

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Emilie Eisen, MCF President

As we draw nearer to the Spring Symposium, I would like to take a moment to recognize and acknowledge those who dedicate their time and expertise to provide our members with high quality, local educational courses and the Annual Spring Symposium. The objective of MCF, as declared by the members in 1979, is to maintain and promote for education, discussion and exchange of information with respect to all fields of chromatography. It is through your hard work that our members have the opportunity to enjoy valuable local educational courses and networking opportunities. It is especially important for our members, as budgets tighten, that these local MCF courses and our professional community thrive. To each of you, who volunteer for the Symposium and Education Committees, please accept my sincere gratitude for playing a key role in making MCF possible for all of our members.

*A Special Thanks to our
MCF Volunteers!*

Symposium Committee

LeeAnn Higgins – University of MN, Peter Johnson – 3M, Steve Albrecht – Braun Intertec, Nate Otte – Boston Scientific, Sandy McDonald – MN Dept of Public Health, Lori McNamara – Medtronic, Daniel Merchand – University of WI River Falls

Education Committee

Jamie Koehler – Cargill, Erin Sloan – Legend Technical Services, Gibbes Bailie – 3M, Martin Bevan – MN Dept of Public Health, Wendy Christensen – Cargill, Bill Cameron – 3M, Stephanie Drier – MN Dept of Public Health, Kelly Boucher – CIMA LABS, Cara Hagen – Aerotek, Jeanette Morrison – ChromTech, Jean Seidel, DeWayne Townsend – Analytical Instrument Brokers

I encourage each you to attend, and invite others to attend, the Spring Quarterly Meeting and Symposium. As a MCF member, please spread the word to others that 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.

It is my pleasure to introduce our newest MCF volunteer:
Neil Larson, External Activities Chair.

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SYMPOSIUM CORNER

LeeAnn Higgins, MCF Symposium Committee Chair

Committee Volunteers: Peter Johnson, Steve Albrecht, Nate Otte, Sandy McDonald, Lori McNamara, Daniel Marchand

*30th Annual MCF Spring Symposium
May 12th to 14th, 2009*

The Annual MCF Spring Symposium is approaching. Join your local and regional chromatographers for the 30th Anniversary of the Symposium during May 13th and 14th at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. *Advanced* Symposium Registration ends April 28th – we encourage early registration, and it’s also economical! See website http://www.minnchrom.org/Spring_Symposium.htm and click on ‘Registration’ for details.

Short courses will be held immediately prior to the Symposium event (May 12th & 13th). Symposium show opens noon on Wednesday, May 13th with Vendor Exhibits. Features of the Wednesday 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 (from 4 to 7 pm).

*Symposium Keynote Address
Chromatography in the Courtroom:
Proving Drug Abuse Cases in Sports*

The Technical Program begins on Thursday with a Keynote Address from Dr. Larry Bowers, Chief Science Officer at the United States Anti-Doping Agency. The remainder of the Thursday program includes three concurrent sessions on various chromatographic-related topics, each with a main Focus Speaker presentation and multiple short (20 minute) technical presentations. Thursday program events also include the Palmer Award, Undergraduate Award, and a continual supply of food, beverages and networking with colleagues.

Please consider giving a 20 minute technical talk or poster presentation on any aspect of your chromatographic endeavors – MCF NEEDS YOUR PARTICIPATION to enrich the Technical Program. NOTE: Full-time students who present (poster or oral presentation) pay no registration fee. Abstracts for technical presentations are due May 1st. (see http://www.minnchrom.org/Spring_Symposium.htm and click on ‘Abstract Submission’ for convenient submission).

See you at the symposium!

MCF FAMILY DAY REVIEW

By Ron Schoonmaker, MCF President-Elect

MCF's first "Family Day" event was held at the Science Museum of Minnesota on Saturday, March 28, 2009. Fifty-four MCF members and guests registered. All were invited to enjoy the numerous sights and activities of the museum, including the special exhibition, "Water." In addition, participants attended one of two special hands-on activity programs developed by museum staff especially for the MCF. These activities were made available to MCF members for the low admission fee of \$10/person-- a bargain compared to the normal museum admission rate of \$16/adult. Many thanks to Doug Raney of the SMM for help planning the event.

The classes were held in the SMM's classroom labs located on the second floor of the museum, and were led by Susan Kocher of the SMM staff. The morning class consisted of a chromatographic activity to separate pigments from plant materials. Participants extracted pigments from plant leaves, spotted the extract onto coffee filters, and separated them with rubbing alcohol as the mobile phase.

*Kids Choose Chromatography
Over Candy!*

The afternoon class consisted of separating food dyes from candy coatings. Food dyes were extracted from M&Ms and Skittles candies with water, spotted onto coffee filters, and separated them using rubbing alcohol as the mobile phase. Great restraint was demonstrated by all participants as none of the candy was eaten out of the lab stock.

The organizer (me) felt there were some "learning moments" regarding registration and confirmation feedback, most members were able to attend their first or second choice from the original three-class offering. Overall, the event provided a great opportunity to enjoy the museum, practice some colorful separations, and meet the family members of MCF colleagues. The Board looks forward to hosting another Family Day event for members in 2010; if you have a venue suggestion, please forward it to an MCF Board member. Hope to see you at the next Family Day event!

CORPORATE VOUCHERS AVAILABLE FOR VENDOR USE

By Ron Schoonmaker, MCF President-Elect

By request, the MCF Board of Directors has approved the creation of MCF gift certificate vouchers which may be purchased by vendors to be given to customers. The goal is to provide vendors with a means of establishing customer goodwill and value while providing chromatography customers with exposure to the MCF and its opportunities for education and member interaction. Gift Certificates will have a face-value of \$25 and may be applied toward membership, symposium attendance, classes, or a fee-based MCF event. Vendors who are interested in purchasing gift certificates at a discount may contact me (Ron) at 651-733-9856.

EDUCATION CORNER

Jamie Koehler, MCF Education Committee Co-Chair

Erin Sloan, MCF Education Committee Co-Chair

Committee Volunteers: Gibbes Bailie, Martin Bevan, Wendy Christensen, Bill Cameron, Stephanie Drier, Kelly Boucher, Cara Hagen, Jeanette Morrison, Jean Seidel, DeWayne Townsend

OK. Enough already. We know that the economy is in the gutter. We know that Bernie "made-off" with billions of dollars of honest investor's money. There is no doubt that our country and the world is in a historically precarious predicament. I do not intend to make light of the situation, but continued negativity will do nothing but make the problem worse. At some point we all just have to accept our current plight, and look forward to the future as positively as possible. Never before in my 30 years of life have I personally felt so uneasy about the world. It is almost as if the wind has been "let out of humanity's sail". It is during these great times of strife that one cannot help but be introspective and reflective about life in general. How did I get to where I am? Have I made too many irreparable mistakes? Is my job satisfying? I argue that the question that needs to be asked is, "Where do I want to be in the future and how do I get there?" There are several possible answers to the aforementioned questions, but when considering improving job satisfaction and expediting career growth, the answer is: education.

New skills do not guarantee job satisfaction or a promotion, but they do go a long way towards helping one get an edge on the workplace competition. Job satisfaction is a nebulous descriptor, as it is can be defined very differently by individuals. I offer that a major part of job satisfaction is the confidence in knowing each day that there is no challenge that cannot be met on the job and the satisfaction derived from the pride in solving a problem (Without having to contact your local service guy for help!). We offer courses to build HPLC skills, GC skills, MS skills, et cetera, to help you do just that. We believe that a small investment in education pays off handsomely in the future.

*2009 TAX RELIEF in the form of
Spring Symposium and Education Classes!*

To further improve the value, your MCF course may be **tax deductible!!** If the class was to "enhance your job skills" then it would be a deductible expense. General symposium attendance would also be deductible if you considered it a networking opportunity to find a job. There are certain rules that apply, so talk to your tax professional to see if you qualify for this deduction.

In addition to our list of successful courses, we are proud to announce the return of GPC by Dr. Howard Barth and a new Chemometrics course by Infometrix in 2010. We look forward to seeing you at a class soon. Watch for further information

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about these and other exciting courses online at minnchrom.org or contact Jan Jopke, CCS Events, ccsevents@comcast.net or 952-934-5082.

If you or someone you know isn't receiving either email or snail mail communication from the MCF, please contact Joanne Costello at minnchrom@gmail.com. Finally, we are always looking for new course ideas, as well as general advice on how to improve our course offerings. Also, keep your eyes peeled for details on possible discounts for courses after symposium. Please feel free to contact me at Jamie_Koehler@cargill.com or Erin Sloan at esloan@legend-group.com with any questions or concerns. Thank you so much for your continued support!!

UPCOMING EDUCATION COURSES**Spring Symposium, May 12-13, 2009**

HPLC Troubleshooting, Dr. John Dolan

Advanced GC Troubleshooting, Daron Decker

MS Interpretation, Fred Feyerherm

Fall 2009

Beginning HPLC, Dr. David Johnson and Dr. Larry Felice:
October 6-8

Advanced HPLC, Dr. John Dolan: November 3-4

Bioanalytical LC/MS, Dr. John Dolan: November 5-6

Winter 2009/2010

Beginning GC, Dr. Gary Reineccius and Rick Rossiter,
January 2010

→ **Hear the latest from MCF** ←

We send email announcements for all MCF events! To stay informed of the latest events, please send your preferred email address to:

MinnChrom@gmail.com

Please ensure our address doesn't get blocked!

SIMPKINS TO RECEIVE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD

By Anthony Borgerding, Undergraduate Award Chair

Scott Simpkins, a student at Gustavus Adolphus College, is the recipient of the 2009 MCF Undergraduate Research Award. Simpkins, who will work with chemistry professor Dwight Stoll, will work on the project over the next year and present his results at the 2010 MCF Symposium. There were several meritorious proposals among those submitted, but Simpkins' was judged most worthy, in part, due to the central theme of chromatography in his work. His project will involve developing a three-dimensional liquid chromatographic method for analysis of triclosan in complex environmental samples and comparing the results to more traditional LC-MS-MS. Simpkins will accept his award at this year's Symposium.

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After receiving his Bachelor's of Science Degree in Chemistry from Southwestern University at Georgetown, TX, Neil gained industry experience working for Pace Analytical utilizing GC and GC/MS instrumentation. Neil is currently employed at CIMA LABS Inc. in Eden Prairie, MN, where he started as a Quality Control Analyst, but now holds the position of Quality Assurance Specialist.

Welcome Neil Larson! External Activities Chair

Neil, thank you for your spirit of optimism and ambition as you begin your service to MCF. I'm looking forward to working with you as you define the MCF outreach program and membership enhancement initiatives.

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.

All that glitters may not be gold, but at least it contains free electrons. – John Desmond Baernal (Irish physicist, 1901-1971) in a Lecture at Birkbeck college, University of London, 1960

FALL QUARTERLY MEETING REVIEW

By Janeice Hope, MCF 1st Year Director

We were delighted to host Professor Norm Dovichi for the Fall Quarterly Meeting on November 3rd 2008. Thank you to everyone who joined us that evening. Norm spoke about the history and development of the Human Genome project and about the role that his group played in the success. His talk was interesting, engaging and thought provoking. By taking a step back and looking at the bigger picture, Prof. Dovichi left us not only with more of an idea of where the Human Genome project came from, but also what it has done for us and what the ethical questions are that we as a society continue to face. On a lighter note, many of us left the meeting with a strange tendency to evaluate a scientist's glasses before engaging in meaningful work with them. . .

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES CORNER

Neil Larson, MCF External Activities Chair

It is with overwhelming gratitude that I accept the appointment by the MCF Board, to the role of External Activities Chairperson. It is a very exciting time to be involved in this organization, as the Board and Committees are comprised of highly knowledgeable and motivated individuals, sure to provide us all with the opportunities that would not only be otherwise unavailable to us, but are critical to the advancement of our science.

In the months to come, I will be spending a significant amount of my time developing the MCF Outreach Program. This program is a rejuvenated initiative provided by the MCF to "Ext. Activities Corner" *continued on Page 3*

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the objectives on which our organization was originally established. In addition to the MCF Outreach Program, I will be actively pursuing additional new programs to enhance the value of MCF membership.

Belonging to the MCF has been some of the most enriched time I have spent professionally. I urge everyone to take advantage of the fantastic opportunities provided by this organization.

SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING

How to Buy Gases – Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Hors d'œuvres at 6:30 PM, Talk at 7:00 PM

Presented by Steve Franz, Specialty Gas Manager with Airgas
Radisson Hotel Roseville

Buying laboratory gases can be confusing. They are usually specified according to grade or the number of nines (purity level as a percent), but different gas companies use different manufacturing methods, names, and grades. Their specified purities can be misleading—the number of nines can be derived in different ways and can vary greatly from vendor to vendor. At this quarterly meeting you will learn what to ask your gas supplier—from how the gas is manufactured, to how purity is measured and why that information is important. You will also find out how to minimize contamination from your gas source to your instrument.



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DID YOU KNOW?

As an MCF member, you may post job wanted ads at no cost. Organizations may advertise a business or job opening 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).

SCIENTIFICALLY FUNNY

Ad posted in a newspaper, read by Jay Leno: "Do you have mole problems? If so, call Avogadro at 602-1023."

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