



MCF RETENTION TIMES

Official Newsletter of MCF

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Visit us on the MCF Website: www.minnchrom.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Emilie Eisen, MCF President 2008 to 2009

I believe most of us would concede that 2008, in many aspects and variations, was a challenging year. In the world of science and discovery, success is oftentimes the by-product of failures. One such example is the ubiquitous Post It® Note. (http://www.answerbag.com/q_view/20597) It is these failures that we should strive to recognize as learning opportunities! As we begin 2009, let us endeavor with hope and anticipation to welcome an exciting year with infinite potential for amazing discoveries and growth. I wish all of our members a successful 2009!

As our country and the world face economic challenges, we are all affected. In today's climate, please consider the advantages of local education classes and the networking opportunities provided by MCF. I encourage our members to attend and invite others to attend MCF events, such as the Spring Quarterly Meeting and the Spring Symposium. As a MCF member, please spread the word to others who would benefit from our services, and encourage them to become members. The fee includes a one-year membership to MCF, access to quarterly meetings, special events, and the newsletter. This is a fun and opportune way to meet others in the industry while gaining valuable education. Please visit our website, <http://www.minnchrom.org>, for more details about opportunities through the Minnesota Chromatography Forum.

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SYMPOSIUM CORNER

LeeAnn Higgins, Symposium Committee Chair

Committee Members: Peter Johnson, Steve Albrecht, Nate Otte, Sandy McDonald, Lori McNamara, Daniel Marchand, Jan Jopke

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!
30th Annual MCF Spring Symposium
Wednesday & Thursday, May 13-14, 2009
Earle Brown Heritage Center
Brooklyn Center, Minnesota

Join your local and regional colleagues and a wide selection of vendors at the 30th Annual MCF Spring Symposium! As usual, short courses will be held on Tuesday, May 12th and the morning of Wednesday, May 13th immediately prior to the Symposium event. Spring Symposium opens at noon on Wednesday with the always-anticipated Vendor Exhibits! *Thanks in advance to all the vendors who participate, without whom this exciting event would not be possible!*

Features of **Wednesday's program** are: Special Topics Sessions (open forum discussions), Vendor Seminars (relocated this year to the main exhibit hall for easier participation), Poster Presentations and Reception with beverages and hors d'oeuvres (4 – 7 pm).

Thursday's Symposium events feature the Keynote Address in the morning and a full-day Technical Program that includes three concurrent sessions on various chromatographic-related topics. Each topic will include a main Focus Speaker presentation and multiple, short (20 minute) technical presentations. Thursday events also include presentation of the Palmer Award, Undergraduate Award, and a continual supply of food, beverages and fun!

*** Please consider giving a 20-minute technical talk or poster presentation. **We need YOU** to enrich the technical program and would be interested in hearing about or seeing a select aspect of your chromatographic endeavors (including-all-related-hyphenated-techniques). ***

Abstracts for technical presentations are due **April 18th**. For easy online submission, visit the "Symposium Info" link at www.minnchrom.org, and simply click "Submit Abstract"!

Full-time students who present a poster or oral presentation pay no Symposium registration fee!

Advanced Symposium registration is available at a discounted rate by April 28th! Details are posted at minnchrom.org!

JOIN US FOR
MCF FAMILY DAY
AT THE
**Science Museum of Minnesota**
Saturday, March 28, 2009
THIS FUN EVENT INCLUDES:

- Museum Admission
- Exclusive, Hands-On Family Explore Program for MCF Participants

Please Watch your E-Mail and Postal Mail for Registration Flier

PRESIDENT'S CORNER *continued from Page 1*

It is my pleasure to introduce our mid-term replacements for MCF Second Year Director and Treasurer:

Second Year Director – Kate Barrett of Boston Scientific

Kate has been working at Boston Scientific as a Senior Chemist for over 5 years. Previously, she was employed as a Scientist at CIMA Labs in Eden Prairie. Kate graduated with a BS in Biology from the University of Dubuque, IA, and has been utilizing chromatography for 10+ years.

Treasurer – Daniel Milis of Pace Analytical

Daniel Milis currently works as an Analyst for Pace Analytical, and graduated from Luther College at Decorah, IA. He has been immersed in chromatography since 2004.

Kate and Dan: please accept our sincere gratitude for volunteering as a member of the board. I'm looking forward to working with both of you as we bring value to our members.

**Welcome New Board Members –
Kate Barrett and Dan Milis!
Thank You, Dan Howman!**

Please join me in thanking our former Treasurer, Dan Howman of Pace Analytical, for his years of service and dedication. Dan has displayed remarkable character, commitment, and diligence as MCF treasurer, and strove to make improvements that would ensure continued future success of our organization.

You can read more about the board member positions on the MCF website. As MCF members, please consider volunteering as part of the board of directors or a committee. If you are interested in opportunities to volunteer, please contact Emilie Eisen at 763-494-1355.

**NEED A JOB? WANT TO POST A JOB?
Position Wanted Ads are FREE for MCF Members!**

Reminder: As an MCF member, you may post job wanted ads at no cost. Organizations may advertise job positions for a nominal fee. Please contact Joanne Costello for more information about event and job postings in the newsletter and website (jcostello@mmm.com or 651-736-8441).

Now a little bit of personal news: I am happy to announce that I welcomed in 2009 by marrying Kevin Eisen, who works at Barr Engineering Co., in Edina. Kevin graduated from the University of Wisconsin - Madison with a BS in Geology and Geological Engineering and works in the field of Assessment and Remediation as an Environmental Engineer. You may refer to Mr. Eisen as "First Gentleman".

And finally...a little bit of inspiration to kick off 2009! **"Results! Why, man, I have gotten a lot of results. I know several thousand things that won't work."**

Thomas A. Edison, American inventor, scientist, and entrepreneur, holding 1,093 U.S. patents in his name.

EDUCATION CORNER

Jamie Koehler, Education Committee Co-Chair

Erin Sloan, Education Committee Co-Chair

Committee Members: Gibbes Bailie, Martin Bevan, Wendy Christensen, Bill Cameron, Stephanie Drier, Kelly Higbee, Erin Sloan, Cara Hagen, Jeanette Morrison, Jean Seidel, DeWayne Townsend

Hunkering down. Tightening our belts. There is no doubt that the economy is on the forefront of everyone's minds lately. The media makes sure of it ad nauseam. Large companies have had major layoffs nationally and locally, including the analytical sector, making it painfully obvious that even chromatographers are not immune to the effects of the economic down turn. Companies have been cutting back on spending, and some of the first areas to take cuts are often travel and education funds. As chair of the education committee, I have noticed these economic effects as evidenced by the reduction of course registrations over the past year-and-a-half.

As an education committee, we believe very strongly in bringing in courses that will serve our membership base, even if those courses are not very profitable. However, in the current climate it is becoming very difficult to absorb too many minimally profitable courses in a single year. We were recently forced to cancel "Design of Experiments" taught by Dr. Lars Pekar. The cancellation was in no way a reflection of the quality of the course or of its instructor. The last time we held the course we brought in 30+ students with each student giving the course and Lars rave reviews. We hope to hold the course at a later date, possibly in a year or two when the economy turns around.

**"In the long run, funds spent on training
employees is money well spent..."**

I believe strongly in the power of education. In the long run, funds spent on training employees is money well spent, even during trying economic times. A well-educated employee is more efficient at performing his/her job leading to measurable cost savings in the form of reduced staffing requirements. In addition, I often hear of new business relationships begun through networking at some of our courses. The value of having a colleague in the field to contact if problems or questions arise is invaluable.

"Education Corner" continued on Page 3

→ Hear the latest from MCF ←
*We send email announcements for all MCF events!
Send your updated contact information
directly to Joanne Costello at
MCF's email address:
→ MinnChrom@gmail.com ←
Please ensure our address doesn't get blocked!*

EDUCATION CORNER *continued from Page 2*

I would like to remind our MCF members of the great educational opportunities present right in our backyard. We work very hard to bring in renowned experts to teach courses at rock bottom prices. Often, these same courses are taught elsewhere for twice the price or more, not even counting the cost of travel! Please check the website www.minnchrom.org and watch for fliers in the mail for information about upcoming courses. The MCF is attempting to "Go Green" to save on paper costs, so please update your contact information with Joanne Costello (jcostello@mmm.com) to ensure that you receive timely MCF communication. Also, please watch for course updates via email from minnchrom@gmail.com!

We all have to remember that the economy will turn around. The Education Committee, as well as the MCF as a whole, will adjust accordingly to appropriately weather our current economic climate. Our goal is to continue to provide excellent educational and networking opportunities for our members. I am always looking for new course ideas, as well as general advice on how to improve our course offerings. Please feel free to contact me at Jamie_Koehler@cargill.com with any questions or concerns.

We look forward to seeing you at a class soon. Please visit www.minnchrom.org for upcoming course information or contact Jan Jopke, CCS Events at ccsevents@comcast.net or 952-934-5082. Thank you very much for your continued support!!

*****UPCOMING EDUCATION COURSES*****

MCF Spring Symposium, May 12-14, 2009

HPLC Troubleshooting, Dr. John Dolan

Advanced GC Troubleshooting, Daron Decker

MS Interpretation, Fred Feyerherm

October 6-8, 2009

Beginning HPLC, Dr. Pete Johnson and Dr. Larry Felice

January 2010

Beginning GC, Dr. Gary Reineccius and Rick Rossiter

CLASS REVIEW**Beginning GC**

Reviewed by Dr. DeWayne Townsend

The 2009 session of the "Beginning Gas Chromatography Workshop" took place at the Department of Food Science & Nutrition, January 13-15, 2009. The instructors were Gary Reineccius, Richard Rossiter, and several very talented technicians and graduate students in Dr. Reineccius's laboratory. The class was very small this year, likely due to the economic retrenchment of local analytical laboratories, but the small class size gave the students a lot of attention and access to instruments during the laboratory portion of the class. The only negative on the evaluation forms was the weather.

The three day course material consisted of a brief history of Gas Chromatography (GC), separation theory, columns - with a little history of fused silica, hardware - with emphasis on detectors, optimization, qualification and quantitation, troubleshooting 101 and most importantly, hands on laboratory experiments to emphasis the morning lectures.

The laboratory exercises consisted of column efficiency, matching of analyte and column polarity, symmetry & overloading, use of retention and Kovat's indices for identification, use of area and/or height for quantitation and the effects of temperature, pressure and split ratio on chromatographic quality. Students were given about 20 chromatograms, which proved to be plenty of data to work with for the laboratory exercises.

Everyone thought the instructors were great. Dr. Reineccius emphasizes the qualitative characterization and Dr. Rossiter the quantitation of analytes, yet the transitions between the two were very smooth. The lunches were very good as was the coffee made with the high tech coffee maker, borrowed from the Department of Food & Nutrition. MCF hopes to continue to offer the course on an annual basis, but class size needs to increase or costs need to decrease so that it makes sense to hold the course annually.

29TH SPRING SYMPOSIUM SURVEY RESULTS

LeeAnn Higgins, Symposium Committee Chair

Survey Results from the 29th Annual MCF Spring Symposium have been tabulated. A total of 162 attendees completed a survey (~75% of the registered attendees) and provided helpful and interesting information. Thank you to everyone who filled out a survey! See tables below for the tabulation of the survey responses and employer demographics.

I learned about MCF/Symposium from:	
colleagues	78%
MCF newsletter	15%
course offerings	4%
quarterly meetings	2%
magazines	1%

I have been familiar with MCF for:	
<1year	11%
1-2years	13%
2-5years	28%
5-10years	21%
>10years	26%

My primary field of interest is:	
Pharmaceutical	48%
Chemical/polymers	14%
Clinical/medical	13%
Basic research	12%
Environmental	8%
Food/agriculture	6%

"Survey Results" continued on Page 4

SURVEY RESULTS *continued from Page 3*

My primary interest is:	
HPLC	47%
GC	24%
Hyphenated techniques	10%
IC	5%
GPC	5%
CE	4%
TLC	3%
SFC	2%

I would like to see more of:	
research	26%
forensics	18%
environmental	15%
foods and flavors	12%
theory	11%
proteomics	6%
plastics	7%
software	6%

Employer Demographics:	
St Paul	42%
Eden Prairie	10%
Maple Grove	9%
Minneapolis	6%
Brooklyn Park	4%
Bloomington	4%
Plymouth	3%
Fridley	3%
Eagan	3%
Blaine	3%
New Brighton	2%
Chaska	2%
Brookings	2%
Sioux Falls	1%
Cottage Grove	1%
Other	6%

**WANT TO ADVERTISE YOUR COMPANY
OR JOB WITHIN MCF's COMMUNITY?**
Contact Joanne Costello at jcostello@mmm.com
for Website and Newsletter options!