



November 2012
Vol. 97, Issue 7

Central Texas ACS

Established 1917

Newsletter of the Central Texas Section of the American Chemical Society
www.CentralTexasACS.org

Tuesday, November 13th
Social Hour begins at 6:00 pm, Dinner begins at 6:30 pm

Chemistry in the Sherlock Holmes Stories

Dr. James F. O'Brien
Missouri State University, Springfield, MO

Nuevo Leon

<http://www.nuevoleoninaustin.com>

1501 E. 6th St.
Austin, TX 78702

Dinner is \$10 for non-members/adults, \$8 for members/adults and \$6 for students

RSVP by November 12th using any of the following methods below:
This 20-second [RSVP link](#) is also in this email (accompanying newsletter [link](#))
<http://centraltexasacs.sites.acs.org/>

Email James Lin @ JLin@atmi.com

Call or text (512) 417-5636 with full name, # of guests.

Abstract

"Madam, you must stop painting your child's crib." These were the first words spoken by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to a woman who had brought her listless infant daughter to the Edinburgh Medical School in 1912. Doyle, like his creation Sherlock Holmes, had acute deductive powers. His diagnosis of lead poisoning proved to be correct.

Conan Doyle's first published medical article, in the British Medical Journal in 1879, dealt with poisons. His interest in Chemistry is apparent in his fictional writings as well. Poisons, for example, are mentioned in 22 of the 60 Holmes tales. Numerous other chemicals are mentioned as well.

Sherlock Holmes had a chemical "table" in his Baker Street quarters. Here he would relax by doing chemical analyses or syntheses (much as today's students relax!). There is, in fact, so much Chemistry in the Sherlock Holmes stories that practically every story has some, whether it be poisons, gems, brandy, acids, or even the famous 7% solution of cocaine. This lecture will discuss the scientific Holmes with quotes from the Master himself and will illustrate that Asimov's famous assessment of Holmes as a "blundering chemist" is incorrect.

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Letter from the Chair

Dear members,

We all enjoyed the talk by Dr. Prouty during the recent Section meeting at the County Line on the Hill, with a great three-meat BBQ dinner and a wonderful view. The *QwikSeal*[®] Pre-Sealed Fasteners has great application in the airline industry and I think we soon will see a successful commercialization.

Our next speaker will be Dr. James O'Brien for Chemistry in the Sherlock Holmes Stories. We are all excited to have him and I hope that you will be able to attend.

The November meeting will also be our volunteer appreciation meeting. We are very thankful for the entire crew of volunteers that came to support Earth Day and National Chemistry Week events, and I would like every one of us to make their day by personally thanking them all for their passion and hard work! Those who volunteered during the Earth Day and National Chemistry Week will be invited to attend this Section meeting free of charge. During this meeting, we will also conduct Section Officer elections for Treasurer, Secretary, and Chair-Elect for 2013 year. The candidates are Betsy Shelton, Margaret Connor and Sandra Ludwig, respectively.

Dr. James Boggs has resigned as Councilor for the Central Texas Section after 17 years of service. The Executive Committee has voted a Councilor to fulfill the remaining term until the next election on 2013. Linette Watkins is now Councilor II with Denny Wagoner as Alternate Councilor II (term in 2013) and Barry Streusand Alternate Councilor I with Diane Kneeland as Councilor I (term in 2014). Again, thanks to Jim Boggs for all these years of service! So congrats to Linette and Barry on their new appointments!

Just a reminder again to all, this is the last paper newsletter from the Section. If you wish to continue receiving the paper newsletter, please sign up with this [link](#) or at <http://centraltexasacs.sites.acs.org/>.

Regards, James Lin

Speaker Bio

Jim O'Brien was born in Philadelphia on the 4th of July. He received a BS in Chemistry from Villanova University and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Minnesota. Following postdoctoral work at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, he taught Inorganic Chemistry for 35 years at Missouri State University in Springfield, MO

While at MSU, Dr. O'Brien received three research awards and three teaching awards, including the Governor of Missouri's Award for Teaching Excellence in 2001. In 2002 he was named Distinguished Professor. Now retired, he does volunteer work at a Springfield hospital. He continues to lecture on Sherlock Holmes as well as "Famous Mad Hatters". His book, *The Scientific Sherlock Holmes* (Oxford University Press), will be published on December 1, 2012.

Project SEED

Project SEED provides opportunities for high school students who historically lack exposure to scientific careers to spend a summer conducting hands-on research with a scientist in academic, industry, and government research laboratories.

Students receive a fellowship award for their efforts and a chance to receive a SEED college scholarship. For the past several years, the Central Texas Local Section has sponsored three students per summer in internships.

In 2012, the cost to support these students totaled \$8,000; we received \$3,500 from National ACS and \$300 in private donations, leaving the Local Section to kick in the remaining \$4,200.

Our goal for 2013 is to raise \$3,000 in private donations to continue supporting chemistry education in our region. To make a tax-deductible donation, please send a check payable to "Central Texas ACS" with "Project SEED 2013" in the memo line to Central Texas ACS, PO Box 9811, Austin, TX 78766. Thanks!

Betsy Shelton, Treasurer, retrosynthesis@gmail.com, 512-636-1905.

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Global Challenges Discussion

The topic for special discussion by council was “What major efforts should ACS pursue to help alleviate water and other global challenges?” Members of the ACS feel a responsibility as scientists and citizens to help address global challenges facing society in the 21st Century to help sustain Earth and its people. These challenges include increased population growth, limited natural resources, malnutrition, disease, climate change, violence and war, and the denial of basic human rights, including the right to benefit from scientific and technological progress. This discussion focused primarily on the crisis of available water suitable for drinking, agriculture and industry. Following the presentation, more than 30 Councilors engaged in a discussion of this global challenge and others and offered numerous suggestions. Members interested in contributing to the discussion should email b_shakhashiri@acs.org.

Leadership Institute

The ACS Leaderships Institute will be held in Dallas, Texas, January 25-27, 2013, for new committee, local section, and division chairs, and other volunteer governance members.

National Chemistry Week and Chemists Celebrate Earth Day

The 25th anniversary of National Chemistry Week will be celebrated October 21-27 with the theme, “Nanotechnology – The Smallest BIG Idea in Science!” The 10th anniversary of Chemists Celebrate Earth Day will be celebrated in 2013. Activities highlighting the “Best of CCED” will be presented for this April event.

Chemistry Ambassadors Program

ACS is still encouraging members to become a Chemistry Ambassador. By becoming a Chemistry Ambassador, you can help educate people about the importance of chemists and chemistry, while taking part in community activities that are engaging and fulfilling for you. The suggestions and tools in this program are largely designed for individuals on their own schedules, but there are resources for local section programming, as well. Visit www.acs.org/ChemistryAmbassadors for more information.

ACS Fellows Nominations

The ACS Fellows program recognizes members that have contributed significantly to both the chemical sciences and the ACS. All nominees must demonstrate their professional contributions to the chemical enterprise and their service to the ACS at the national, local or divisional level. The fifth group of ACS Fellows will be named in 2013. Nominations forms will be available on-line in early 2013 at www.acs.org/nominatefellow or contact the chair of the Central Texas local section (Chair@CentralTexasACS.org).

Social Networking

Members are reminded of the ACS presence in social networks and iPhone apps. The ACS Network (www.acs.org/ACSNetwork) is a social and professional networking site available to ACS members. The ACSMobile application allows iPhone or iPod Touch users to read journal content and CEN on-line.

Next National Meeting

The 245th ACS National Meeting will be held in New Orleans, April 7 – 11. Abstract submission is open. Early registration for the meeting opens in December. The theme for the New Orleans meeting is “Chemistry of Energy & Food.”

Respectfully submitted,
Linette Watkins and Diane Kneeland

**American Chemical Society
Central Texas Section
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Austin, TX 78766**

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**Central Texas ACS: November 2012
2012 Executive Committee: Officers and Program Directors**

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Alt. Councilor 2	Dr. Denny Wagoner	AnalySys Inc.	Volunteer Coordinator	Tamara Tarbox	Cerilliant Corp.
National Chemistry Week	Dodie Wells	Retired	Newsletter Editor	Cotton Starr	University of Texas
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