

773rd Meeting of the American Chemical Society Minnesota Section
Tuesday, February 19th, 2008
Macalester College – St. Paul

Dr. Truman Schwartz
Macalester College – St. Paul

**“Chemistry Education, Science Literacy,
and the Liberal Arts”**

Abstract

Millions of Americans possess little scientific knowledge and less understanding of how such knowledge is acquired, tested, and refined. Crucial issues with significant technical content are so common that some general familiarity with chemical phenomena, concepts, and methodology is essential for the health of the nation and the planet. This talk will identify some common misconceptions about science and suggest curricular and pedagogical strategies for addressing these misunderstandings. Many of these strategies reflect the author's efforts, over the past 40 years, to present chemistry within the context and intellectual tradition of the liberal arts.

Biography:

Truman Schwartz is DeWitt Wallace Professor Emeritus at Macalester College. He joined the chemistry department there in 1966, and served in a variety of capacities, including chair of the department and Dean of the Faculty. He holds a BA from the University of South Dakota in the state of his birth; BA and MA degrees from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar; and a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from MIT.

Initially, Truman's research interests were in the physical chemistry of proteins, but he has made major contributions to chemical education. He is author, co-author, or editor of numerous papers and nine books, including the first two editions of *Chemistry in Context: Applying Chemistry to Society*, an innovative college text for nonscience majors, sponsored by the American Chemical Society. He is former chair of the ACS Minnesota Section and the Division of Chemical Education. Among his many honors are a CMA Catalyst Award (1982), the Robert Brasted Award of the Minnesota Section (1996), the James Flack Norris Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Teaching of Chemistry (1997), the George C. Pimentel Award in Chemical Education (2007), and an honorary D.Sc. from the University of South Dakota (1991).

Meeting Schedule:

Location: Macalester College, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105

Business Meeting: 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm in Olin-Rice 205

Dinner: 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm in the Olin-Rice Atrium

Presentation: 7:30 pm in Olin-Rice 250

Cost:

Free(!) for those that have served as a volunteer for the MN-ACS in the past year. It's the least we can do! If you have not, a \$15 charge payable at the door (cash/check) will be collected. Dinner will be provided by Davanni's.

Reservations:

Reservations to Barb Ekeberg at ekeberg@macalester.edu or 651-696-6042 by Tuesday, February 12th.

Directions to Macalester and Parking:

From the East: Take I-94 West to Snelling Ave. Exit and turn left onto Snelling Ave. Proceed on Snelling to St. Clair Ave and turn right. Proceed on St. Clair to Campus Drive and turn right. Limited parking is available at Olin-Rice Halls south side, otherwise follow Campus Drive to parking opposite the Music Building/Concert Hall.

From the West: I-94 East to Snelling Ave. Exit and turn right onto Snelling Ave. Proceed on Snelling to St. Clair Ave and turn right. Proceed on St. Clair to Campus Drive and turn right. Limited parking is available at Olin-Rice Halls south side, otherwise follow Campus Drive to parking opposite the Music Building/Concert Hall.

Meeting is in Building marked “9” below

From the website: <http://www.macalester.edu/about/mapbynumber.html>

