



# SoFlacs



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South Florida Section ACS

December 2005

## SoFL-ACS Wins ChemLuminary Award

The 7th Annual ChemLuminary Awards celebration was held on the evening of Aug. 30 during the ACS national meeting in Washington, D.C. Twelve committees handed out a total of 40 awards, which recognize the efforts of volunteers on behalf of ACS as reflected in their 2004 annual reports. SoFL-ACS won its third ChemLuminary Award for the Best Student Affiliate Event during national chemistry week, 2004, based on activities conducted by the FIU-Biscayne Bay ACS Student Affiliate Chapter.

Each day during NCW the FIU Student Affiliate chapter hosted special events in the Panther Square at the Biscayne Bay campus connected with the NCW theme of "Health and Wellness". On Monday, Oct. 17 they highlighted vitamin and antioxidant contents of fruits and vegetables and performed analysis of urine samples. On the second day, they highlighted tea as a blood pressure regulator and took ECG of students. On the third day, they highlighted dangers of smoking to the respiratory system and displayed two actual lungs: healthy and smoker. On day 4, the theme was caring about your skin and eyes at home by demonstrating how egg white closely resembles the human eye and effect of cleaning products, such as bleach, can have on one's eyes. On the day five FIU students and faculty advisor Dr. Milagros Delgado, reached out to community children by celebrating NCW with third graders at Coral Park and Madie Ives elementary schools. They presented chemistry magic shows/ demonstrations and gave out Millimoles, stickers, tattoos and candy to the students.



Delighted Milagros Delgado, SoFL-ACS Councilor (center) accepts the Best Student Affiliate Event Award on behalf of the South Florida Section from V. Michael Mautino (left), chair of the ACS Committee on Community Activities, and ACS President William F. Carroll (right).

## FUTURE EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Friday, January 13, 2006 , 4:00 - 5:30 PM:** SoFL-ACS new year welcoming party at Nova Southeastern University, Davie. Place TBA. For further details contact Dr. Venk (venk@nova.edu, 954 262-1335, or check SoFL-ACS website at [www.soflacs.org](http://www.soflacs.org) for details).

**February:** SoFL-ACS seminar, TBA (check SoFL-ACS website at [www.soflacs.org](http://www.soflacs.org) for details).

**March:** Chemistry Olympiad and SoFL-ACS seminar, TBA (check SoFL-ACS website at [www.soflacs.org](http://www.soflacs.org) for details).

**March 25-31:** ACS national meeting in Atlanta (check ACS website at [www.chemistry.org/meetings](http://www.chemistry.org/meetings) for details).

**Saturday, April 7, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM:** elementary school science teacher continuing education workshop. Nova Southeastern University magnet school, Davie. For further details contact Dr. George Fisher (305) 899-3430, gfisher@mail.barry.edu.

**Friday and Saturday, April 13 and 14:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Forensic Sciences Symposium, Nova Southeastern University, Davie (check SoFL-ACS website at [www.soflacs.org](http://www.soflacs.org) for details).

**May 11-13:** FAME 2006 - Florida sections annual meeting and exposition. Orlando (TBA).

## ACS President Bill Carroll Presents First High School Chemistry Club Charter to Wellington High School in at Oct. 20 SoFL-ACS Meeting

ACS President Bill Carroll's "Extreme stop at Florida International University for a where he met with students and teachers from High School in Palm Beach County. Early in wrote to President Carroll asking whether high school students, similar to the ACS same time, the ACS Education Division was program for high schools. Many ACS High revealed an interest in high school clubs on a ideas into action. In his remarks to the SoFL- knew there was interest, but would we find drawing board? Our modest and informal ACS high school chemistry clubs this fall heard from schools all over the U.S.—large clubs, new schools ready to start a program, members, non-members—all ready to work a result these efforts, President Carroll first chartered ACS high school chemistry club. Becoming the first chartered ACS chemistry club was described as a great honor by the Wellington students and their faculty advisor, Barbara Cloran. Carroll concluded his presentation by saying, "They will make us very proud."



National Chemistry Week Tour" included a SoFL-ACS meeting on Thursday, Oct. 20, four area high schools, including Wellington 2005 two high school students at Wellington ACS offered a national affiliates program for college/university Student Affiliates. At the developing a new Chemistry Club pilot School Teacher members had already recent survey. The time seemed right to put ACS gathering, President Carroll said: "We enough pilot sites to get the program off the request for about 10 teachers willing to pilot yielded nearly 40 enthusiastic responses. We and small schools, schools with established veteran teachers, new teachers, active ACS with ACS on this exciting new program." As proclaimed Wellington High School as the

This Fall, the ACS Education Division initiated a pilot program for society affiliated high school chemistry clubs across the US. By launching the High School Chemistry Clubs program, ACS hopes to make the fascinating world of chemistry come alive for hundreds of students this fall at the pilot sites throughout the U.S., creating the first high school clubs of the world's largest professional scientific society. A self-selected group of 35 teachers signed on for the 2005-06 pilot program and received assistance from the Office of High School Education for launching their own chemistry clubs. ACS staff contacted interested teachers, produced a handbook, suggested interesting and appropriate club activities, and established contacts with other ACS membership units. Plans are in place for a Web page for posting resources and encouraging communication among clubs. Additionally, teachers were encouraged to contact their local ACS sections and nearby ACS Student Affiliate Chapters to initiate joint activities and acquire member support.

ACS looks forward to expanding the pilot into a full ACS program for the 2006-2007 school year. To accomplish that, we're counting on the support of ACS Local Sections in identifying, encouraging, and recruiting area high schools for what promises to be an outstanding partnership. In South Florida, we have already identified potential enthusiastic chemistry teachers and students at Miami Palmetto and Miami Coral Park Senior Highs, Dr. Michael Krop High, and Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame High.

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## SoFL-ACS Student Affiliate Chapter Awards

ACS Student Affiliate Chapters at Barry University and both Florida International University campuses, University Park and Biscayne Bay campuses, were selected as award winning Student Affiliate chapters for activities conducted during the 2004 - 2005 academic year, based on the programs and activities described in their annual reports. Out of about 900 Student Affiliate chapters at colleges and universities nationwide, 32 received "Outstanding Chapter", 62 "Commendable" and 81 "Honorable Mention" awards. These awards of special recognition will be presented to the winning chapters on March 26, 2006 at the ACS National meeting in Atlanta, GA. The Barry University Chem Club/Student Affiliate chapter was selected as an "Outstanding Chapter" and the FIU chapters won "Commendable Chapter" awards. The Barry University chapter was also selected as one of a dozen "Green Chemistry" chapters, based on their promotion of the principles of Green Chemistry.

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## First Annual Chemical Sciences Symposium was a Success

The first annual SoFL-ACS sponsored "Chemical Sciences Symposium," held at Nova-Southeastern University on Saturday, November 12, was a successful event attended by approximately 50 people. The theme for the symposium was "Earth, Sea and Air. The keynote address on the "Chemistry of Early Earth" was presented by Dr. Penny Boston, Director, Cave and Karst Studies Program at New Mexico Tech. In addition, two SoFL-ACS members presented talks on their research: Dr. K.V. Venkatachalam, Nova Southeastern University, spoke on "Chemical Communication in Sea Lamprey", and Dr. Anthony Hynes, University of Miami, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, spoke on "Atmospheric Chemistry: Current Issues and Uncertainties."

Twenty one students presented posters on their own research. Donna Memran of Florida Atlantic University took first place in both chemistry content and presentation for her poster on "Mechanistic Studies of Porphyrin Binding to G-Quadruplex-Forming Oligonucleotides with Resonance Raman Spectroscopy" and Susana Lopez, Barry University, placed second in both categories for her poster "Thermal Interconversion of Atropisomeric Biaryl Building Blocks for the Synthesis of Vancomycin". Commendable student poster awards went to Deanna Donohoue and Mareva Chanson, both from U. of Miami RSMAS, and Francisco Alvarez, Pine Crest High School, Ft. Lauderdale. Special thanks go to the two sets of independent judges who judged the student poster presentations for chemistry content and layout/oral presentation.

SoFL-ACS gratefully acknowledges the efforts of program chair, Dr. K.V. Venkatachalam (Venk) of Nova, for organizing the symposium. Food, beverages and poster boards were generously contributed by the College of Medical Sciences (Dean, Dr. Harold Laubach) of Nova Southeastern University.

## NOMINEES FOR 2006 OFFICERS

### NOMINEE FOR CHAIRMAN

#### Robert "Skip" Pomeroy



Dr. Pomeroy is currently a faculty member at Nova Southeastern University and has been in South Florida for the past 12 years. He received a BA in Chemistry from the University of California San Diego, an MS in analytical chemistry from California State Polytechnic University Pomona, and his Ph.D in analytical

chemistry from the University of Arizona, working for Bonner Denton. He served as a research scientist at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in the Marine physical lab and also for Eastman Kodak in the analytical technologies division before accepting his first faculty position at the US Naval Academy.

#### Dr. Pomeroy's Position Statement

I became involved with the South Florida section of the ACS four years when I took over the responsibility of running the Chemistry Olympiad. Participation is growing each year and this section has each year produced a candidate to the National study camp (only 20 selected nationally), and this past year Scott Rabin qualified for the International team and received a metal! Both Cheryl Doolittle at Pine Crest School and Jay Salon at Miami Palmetto are to be applauded for their efforts in chemical education in South Florida. I am sure there are other teachers out there worthy of the same praise and we need to find and acknowledge them. I am also one of the founding members of the Fort Lauderdale Forensic Conference Committee, which has brought the forensic science symposia to this area the past 3 years.

I wish to build upon those programs that are leading to community outreach and establish more programs that will bring the profession of chemistry to an even broader audience. I would like to see a more active lecture series and that the lectures and seminars are available to professionals and the public in a broader set of venues. We currently don't do enough for the full constituency of the South Florida Section. The model we established for the forensic science symposia with works well: workshops for teachers; a plenary lecture, free and open to the public; and the technical sessions that are geared to college level students and professionals. This activity serves a broad array of people in our area. I wish to expand the recent chemical sciences symposia in much the same manner. We are also encouraging the presentation of student research at these functions and are expanding the symposiums. I would like to see this symposia model expanded to the northern portions of Palm Beach and west coast portion of our section by reaching out to FAU's honors college and Gulf Coast University as potential sites for other symposia. As another wishful thought, I want to establish better ties with the chemical industry in the area. The ACS is a professional organization not just an educational one. We need to see what we can do to involve the local professionals in section activities. As a consultant for Southern Grouts and Mortars I hope to use my contacts to grow this aspect of the local section programming. I have seen and been a part of many successful projects in the South Florida section and I am willing to serve to continue and hopefully grow the South Florida section of the ACS.

### NOMINEE FOR TREASURER

#### Leonard Keller



Dr. Keller received his B.A. in chemistry from Rutgers University in 1965 and his Ph.D. in chemistry from Yale University in 1970. He was an NIH Postdoctoral Fellow at Brandeis University from 1970-72. He has been a faculty member at Florida International University since the university's opening in 1972. He was chairman of the FIU Chemistry

Department from 1981-1994 and currently holds the rank of Professor. Dr. Keller served as chairman of the Miami Subsection of the Florida Section in 1977 and has been treasurer of the South Florida Section since 1998.

#### Dr. Keller's Position Statement

My close association and connections with the chemistry community in South Florida over the past 30+ years and my experience as section treasurer since 1998 will enable me to continue to serve the Section both as treasurer and as an executive committee member. I will maintain the tradition of fiscal responsibility that has been the cornerstone of my tenure as section treasurer.

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#### VOTE IN THE SOUTH FLORIDA ELECTIONS

1. Select and mark candidates on the ballot. If you wish to vote for individual(s) other than those nominated please write in their name(s). Vote only for as many candidates as indicated.
2. You may "write-in" the name of another individual who is willing to serve in that position.
3. Cut off the ballot below and place it in an envelope, sign the top left hand corner of the envelope, stamp and mail it to the secretary:

Dr. Milagros Delgado  
Department of Chemistry  
Florida International University  
Biscayne Bay Campus, AC1-382A  
North Miami, FL 33181

#### BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY, Dec. 21.

#### CHAIRMAN-ELECT (vote for one)

\_\_\_\_\_ Robert "Skip" Pomeroy

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#### TREASURER (Vote for one)

\_\_\_\_\_ Leonard Keller

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Two sodium atoms are walking down the street.  
One says to the other: "I think that I just lost an electron."  
The second responds: "Are you sure?"  
The first one says: "Yes, I'm positive".

Officers of the South Florida Section ACS for 2005

Immediate Past Chair: George Fisher, Department of Chemistry, Barry University, 11300 NE 2nd Ave., Miami Shores, FL 33161; (305) 899-3430, FAX (305) 899-3479; gfisher@mail.barry.edu.

Chair: Venkatesh (Vic) Shanbhag, FAR-MST, Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314, 954-262-8331, shanbhag@nova.edu.

Chair-Elect: K.V. (Venk) Venkatachalam, Department of Biochemistry, Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33328-2018, 954 262-1335, venk@nova.edu.

Secretary: Milagros Delgado, Department of Chemistry, Florida International University Biscayne Bay Campus, AC1-382A, North Miami, FL 33181, (305) 919-5966; delgadom@fiu.edu.

Treasurer: Leonard Keller, Department of Chemistry, Florida International University, Miami, FL 33199, (305) 348-3081; kellerl@fiu.edu.

National Councilers: Zaida Morales-Martinez (2006), FIU, 305 348-3084, moralesz@fiu.edu; Milagros Delgado (2007), FIU, 305 919-5966, delgadom@fiu.edu.

Alternate Councilers: George Fisher (2006), Barry University, 305-899-3430, gfisher@mail.barry.edu; George Duncan (2007), Broward County Sheriff's Crime Lab, 954 831-6147, george\_duncan@sheriff.org

Membership Applications: available from the secretary, Dr. Milagros Delgado, Department of Chemistry, Florida International University Biscayne Bay Campus, AC1-382A, North Miami, FL 33181, (305) 940-5966.

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## Unemployment Is Down, Salaries Are Up For U.S. Chemists, C&EN Reports

Unemployment among U.S. chemists has dropped to 3.1 percent this year from a record high of 3.6 percent in 2004, according to an American Chemical Society (ACS) survey reported in the Aug. 1 issue of Chemical & Engineering News, the weekly newsmagazine published by the ACS. Median salaries for bachelor's level chemists this year are up from \$61,000 to \$64,000, or 4.9 percent; for master's graduates, from \$71,000 to \$75,000, or 5.6 percent; and for Ph.D. chemists, from \$90,000 to \$93,800, or 4.2 percent, the survey found. The increase for all chemists was from a median of \$82,000 last year to \$83,000 this year.

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