be sent to:

#### Jeanne Buccigross

Professor

Department of Chemistry and Physical Sciences  
College of Mount St. Joseph

5701 Delhi Rd

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(513) 244-4718 (work)

[jeanne\\_buccigross@mail.msj.edu](mailto:jeanne_buccigross@mail.msj.edu)

and/or to

#### Mary Ellen Cassinelli

Retired, NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health)

10503 Knollview Drive

Cincinnati, OH 45241

513-563-1456

[mecassinelli@fuse.net](mailto:mecassinelli@fuse.net)

**Abstracts should be submitted no later than May 15, 2008.** Electronic submissions are encouraged

#### Call for National Council Nominees for 2008-2011

All members are cordially invited to become **nominees** for the **2008-2011 National Council**. We are seeking nominees for all National Council positions except for the Immediate Past President. Nominees for the National President must have served on National Council for a previous term. The responsibilities of the different positions are described in the Constitution and Bylaws as well as in the Rules and Regulations ([www.iotasigmapi.info](http://www.iotasigmapi.info)).

Please consider being a nominee for a National Council position. You will derive tremendous satisfaction from serving your fellow members and helping to steer ISP in its second century. Please

contact Lily Ng at 216-687-2467 or by email at [L.ng@csuohio.edu](mailto:L.ng@csuohio.edu).

### Call for Updates on Iotans

We are planning a Memorial Service at the Triennial Convention for those members that have passed away. Does anyone know of any deaths, so we may honor them? Also does anyone have addresses information on five of our members?

Jane E. Callanan

Gertrude Adams Lathrop

Marguerite Neumann

Irene Ukstins

Dorothy Valent

Please email me, [drija2000@yahoo.com](mailto:drija2000@yahoo.com) with any update information that you may have. Thank you!

### National ACS Meeting in New Orleans

#### Dinner with the Chlorine Chapter

The Chlorine chapter invites all Iota Sigma Pi members to join them for dinner in New Orleans during the ACS National Meeting on **Sunday, April 6, 2008 at 7:00 pm** at Bacco Restaurant (310 Chartres Street - 2 blocks from Canal Street, 504-522-2426). The group will order from the menu ([www.bacco.com](http://www.bacco.com)). For reservations, please contact Anne K. Taylor ([akt1208@bellsouth.net](mailto:akt1208@bellsouth.net), 225-767-3565) or Nancy Hopkins ([nhopkin@tulane.edu](mailto:nhopkin@tulane.edu), 504-835-6595).

#### Iota Sigma Pi Social Hour

The Iota Sigma Pi Social Hour has been scheduled for **Monday, April 7, 2008 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm** at the E. Morial Convention Center, 336. We will again provide snacks. This is a great opportunity to meet and network with members from other chapters. Please save the date! Please note, there is always a possibility the location may change, so please check the New Orleans ACS Meeting Program for final details.

**FACULTY POSITION IN CHEMICAL EDUCATION. Miami University, Middletown Campus, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry** invites applicants with a doctorate in Chemistry or related area to apply for a tenured Associate Professor or Full Professor position starting August 2008.

Miami University (OH) seeks an experienced chemical educator with established credibility in the

national and international science education community to serve as the next Director of its Center for Chemistry Education (CCE). This individual will possess the vision and demonstrated leadership skills to lead the CCE and will also contribute to the teaching mission of the University. The Director should have a distinguished record of accomplishments in teaching and scholarship commensurate with tenure at the associate or full professor level in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Qualified persons should (1) submit a vita and a vision statement for the Center for Chemistry Education, and (2) names of 3 references to the Chemical Education Search Committee, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Miami University, Oxford, OH 45056. References will not be contacted without permission of the candidate. Review of complete applications will begin **March 20, 2008**. The search will continue until the position is filled. More information concerning the Department and this position can be found on the web at [www.terrificscience.org](http://www.terrificscience.org) and [www.cas.muohio.edu/chm/](http://www.cas.muohio.edu/chm/).

For more information, contact the Chair of the Search Committee:

#### Professor Gary A. Lorigan

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*Miami is an EOE/AA employer.* Campus Crime and Safety Report is available at – [www.muohio.edu/righttoknow](http://www.muohio.edu/righttoknow). A hard copy is available upon request.

#### Women Chemists in the National Inventor's Hall of Fame

Sister Mary Virginia Orna, O.S.U, College of New Rochelle

Where: South Carolina Section of the American Chemical Society Monthly Meeting

When: Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Abstract: The National Inventor's Hall of Fame celebrates the creative and entrepreneurial spirit of

great inventors by showcasing exhibits and presentations that allow visitors to experience the excitement of discovery, creativity, and imagination. Founded in 1972 and located in Akron, Ohio, the Hall of Fame is dedicated to the individuals who conceived the great technological advances that the United States fosters through its patent system. Each year a Selection Committee composed of representatives from national scientific and technical organization votes to select the most qualified inventors from those nominated for the current year. To date, only 13 women of the more than 375 inventors thus honored are members of the Hall of Fame, and of these 13, seven are chemists. This talk will describe the scientific lives and chemistry and impact of the inventions of the seven women.

This presentation was first given in Italy and translated into English for this meeting. Dr. Orna is a member of the ACS Speaker Service and available to give this presentation upon request. It was a very stimulating and engaging presentation and well enjoyed by the entire section. Of special interest is that some of our ISP honorary/life members were highlighted in the presentation.

### **Member News**

#### **Volunteering: Giving and Getting...**

A number of years ago, I saw a notice on a bulletin board at work soliciting readers for textbooks. My daughter had done topical reading for the blind and was very enthusiastic about it. Since the studio was very close to my home, I decided to check it out. What I found was an opportunity not only to give, but to get.

The organization is Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic® ([www.rfbid.org](http://www.rfbid.org)). It is a non-profit national group with 29 regional recording studios across the US. RFB&D was founded 60 years ago to make educational materials accessible to blinded WWII veterans who wanted to take advantage of the GI Bill; unfortunately, veterans are again requiring this service.

So, what does RFB&D do? It records textbooks for student from pre-school to graduate school in a standardized format. The students (185,000 in FY 2007) are: visually impaired (20%), learning

disabled (75%) or physically disabled (5%). The book recorders are required to take auditions for general reading and specialized auditions for specific subjects (physics, math, chemistry, medicine, biochemistry, vo-tech – they also have philosophy, religion, art history....). This assures accuracy in the recordings. The books were originally recorded on vinyl records, then tapes – now they are digital and fully searchable. They are played on portable CD-type recorders or on desktop PC/Macs.

How does the program work? Schools, universities, graduate schools and individuals can sign up as members and borrow the digital recordings. Students and faculty can request that a book be recorded for inclusion in the library; the list of available texts is on the RFB&D website. RFB&D also has training at [www.learningthroughlistening.org](http://www.learningthroughlistening.org) on how to teach children to listen effectively, and community outreach programs to meet and help faculty and parents use the program effectively.

What do I get back? I get the satisfaction of knowing that I have helped someone to understand the written word and assist him or her in the learning process. I also know that when I tutor someone in the sciences, there is a resource that I can use to help the student – a recording of the book that they are using in their class.

Why do I do it? I do it because I cannot imagine a life without reading and books, and I want as many people as possible to have access to them. I also do it because it's fun; the people who volunteer are a dedicated lot, and we enjoy each other.

So if you are interested in seeing what the latest chemistry book has in it, think about looking for a studio near you and volunteering. If you have students in your classes that need help, consider this as a resource for them. If you have an employee that needs additional training, check the list of available books. Submitted by Bonnie Marcus

### **Daily Joke**

#### **Rules for the Lab**

1) If an experiment works, something has gone wrong.

- 2) When you don't know what you're doing, do it neatly.
- 3) Experiments must be reproducible, they should fail the same way each time.
- 4) First draw your curves then plot your data.
- 5) Experience is directly proportional to equipment ruined.
- 6) Always keep a record of your data. It indicates that you have been working.
- 7) To do a lab really well, have your report done well in advance.
- 8) If you can't get the answer in the usual manner, start at the answer and derive the question.
- 9) In case of doubt, make it sound convincing.
- 10) Do not believe in miracles--rely on them.
- 11) Team work is essential; it allows you to blame someone else.
- 12) All unmarked beakers contain fast-acting, extremely toxic, poisons.
- 13) No experiment is a complete failure. At least it can serve as a negative example.
- 14) Any delicate and expensive piece of glassware will break before any use can be made of it.

### **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 send you the newsletter electronically (pdf format) for 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.

MAL Newsletter  
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