



The Minnesota CHEMIST 2008 Election Issue



September 2008

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Cover Photo: Top left, 50 year awardees Wayne Wolsey, William Blackley, Robert Edelson, Kenneth Owens. Top right, Chemistry Olympians Shyamala Jithendranathan, Danie Monohan, Jonathan Schellenberg, Margie Tomsic. Bottom Left, award winner Jerry Mohrig with Richard Newmark. Bottom Right, Lyle Hall and John Ring.

It's election time!

Take the time to see what this year's slate of candidates has in mind for our section. Some are new faces, with fresh perspectives and new approaches. Some are seasoned members, offering a rare and valuable historical viewpoint on our section.

I'm inspired to let you know that our national organization thinks we are a really great local section. They had glowing praise for us as a group. Their one constructive feedback was a comment on the shockingly low voter turnout for our local elections. Did you know that if you and 5 of your colleagues submitted the ballot, your collective votes would be statistically significant?

That is shocking. Do your part, take a moment to shape the future!

—ntm

Senior Chemists Meeting

Come join our ACS Senior Chemists Group on Tuesday, September 19th at 12:30 p.m. in the Dining Room at Concordia College in St. Paul Midway. Concordia College is on the southeast corner of I-94 and Hamline Avenue. Parking is usually available on Concordia Avenue, just north of the student cafeteria or in the adjacent north parking lot.

For information, call
Lyle Hall at (651) 647-0611
or (651) 231-3968
or John Ring at (651) 645-4350.

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ACS Minnesota Section Upcoming Events Calendar

September 9th, 2008

September monthly meeting:

Fuels and Chemicals from Biomass: Challenges and Opportunities, Dr. Badal Saha, USDA-ARS

Chemists on the Move.....

Dr. Thomas G. Gardner, PhD, has joined Crane Engineering of Plymouth, Minnesota, in the position of Senior Chemist. Thomas Gardner is an accomplished scientist with more than 17 years' experience practicing and teaching in the fields of organic and inorganic chemistry and materials analysis.

As an analytical chemist in Crane Engineering's in-house laboratory, Tom is responsible for characterizing materials, detecting trace contaminants, developing analytical methods and conducting materials failure analyses. A creative researcher with a passion for invention and discovery, he works closely with the firm's clients to help solve their forensic engineering problems.

Prior to joining Crane Engineering, Tom was a senior scientist at a leading medical technology company. There he headed spectroscopy and surface analysis, leading a research program to study nanotechnology-based surfaces.

Dr. Gardner was a chemistry professor for 12 years, most recently at Muhlenberg College, which presented him with a Faculty Research Development Award.

Tom holds a Bachelor of Arts degree cum laude from Macalester College with a triple major in chemistry, physics and mathematics. He earned his doctorate in inorganic and organometallic chemistry from the University of Illinois at Urbana and has done post-doctorate work in homogeneous catalysis chemistry. He is a member of the American Chemical Society, Materials Research Society, Minnesota Microscopy Society and other associations. A frequent presenter at chemistry conferences, Tom also lectures around the country to college professors on computational chemistry. He has authored books on the use of the Internet in chemical education and been a columnist and editor for the journal *The Chemical Educator*.

Thomas Gardner can be reached at Crane's main office or by e-mail at: tomg@CraneEngineering.com.

Crane Engineering is a Forensic Engineering and Technical Services company located in Plymouth, (Minneapolis), MN. It provides its clients with diagnostic and analytical capabilities by way of its extensive internal laboratories and recognized technical staff. Major disciplines include mechanical and electrical engineering, fuel gas systems, metallurgical, chemical, and micro-imaging technologies. Crane's major focus is on litigation support and materials identification with a special emphasis on materials identification with a special emphasis on multifaceted causal analysis.

Views expressed on this page are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Minnesota Section of the ACS.

Nominees

Chair-Elect



Ann Norberg

ACS Activities: 23-year member of ACS. Councilor and Alternate Councilor. ACS-Minnesota Section. Member of National ACS Committees: Chemical Safety (CCS), Environmental Improvement Committee (CEI), and Public Relations and Communications (CPRC)-current member. Member of Divisions: Chemical Health & Safety (CHAS), Chemistry & the Law (CHAL), and Agricultural & Food Chemistry (AGFD). Organized National Chemistry Week (NCW) activities at the Walker Art Center (WAC) for "Art and Chemistry" NCW. Conducted a well-attended WAC public tour with the "Art and Chemistry": theme of the "Arte Povera" exhibit. Minnesota Section Nominating Committee chair (1998). Wrote updated Minnesota Section "Nominating Committee Guidelines"

Statement: As the Minnesota chair-elect, I will continue to communicate National and Minnesota Section ACS activities and priorities to our members. I strongly support the communication of chemistry in everyday life. Through my activities on CPRC, I will provide significant guidance to the Minnesota Section in implementing the new ACS Brand in our newsletters, stationery, and web pages. I will continue to work with the MNACS team to increase member participation in MNACS significantly. With all the innovative chemical research and applications taking place within Minnesota and surrounding areas, I look forward to organizing more monthly meetings with Minnesota chemists as speakers and holding our meeting at Minnesota chemistry sites-with tours of the sites where possible.

Treasurer



Kim McKimney

Statement: Kim has been active in general ACS membership for two years and has served to support and assist the current

Treasurer. Employed by Lab Support since May of 2006, Kim serves a myriad of industries: Chemical, Medical Device, Pharmaceutical, Biotechnology, Materials Science, Personal Care, Petrochemical and Manufacturing; and varied client sizes from start-up to F500 where Science, Engineering and Research are pillars to their success. She recognizes and values giving back to the communities in which she serves. Her associates and colleagues would describe her as passionate, persevering in achieving objectives, and professional and personable in day to day life.

Kim holds a B.S. in Business Administration: Marketing, Minor in Speech Communications. She is an active member in the local American Chemical Society, serves on the Institute of Food Technologists Arrangements Committee, and is an active member of the Society of Cosmetic Chemists. She has attained: International Toastmasters "Certified Toastmaster" and Business Networking International's "Certified Business Networker".

Kim lives in St. Michael, Minnesota. She has two teenage boys and enjoys supporting their academic and athletic pursuits. She is an avid Arabian horse lover, owner and show competitor.

Treasurer



Linda Nanko-Yeager

Statement: After graduating from Carnegie-Mellon University with a B.S. in Chemistry, I worked for nearly a decade doing production analysis, quality control, and formulations in the fields of polymers and pharmaceuticals. When my children were born, I decided to focus on raising my family. Since then, I have concentrated on science education by becoming a museum and science outreach volunteer.

For the past 12 years I have been a volunteer at the Science Museum of Minnesota where I do activities in chemistry, mathematics, and physics with visitors. I have been involved in the local section through Kids & Chemistry and Experiment with a Chemist. During my children's school years, I volunteered in their classrooms doing science activities. I also designed and implemented a Science Fair for their elementary school.

Management positions have been a significant part of my volunteer experience as well. As vice-president of the governing board of Forest Lake Montessori School, my duties included fundraising, negotiations, facilities management, budgeting,

Nominees

and compliance with state regulations. Many of these same skills served me as president of the non-profit corporation that, working with a \$200,000 budget, operates the Delta Gamma sorority house at the University of Minnesota.

I am honored to be nominated for Treasurer and plan to continue serving the section in this or some other capacity in the future.

Treasurer



Wade Neiwert

Statement: I have been an assistant professor at Bethel University since 2004, teaching primarily general and inorganic chemistry courses, along with a few others, including a history of science course taught in Europe. My research program focuses on using inorganic metal-oxo clusters (polyoxometalates) as building blocks for larger materials. I earned my doctorate at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia in 2004, and my undergraduate studies were at George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon. My wife, Rachel, and son, Liam, along with our two border collies, keep my life away from work far from ordinary. My hobbies consist of reading, traveling, hiking, and camping.

Councilor



Dana R. Quirk Dorr

Academic Record: College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, Minnesota, B.A., 1996; University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, Ph.D. in Medicinal Chemistry, 2001; postdoctoral, University

of Minnesota College of Pharmacy and University of Minnesota Cancer Center.

Professional Position: Minnesota State University-Mankato, Department of Chemistry and Geology, Assistant Professor, 2005-current.

Service in ACS: Member ACS since 1999. Minnesota Section of ACS: Treasurer and member of the Executive Board, 2006 to date.

Related Activities and Interests: As an assistant professor, my research has been focused on elucidating the mechanisms of cancer chemotherapy. I am also actively pursuing various projects in chemical education in an effort to enhance student learning. In 2007, I prepared a General, Organic and Biochemistry Study Guide and Solutions Manual in collaboration with the text book authors. As a member of the local section, I have been involved in activities that bring chemistry into the lives of students of all levels and I hope to continue to make its opportunities and resources available and accessible. I intend to continue to help MN-ACS further build a strong foundation of chemistry interest and encourage a solid network of professional support.

Councilor



Sarah Mullins

ACS Activities: 2006-present, Councilor, MN Local Section; 2006-present, committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs (CCPA), ACS National; 2005-present, Government Affairs Committee (GAC), Chair MN Local Section.

Statement: I am honored to be nominated for reelection to a councilor position in the Minnesota Local Section of the American Chemical Society. The last three years I have served as councilor have been a great experience of how the ACS is a strong, growing professional society when it is responsive to its members and when members are empowered as scientists in the greater community, including workforce and educational institutions. My goal has been to contribute to the structure and energy that supports all of us members.

My primary focus has been on legislative and government affairs concerns. As Councilor, I was eligible for appointment to the Committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs (CCPA). I have worked with fellow ACS members, the ACS Board and Office of Legislative Government Affairs (OLGA) staff to establish national ACS public policy positions, advocate for the America COMPETES Act at the US Capitol and

interact formally with members from peer scientific societies (AAAS, APS etc).

I worked hard to bring skills learned on the national level back to address MN Section concerns. This included the development of a formal policy message on the issue of cross-certification for chemistry teachers in Minnesota. This required collaboration between the Society Committee on Education, OLGA and the MN Local Section. In Feb 2007, five members and I spent a day in constituent visits to our US Congress members in their MN District Offices. I reported on government affairs activities in the MN Chemist and on the MNACS website. For these efforts, our Local Section was honored with a 2007 ChemLuminary Award for Best Government Affairs Committee.

I am excited to continue this work to build connections between local and national ACS objectives. I hope you will support me in a second term as Councilor for the MN Local Section. Thank you for your consideration.

Councilor



Bill Ojala

Education and Employment: B.S., College of Great Falls, Great Falls, Montana; Ph.D., University of Minnesota

Current Position: Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota

ACS Activities: Co-coordinator of the United States National Chemistry Olympiad for the Minnesota Section; Alternate Councilor 2006-2008

Statement: As a chemistry teacher and Chemistry Olympiad volunteer, my primary interest has always been the education of the next generation of chemists. In serving as an advisor to college-level students performing undergraduate research in chemistry, I have seen first-hand how effective the experience of undergraduate research can be as a way of not only teaching those students already interested in our discipline but also reaching out to those students who may not have considered chemistry as a career before. I believe that we as a section of the ACS should explore ways in which we can more strongly support the undergraduate research programs conducted by our member colleges and universities. An important step we can take is to continue to support opportunities for students in the Minnesota Section to present the results of their research in a public forum. As a Councilor in the Minnesota Section, I will direct my efforts toward supporting undergraduate research and providing

opportunities for students to present it.

Councilor



Wayne W. Olsey

Bio: Wayne C. Wolsey has represented the Minnesota Section as Councilor since 1986 and served as Section Chair in 1986-87. He received his B.S. at Michigan State U. in 1958 and a Ph.D. in Inorganic Chemistry from the Univ. of Kansas in 1962. After three years with PPG Chemical Division in Ohio, he entered academia at Macalester College in 1965. He served as Chair from 1986-2001 and retired in 2006. Sabbatical leaves were taken at Arizona State U., the University of Bristol, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (3 times). With national ACS, he was an Associate Member of the Committee on Chemical Abstracts Service (1996-2000), the Committee on International Activities (1988), and the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (1994-95). Since 2001, he has been a Member of the Committee on Chemical Safety. Honors received include memberships in Phi Lambda Upsilon, Phi Kappa Phi, and Phi Beta Kappa; Outstanding College Science Teacher of the Year, 1989-MN Acad. Of Sci./Minn. Sci. Teachers Assoc.; Robert E. Sloan Award, 2001-MN Conference of Am. Assoc. of University Profs.; and the Robert Brasted Award for Undergrad Teaching, 2005-MN ACS. He is a member of the ACS Divisions of Chemical Education, Chemical Health and Safety, Inorganic Chemistry, and Nuclear Chemistry. Active with the state science education community, he is a past-president of the Minnesota Academy of Science and has been involved with Science Fairs, the High School Science Bowl, and the Undergraduate Research Symposium. In "retirement," he works with the MN Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management as a part-time Technical Advisor/Dose-Analyst (for incidents with nuclear power plants). Along with E.J. Slowinski, he is coauthor of the 9th edition of Chemical Principles in the Laboratory (2009, Brooks-Cole).

Candidate Statement: As a regular attendee at MN Section events and national Council meetings, I feel that I have a sense of local member concerns and have tried to represent these at the Council meetings. I would be pleased to continue to help represent the Minnesota Section through another term as Councilor.

Nominees

Councilor



Francis Amore

Current employment: Sept. 2000 -present, Principal Research Scientist, Cargill Incorporated, Wayzata, MN. Role: Provide project leadership and support to ensure that key business objectives are being met through project understanding and application of appropriate technologies in a timely manner. Manage and mentor staff of the Scientific Resource Center. Identify key resources and technologies required for the SRC to perform as a high performance team in support of key business objectives.

Service in ACS: Councilor Decatur-Springfield, IL section 9yrs, Council Committee on Local Section Activities, Joint Board-Council Committee on the Environment, Committee on Analytical Reagents.

Councilor



Heather

Sklenicka

Statement: As Councilor for the Minnesota section, I will represent a historically quiet group at the national level. I am a young female chemist who lives outside a large metro area. The primary concern for my demographic is getting and maintaining a job. I will be a voice for those just starting out in this highly competitive job market and help determine what is going to make our chemistry graduates stand out from all the others in the world, and how the local and national ACS can help members to be innovative, creative chemists. As a member of the local ACS section, I am serving as editor of *The Minnesota Chemist*, which has been steadily increasing communications among the chemists of Minnesota since its redesign. As part of the redesign team, I added new sections including the Molecule of the Month, Meet the Chemist, and free classified ads which give chemists throughout the state a vehicle to learn new things, meet new people, and look for jobs. I was also part of the committee that planned the section's first Career Day. This event

Nominees

gave undergraduate and gave undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to meet with chemists from a variety of different areas and explore careers in chemistry. Students left with a widened view of the possibilities a degree in chemistry can give. I believe these programs need to be shared with other sections. As a councilor, I will have the platform to share what we are doing in the Minnesota section with others around the country.

Councilor

Ron Fedie

Statement: None submitted.

Councilor

Joe Katzenmeyer

Statement: None submitted.

In the News

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: MINNESOTA AWARD OF THE MINNESOTA SECTION, AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

Quality, excellence, innovation, leadership, commitment - colleagues who embody these traits may be outstanding candidates for the Minnesota Award. Please consider nominating a worthy section member to this prestigious award. Previous winners have included Izaak Kolthoff, Robert Brasted, Paul Gassman, Edward Leete, Wayland Noland and Donald Truhlar (University of Minnesota), Courtland Agre (Augsburg College), John Wilson (Economics Laboratory), and Frank Bovey, Julianne Prager, Don Hagen, Richard Newmark, and Andrew Ouderkirk (3M).

The Minnesota Award was established in 1958 to honor section members who have made an outstanding contribution in chemical research or in service to the profession. The winner receives a bronze plaque and \$500 cash award and presents an award address to the section (usually in May). The award is given every three years, rotating with the Brasted Award for Excellence in College Teaching (awarded in 2008 to Jerry Mohrig of Carleton) and the Award for Excellence in High School Teaching (awarded in 2007 to Jennifer Steiger, Mahtomedi High School).

The nomination procedure is simple - submit a nominating letter, copy of the curriculum vitae or resume of the nominee, and up to four supporting letters to the chair of the Awards Committee, Richard A. Newmark, at ranewmark@yahoo.com (For more information, call 651 270-9345). The nomination packet should emphasize the nominee's achievement. The deadline for completed nomination packets is January 8, 2009.

Minnesota Section

2008 Election of Officers

Please follow the instructions below carefully.

Directions:

1. Place an "X" on the line beside your choice for each office. For councilor, vote for two candidates; the one with the highest number of votes will be councilor, the remaining second place will be alternate councilor.
2. Tear out the ballot and place it in a blank envelope and seal it. Place the blank envelope containing the ballot into another envelope.
3. Use your signature as part of the return address, add postage and send to:

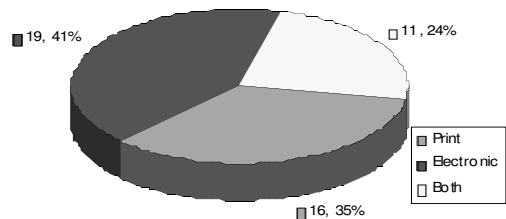
David Rusterholz
 University of Wisconsin - River Falls
 410 S. Third Street
 River Falls, WI 54022

Ballots must be received by October 20, 2008

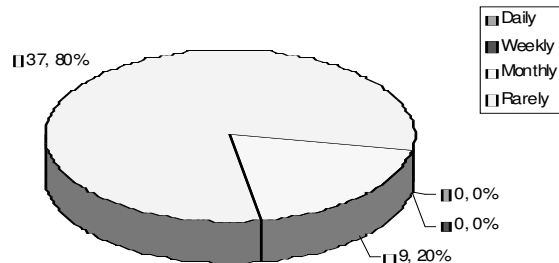
Ballot		
Chair-Elect (vote for 1)	Councilor (vote for 2)	Nominating Committee (vote for one in each category)
Ann Norberg _____	Danaè R. Quirk Dorr _____	<i>University of MN</i>
	Sarah Mullins _____	Kim McKimmey _____
	Bill Ojala _____	Derek Hook _____
	Francis Amore _____	
Treasurer (vote for 1)	Heather Sklenicka _____	<i>Industry</i>
	Wayne Wolsey _____	Richard Newmark _____
	Ron Fedie _____	Ramesh Kumar _____
Kim McKimmey _____	Joe Katzenmeyer _____	
Linda Nanko-Yeager _____		<i>Small college/Govt.</i>
Wade Neiwert _____		Joann Pfeiffer _____
		Lyle Hall _____

2008 Survey Results Summary

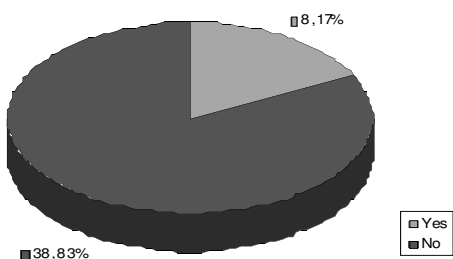
Q1: In What Format would you prefer to receive the MNChemist?



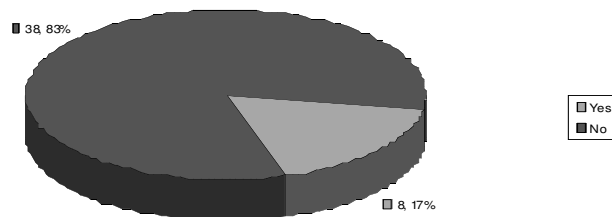
Q2: How often do you visit the mnacs.org website?



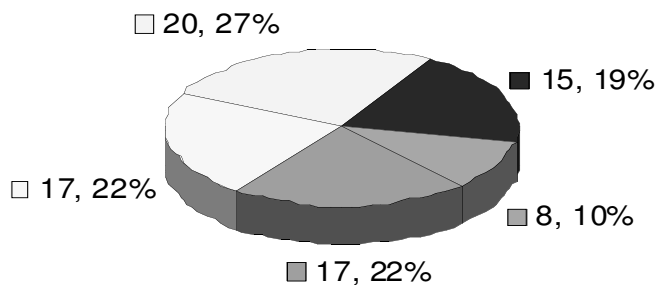
Q3: Do you currently volunteer for the local section?



Q4: Do you attend section meetings on a regular basis



Q5: Areas of Interest / Expansion of Offerings



- Presentations on job-hunting/interviewing skills
- Networking Events
- Professional Development, e.g. web-based resources, links to national ACS resources, skills cataloging, etc.
- Technical Talks
- Non-Technical Talks

Fuels and Chemicals from Biomass: Challenges and Opportunities

Dr. Badal Saha
USDA-ARS, Peoria, IL

Abstract: In the U.S., the production of corn grain based ethanol reached 4.5 billion gallons in 2005, a fraction of the 140 billion gallons of transportation fuel used annually. The goal is to displace 30% of the nation's current gasoline use with ethanol by 2030 and this will require production levels equal to roughly 60 billion gallons a year. If all corn grain now grown in the US is converted to ethanol, it can satisfy approximately 15% of current transportation fuel needs. Thus, developing ethanol as fuel, beyond its current role as fuel oxygenate, will require developing lignocellulosic biomass as feedstock because of its abundance. This includes various agricultural residues such as corn fiber, corn stover, rice straw, wheat straw and sugarcane bagasse, and energy crops such as switchgrass. In this presentation, the current state of research and development for cost-effective conversion of lignocellulosic feedstock to fuel ethanol, and efforts to bring the technology into the market place will be reviewed. Recent research progress dealing with the production of some other value-added chemicals from biomass will also be described.

Biography: Dr. Badal Saha is a Research Chemist and Lead Scientist with the Fermentation Biotechnology Research Unit, National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research, USDA-ARS, Peoria, IL. He conducts basic and applied research on the conversion of agricultural residues to fuel alcohol and value-added fermentation products. Dr. Saha was previously a research scientist with the Michigan Biotechnology Institute, Lansing, MI (1985-92) and Assistant Visiting Professor at the Department of Biochemistry, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. Dr. Saha did his post-doctoral training in Enzymology at the University of Maryland, College Park, MD after receiving his M. S. (1981) and Ph.D. (1984) in Microbial Technology from Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan. He received his B.Sc. (Honors) and M.Sc. in Biochemistry from Dhaka University, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Dr. Saha also holds a post-graduate diploma in Microbiology and Biotechnology (one year UNESCO course) from Osaka University, Osaka, Japan. Dr. Saha has over 130 research publications that include book chapters, review articles and patents. In addition, he has 120 published abstracts. Dr. Saha has edited four books: *Fuels and Chemicals from Biomass* (1997), *Applied Biocatalysis in Specialty Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals* (2000), *Fermentation Biotechnology* (2003) and *Lignocellulose Biodegradation* (2004). He serves on the Editorial Board of seven journals: *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*, *Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology*, *Bioresource Technology*, *Journal of Biobased Materials & Bioenergy*, *Journal of Food, Agriculture & Environment*, *Journal of Industrial Microbiology & Biotechnology*, and *Process Biochemistry*. Dr. Saha served as an Editor of *Process Biochemistry* for 1½ years (2005-2006). He is an ad-hoc reviewer of 27 other scientific journals and research grant proposals for USDA and NSF. He has given 30 invited seminar presentations and organized 20 symposiums at national and international meetings. Dr. Saha has served Peoria (renamed Illinois Heartland) Local Section-ACS as Chair-Elect (2000), Chair (2001) and Past Chair (2002). He is currently serving as Director, The Society for Industrial Microbiology (SIM), Chair of SIM Awards & Honors Committee, and 2007 SIM Annual Meeting Program Chair. He has also served in three SIM Annual Meeting Program Committees (2003-2005).

Meeting Location: Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave South, University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus. Download campus map at: <http://www1.umn.edu/twincities/maps/CECC/index.html>

Meeting Schedule:

Executive Meeting: 5:50-6:30 pm in Room 155

Dinner: 6:30 pm -7:30 pm in the Main Dining / Courtyard of the CECC.

Presentation: 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm in Room 155

Dinner/cost: Dinner will consist of chicken picatta, wild rice blend, salad, chef's blend of vegetables, apple pie dessert, and coffee/soft drinks. Cost of dinner is \$20, payable at the door.

Reservations: Send to Richard Walsh at mnacs.chair@gmail.com or by a detailed message at 651-795-6615 by COB Tuesday, September 2nd.

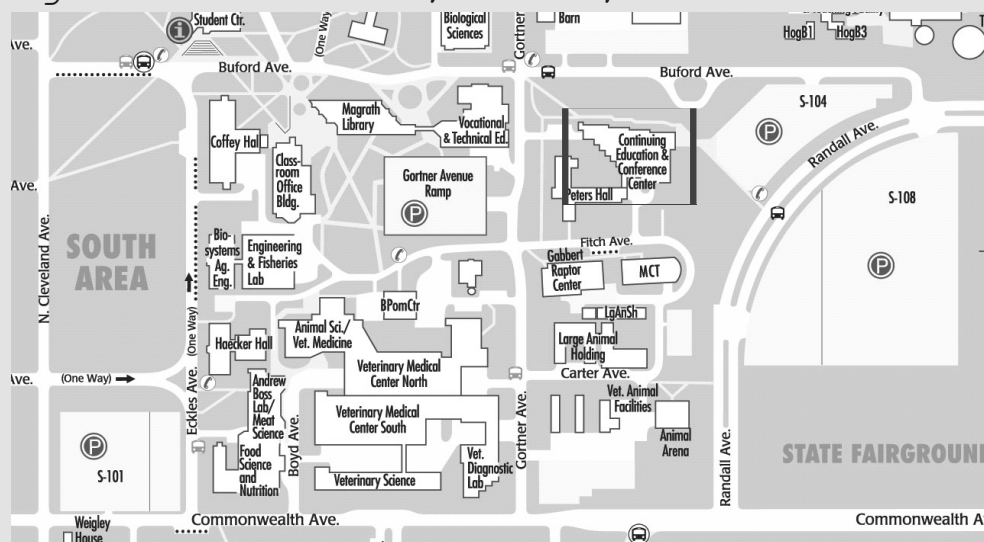
Directions on at www.mnacs.org. Map on back cover.

777th Meeting of the American Chemical Society, Minnesota Section

Tuesday, September 9th, 2008

UM Continuing Education Center, St. Paul, MN

Reservations due
September 2, 2008
See page 11 for details



The Minnesota
Chemist



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