

Volume 50, Number 8 — December, 2008
 Columbus Section of the American Chemical Society, Inc.
 George Greene, Editor — Ron Mitchum, Section Chair
www.acscolumbus.org

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DEDICATION

This issue of *The Chemical Record* is dedicated to the memory of

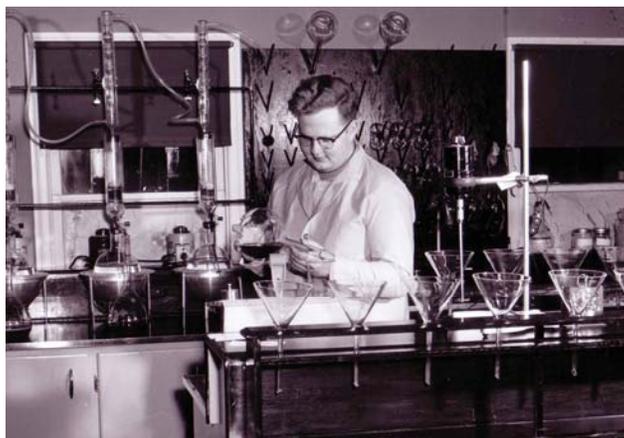
Robert Edward Merritt

Who served as Editor for seventeen years.



Bob at Chemical Abstracts Service, ca 2005

IN MEMORIAM
ROBERT E. MERRITT (1930 – 2008)



Bob at the Barrentan Testing and Research Corporation, Port Allegany, Pennsylvania, 1950's

Robert Edward Merritt passed away in Columbus, Ohio on October 24, 2008, at the age of 78. He was born in Coudersport, Potter County, Pennsylvania, and attended the Port Allegany High School. He graduated in 1947 with magna cum laude, was the Class Valedictorian, and received the Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award.

Bob graduated from Hanover College, Indiana, in 1951 with an A.B. degree in physics and mathematics (double major), where he received the David A. Kochenour Cup in Physics and Departmental Honors in Physics. Subsequently, Bob received an M.S. degree in 1953 from the University of Cincinnati in leather chemistry. For the next 6 1/2 years, he was a research chemist with Barrentan Testing Corporation and its parent company, the American Extract Company, at Port Allegany, PA. He was involved with development of synthetic tanning materials from sulfite cellulose-based paper mill waste and phenolic resins.

In December 1959, Bob joined the staff of Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) in Columbus, Ohio, as an assistant editor. His first assignment was indexing and editing papers and patents from the CA Leather and Glue Section (later Leather and Related Materials Section). When CAS introduced a unified analysis into its editing operations in the early 1970s, Bob started doing both abstracting and indexing of the primary documents. As the number of papers dealing with leather chemistry decreased, Bob's responsibility was extended to cellulose chemistry, industrial carbohydrates, and other macromolecular sections. He was President of the CAS Recreation Association in 1967-1968.

Bob retired as a Senior Associate Scientific Information Analyst from CAS in 2005 after 46 years of service. Only two other CAS staff members exceeded that record throughout the 100-year history of the company.

Bob also contributed his energy, time, and expertise to the chemical profession outside his regular work. While working in Pennsylvania, he served on a couple of committees of the American Chemical Society (ACS) Penn-York Local Section. On the local Columbus scene, he was Chair of the ACS Columbus Local Section in 1986, the Section Councilor (1987-1992), and Alternate Councilor (1994-1996). On a national scene, as a member of the ACS Council, he served on the ACS Committee on Constitution and Bylaws. He was a member of the ACS for over 55 years.

His most enduring contribution to the ACS Columbus Section was his work for THE CHEMICAL RECORD. He was a member of its editorial staff for two decades (1966-1986) and served as its Editor for 17 years (1969-1986). No other editor in the 50-year existence of this newsletter has ever served that long. In the February 1987 issue of THE CHEMICAL RECORD, Bob wrote a "Valedictory", commenting jokingly that his first valedictory was delivered 40 years earlier at the high school. Bob has summarized the many changes



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that occurred in the operation and publication, including an early manual maintaining of the mailing list, production of mailing labels, changes of printers, and changes of format over these past 20 years.

Bob was also an active member of the American Leather Chemists Association. For many years, he was an Associate Editor of the *Journal of the American Leather Chemists Association* and was responsible for the preparation of the journal's annual indexes.

Ending on a personal note, I wish to add that I have known Bob from my first day of work at CAS in 1964, when CAS was still on the campus of the Ohio State University (OSU). Bob was my mentor and introduced me to many aspects of life around the campus and in Columbus. We became friends ever since.

We will all miss him.

W. Val Metanomski

EULOGY FOR ROBERT E. MERRITT GIVEN BY ANDREW R. MERRITT 10/28/2008

My father was a family man. There are many things that my father could have spent his time and money on that might have brought him more fame or fortune, but his greatest investment was in the love that he had for his family. He was an editor for 45 years at Chemical Abstracts Service, but to me he was the chief editor of my essays and homework assignments; even the ones that I didn't finish until 3 am in the morning and were due the next day. He was never overly absorbed in sports, but he and my mom were my number 1 fans, showing up to pretty much every sporting event I participated in (whether I wanted them to or not.)

Of course by the time that I became proficient at sports, my dad couldn't keep up with me physically. After all, he had already lived half a century before I arrived. But having an older dad has its merits too. I always won the "my dad is older than your dad" contest with my classmates. And he was able to argue with my history teachers over their interpretation of history that they were too young to remember, but were events that he himself had lived through.

My dad cared about the spiritual well being of his family. He demonstrated and lived his faith for us on a daily basis. He helped get the family to church on Sundays, he was involved in choir, and he served communion as an elder in the Presbyterian church. He definitely wasn't a "touchy-freely" person when it came to his faith. But his faithfulness to his wife, to his family, and to his work are examples of his faith put into action.

If it were up to us, we would have liked to have seen my father's health restored. It would have been nice for him to see his granddaughter grow up and to share in the joy of the birth of his second. He will be missed during holidays, and will be missed by his friends. It's tempting to petition God to let him live in this world again. But I think that C.S. Lewis had it right when in grieving the loss of his wife, he noted that it would be cruel to "having got once through death, to come back then, at some later date and have... dying to do all over again".

My father lived a full life and it is hard to sum up 78 years with a few photographs or a few memories. His life is one that he shared with many of you. And therefore we should celebrate the life that he was given and the way in which he lived it. "*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*" - Romans 6:23

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR *By George Greene*

As we were going to press with this issue, we were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of **Val Metanomski**, long-time CAS employee, dedicated Columbus Section member, and loyal supporter of *The Chemical Record*. The next issue will feature tributes to Val; if you would like to share information for publication, please send it to George Greene at PO Box 360941, Columbus, OH 43236-0941 or george.greene@abbott.com.

SPRING PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED
By Priscilla Ratliff, 2008 Chair-Elect

Mark your calendars for the following program meetings planned for this spring. Tuesday, March 17, 2009 we will have a dinner meeting at Ashland Inc in Dublin, OH and hear about chemical industry outreach from Columbus Section member **Dr. Joseph Fox**. Monday, April 20, 2009 our very special guest will be the Editor-in-Chief of Chemical & Engineering News **Rudy Baum**. The meeting will be held at Chemical Abstracts Service. In May 2009 the biennial Patterson-Crane Award will be given at a meeting hosted by the Dayton Section in Dayton. The awardee will be the featured speaker. More details of this meeting will be available after the awardee is selected. Nominations close on January 31, 2009.

MEETING NOTICE:
FEBRUARY, 2009

Program: Ohio State University Science Café
 Topic: "Darwin's Prescient Insights on Human Evolution" presented by **Dr. Jeff McKee**

Date: **Wednesday, February 4, 2009**
 Time: 6:30 pm (doors open at 6:00 pm)

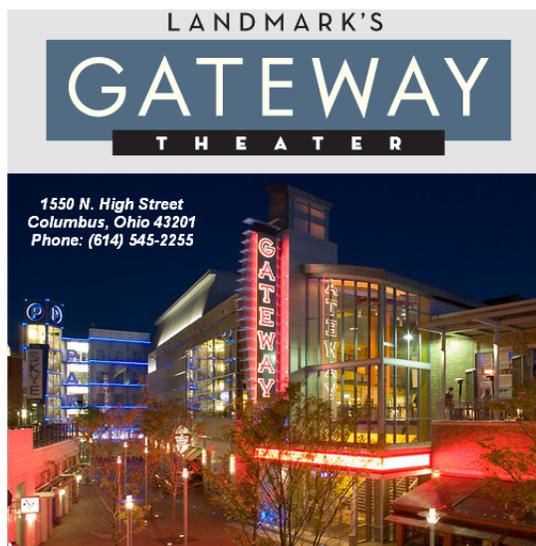
Location: [South Campus Gateway Landmark Movie Theater](#)
 1550 North High Street
 Columbus OH 43201

Menu: Food and drinks are available for purchase at the Theater Snack Bar. There are also several restaurants within walking distance if people want to have a normal meal afterward. Check the South Campus Gateway web site for information about the area's restaurants:
<http://www.southcampusgateway.com>

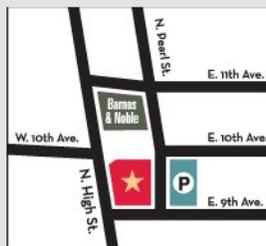
Parking: Park in the Gateway parking ramp-- \$1.00 for three hours

Reservations (needed for seating purposes): Use the voicemail reservations service by calling 614-447-3600 extension 7047 or send email to the Columbus Section at ascscs@cas.org. Give your name and the number in your party. **Reservations needed by 5:00 PM Friday, January 30, 2009.**

Other: Columbus Section members will be joining the members of the public when attending this Science Café. There is no charge for the Science Café. There will be no Executive Committee meeting prior to the Science Café.



Parking and Directions



From the North:
 I-71 South
 Exit 11th Ave.
 Turn Right onto 11th

From the Northwest:
 SR-315 South
 Exit Lane Ave.
 Turn Left
 onto Lane Ave.
 Turn Right
 onto High St.

From the East:
 SR-670
 Continue to SR-315
 Exit Lane Ave.
 Turn Right onto Lane Ave.
 Turn Right onto High St.

From Downtown:
 Head North up High St.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

At this meeting we will have an opportunity to observe and participate in a science café. Science cafes are meetings organized to create a comfortable and welcoming atmosphere where members of the public with no science background may come and discuss current topics that have a scientific basis with a knowledgeable scientist. Typically the scientist will kick off the meeting with a brief



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presentation or video clip and then open the meeting for discussion. There are many variations on science cafes and no central organization controls them. For more information on science cafes in the U.S. go to <http://www.sciencecafes.org/>. The Ohio State University's Science Cafe is sponsored by [Sigma Xi - The Ohio State University Chapter](#), [The Ohio State University Libraries](#), and the [Department of Comparative Studies](#). The Ohio State University's Science Café meets the first Wednesday of each month. Go to <http://library.osu.edu/sites/sel/sciencecafe/> for a complete listing of upcoming programs.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Jeff McKee is a professor in the Department of Anthropology of the Ohio State University. He is a physical anthropologist conducting research on hominid evolution and paleoecology. He has directed excavations at the early hominid sites of Taung and Makapansgat, and has published on fossils from other South African sites as well. His current interests focus on computer modeling and simulation of evolutionary and fossilization processes, toward an understanding of the pace and causes of human evolution in an ecological context. Dr. McKee has been involved with the OSU Science Café since its inception.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE CHAIR

This month draws to an end my service as Chair of the Columbus Section. I would like to thank the members of the Executive Committee for the many wonderful suggestions and directions which I received. Without the help of the committee it would have been a very difficult task. I remain committed to the Society and the service that it can provide to its members. The Section and the ACS can only be as strong as its membership and its membership can gain professional strength through their participation in the affairs of the ACS. I encourage the Section's members to become more involved in the local Section's activities and through this involvement realize professional growth.

Ronald Mitchum, Chair

THANKS FOR VOTING! By RK Mitchum, Chair

The Section would like to thank all those members who made this election possible. A special thanks to **Ed King** who at the last minute organized the candidate roster, to **Maria Rosenthal** who offered advice along the way and got the ballot out, and to **Norm Rearick** and the Tellers committee who so dutifully counted the vote.

The newly elected Section officers are as follows:

Chair elect: **Steve Rosenthal**

Treasurer-Elect: **Ralph Knipp**

Secretary: **Natalie Chilicki**

Councilor: **Theresa Huston**

Alternate Councilor: **Pat Connick**

Many thanks to all the nominees who participated in the election. The election of officers ensures that the Society can serve its members at the local level. Again, thank all of you for your participation.

FROM THE CHAIR—HAPPY HOLIDAYS! By RK Mitchum, Chair

The December meeting was a joint meeting with the AIChE and was held at the Columbus Zoo. It featured a tour of the technology which supports the zoo. It is always a pleasure to team with the AIChE and meet the members in an informal setting.

In November we had a very well attended general meeting at the Clintonville Women's Club. **Terry Webb** of the BP company presented an informative talk about non-destructive testing and how it is used in the petroleum and manufacturing industries.



COLUMBUS SECTION ACS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2009	January	30	Fri		Deadline for reservations for February, 2009 Section meeting
2009	January	31	Sat		Deadline for nominations for 2009 Patterson-Crane Award.
2009	February	4	Wed	South Campus Landmark Gateway Theater, 1550 North High Street	Monthly Section meeting: <i>OSU Science Café</i> . See details elsewhere in this issue of <i>The Chemical Record</i> .
2009	March	17	Tue	Ashland, Inc., Dublin	Monthly Section meeting: <i>Chemical Industry Outreach with Dr. Joseph Fox</i> .
2009	March	22-26	Sun-Thu	Salt Lake City, Utah	237 th ACS National Meeting and Exposition
2009	April	20	Mon	Chemical Abstracts Service	Monthly Section meeting with Rudy Baum , Editor-in-Chief of <i>Chemical and Engineering News</i> .
2009	April	22	Wed	Here, There, Everywhere!	 Chemists Celebrate Earth Day. Stay tuned for announcements of Columbus Section activities.
2009	May	TBA	TBA	Dayton	Biennial Patterson-Crane Award Banquet, hosted by the Dayton Section of the American Chemical Society.
2009	May	20-23		Cleveland	CERMACS 2009, 41 st Central Regional Meeting sponsored by the Cleveland Section of ACS.
2009	August	16-20	Sun-Thu	Washington, DC	238 th ACS National Meeting and Exposition
2009	October	18-24	Sun-Sat	Here, There, Everywhere!	 National Chemistry Week: <i>Chemistry--It's Elemental!</i>
2009	October	20	Tue	Chemical Abstracts Service	Monthly Section meeting with Professor Joseph Francisco , President-Elect of ACS.
2010	March	21-25	Sun-Thu	San Francisco, CA	239 th ACS National Meeting and Exposition
2010	August	22-26	Sun-Thu	Boston, MA	240 th ACS National Meeting and Exposition
2010	October	17-23	Sun-Sat	Here, There, Everywhere!	 National Chemistry Week: <i>The Chemistry of Materials</i> .

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!
By George Noethlich

Please join us in welcoming the following new members who have joined the Section recently. The Columbus Section cordially invites new members to our monthly meetings. The Section will pay for new members' meals the first time they attend a meeting.

HANANE OULEVEY ABOULFADL
CHERYL A. CARTER
FREDERICK ALLEN ENSMINGER
AMANDA IKE
MICHAEL RIZZO
BO YU

DOUGLAS BAKER
JOEL B CLOUD
DEBORAH L. EVANS
ERIC MASSON
SANDRA STOJANOVIC
YM ZHAI

SOMNATH BHATTACHARJEE
JOSHUA CROW
VICKI HUNTSMAN
ROBERT NAYLOR
YONGFENG WANG

AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED AT CERMACS 2009

By Dr. David W. Ball, Awards Chair, CERMACS 2009

As part of the 2009 Central Regional Meeting of the ACS, being held in Cleveland in May 2009, four regional-level awards are slated to be given to deserving recipients. They are as follows:

- The Stanley C. Israel Regional Award For Advancing Diversity in the Chemical Sciences;
- The ACS Division of Chemical Education Central Regional Award for Excellence in High School Teaching;
- The E. Ann Nalley Central Regional Award for Volunteer Service to the American Chemical Society; and
- The Regional Industrial Innovation Award.

Information about these awards and their application procedures can now be found on the 2009 CERMACS website at www.cermacs2009.org/awards.html. Please consider nominating a worthy person or organization for any of these awards.



AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Pathways to Success in the Chemical Sciences

We are pleased to announce that the American Chemical Society (ACS) Scholars Program is receiving applications for the 2009-2010 academic year. The ACS Scholars Program is currently in its fourteenth year of funding authorization by the Society's Board of Directors.

The scholarship is designed to encourage the best and the brightest African-American, Hispanic, and Native American students to pursue undergraduate college degrees in the chemical sciences.

- To date the American Chemical Society has awarded over \$10.8 million in scholarships to more than 1990 deserving undergraduates and has an 80% retention rate.
- The program identifies mentors for our Scholars.
- As of this calendar year 47 of our program graduates have obtained a Ph.D. and another 170 are confirmed to be enrolled in Ph.D. programs. More than 300 are enrolled in or have completed a Masters Degree program.
- Our graduates are employed by Procter & Gamble, DuPont, Xerox, 3M, Johnson & Johnson, Kimberly Clark, ExxonMobil, Merck Pharmaceuticals, and many other top corporations.
- Others have become faculty members at universities or are teaching chemical science at the high school level.

The American Chemical Society Scholars Program will award approximately 100 scholarships to undergraduate students interested in four-year degrees in the chemical sciences; those interested in transferring from two-year colleges to four-year colleges to pursue chemical science degrees; and to two-year students intending to pursue degrees in chemical technology. High school seniors who will be entering college are also eligible. The scholarship is valued at up to **\$2500** per academic year for freshmen, up to **\$3000** per academic year for sophomores, and up to **\$5000** per academic year for juniors and seniors.

Our Web Site (www.acs.org/scholars) contains additional information about the program and provides access to our on-line application form as well as downloadable application documents. The application postmark deadline is **March 1, 2009**.

A number of corporations and other organizations have joined with the ACS to co-sponsor students in this scholarship program. A student selected to be the recipient of a corporate award may have the added opportunity for a summer internship. Mentoring is considered essential for students in the chemical sciences and the Society offers mentoring support.

We would like to thank you in advance for sharing this program with your members and other interested groups. If you have any questions about the application process, please call 1-800-227-5558 (ext. 6250) or send an email to scholars@acs.org.

Robert J. Hughes, Manager, ACS Scholars Program



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**HAPPY NEW YEAR from your
*Chemical Record Staff!***





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ABOUT ACS

The American Chemical Society is a self-governed individual membership organization that comprises more than 158,000 members at all degree levels and in all fields of chemistry. The organization provides a broad range of opportunities for peer interaction and career development, regardless of professional or scientific interests. The programs and activities conducted by ACS today are the products of a tradition of excellence in meeting member needs that dates from the Society's founding in 1876.

ABOUT THE CHEMICAL RECORD

The Chemical Record, official newsletter of the Columbus Section of the American Chemical Society, Inc., is published monthly, February-May and September-December (eight issues per year.) Opinions expressed by editors or contributors do not necessarily represent the official position of the Columbus Section or of the editorial staff. We welcome your contributions to your *Chemical Record*. Please submit them via postal or electronic mail to George Greene, PO Box 360941, Columbus, Ohio 43236-0941, george.greene@abbott.com. Electronic mail contributions should be in MS Word file attachments (preferred) or plain-text messages. When preparing electronic documents, please remember that you are no longer using the old Remington typewriter so you do not need to add a carriage return at the end of each line. *Thank you very much!*

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

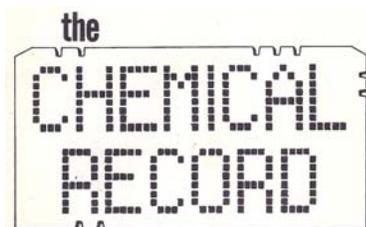
Changes in postal or e-mail address should be reported to the Membership Chair, **George Noethlich**, 2740 Bella Via Avenue, Columbus OH 43231-2305, e-mail gnoethlich@wowway.com. George will forward the change-of-address information to ACS Headquarters.

ADVERTISING RATES

Advertising rates for *The Chemical Record* are as follows (per single insertion): Full Page, \$250; Half-page, \$150; Quarter Page, \$120; Eighth Page: \$60; Business Card, \$50. Discounts: 5% for four insertions or 10% for eight insertions during a calendar year. There is no charge for "help wanted" ads.

SECTION E-MAIL ROUTING

Please send items for distribution to the Section e-mail list to **Stephen Renner** (srenner@cas.org) and **Maria Rosenthal** (mrosentha@cas.org). Maria and Stephen will perform any necessary formatting then they will forward the message to **John Todd**, Electronic Communications Coordinator, for distribution. If you would like to be added to the e-mail distribution list, please contact John Todd (jtodd@cas.org)



Columbus Section of The American Chemical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 82181
Columbus, OH 43202