

Chemistry Career Night, 2011

Sponsored and organized by the St Louis Section–Younger Chemist Committee (YCC)

For young chemists in search of career-planning guidance, the Lab Science Building at Washington University was the place to be on September 15. That's when and where the third annual Chemistry Career Night was up and running. Organized by the Younger Chemists Committee of the St Louis ACS Section, the event featured four distinguished speakers from industry and academia. The speakers addressed topics of particular interest to younger chemists, including undergraduates, graduate students, academics, and those early in their industrial careers.

Before the presentations, there was time for attendees and speakers to network, and take advantage of the light refreshments on offer. The main event began with an introduction to the ACS local section by **Keith Stine** (YCC advisor), followed by YCC Chair **Eric Bruton**. Eric spoke about the YCC, welcomed the audience of about 90 attendees, and introduced the YCC officers and members who coordinated the event.

The guest speakers of the evening were

- **Janet Hendrickson**, Partner, Senniger Powers
- **Robert Dittrich**, Research Chemist, NP Laboratories – Nestle Purina Pet Care
- **Erik Hall**, Criminalist II – DNA, St. Louis County Crime Lab
- **Joeseph Ackerman**, Professor, Washington University

Each spoke for about 20 minutes, sharing some of their career experiences and talking about the different industries each of them work and have worked in over the course of their careers. They also offered career advice relevant to their respective backgrounds. After the talks, the speakers formed a panel to answer questions from the audience for about 15 minutes.

Each of the speakers received a certificate and a gift of appreciation. Following the formal program, everyone moved to the spacious Rettner Gallery for dinner and another opportunity to network. Many stayed to talk to the speakers and with each other while enjoying dinner.

The event was supported financially by the St Louis Section–ACS. Saint Louis University provided printing of the program booklets and signs. Washington University graciously provided the meeting space and facilities.



Figure 1: Keith Stine introducing the ACS St. Louis Local Section



Figure 2: Eric Bruton introduces YCC Career Night 2011 and the Younger Chemists Committee



Figure 3: Janet Hendrickson, Ph.D., J.D. speaking about her career path and what it is like to work in patent law



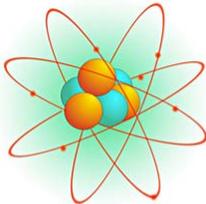
Figure 4: Robert Dittrick spoke on his career as an analytic chemist and what it is to be a professional chemist



Figure 5: Erik Hall spoke on the exciting careers in forensic science for a chemist



Figure 6: Prof. Ackerman introduces his career path into academia and how careers in academia have changed since he started.



*Younger Chemists Committee of ACS,
St. Louis Section Presents*

Chemistry Career Night

Expert Panel

Janet Hendrickson, Ph.D., J.D.: *Partner, Senniger Powers*

Robert Dittrich: *Research Chemist, NP Laboratories - Nestlé Purina Pet Care*

Erik Hall: *Criminalist II – DNA, St. Louis County Crime Lab*

Joseph Ackerman, Ph.D.: *Professor, Washington University*

Thursday, September 15th, 2011

6:00 – 8:30 P.M.

Washington University, Danforth Campus
Lab Sciences Building, Room 250

Event Includes

- Presentations from Leading Experts
- Question & Answer Session
- Networking Opportunity
- Food & Beverage
- Free Admission



Please RSVP by 9/13 to: ycc@stlacs.org



Figure 7: Event Flyer



Figure 8: Our wonderful Speakers for the 4th annual Chemistry Career Night 2011



Figure 9: Erik Hall talking with students and other young professionals over dinner in the Rettner Gallery



Figure 10: Janet Hendrickson speaking with students about chemist careers in law.

Bios of the Speakers:

JANET HENDRICKSON

Janet S. Hendrickson is a partner at Senniger Powers LLP in St. Louis, Missouri. Dr. Hendrickson received a J.D. from the University of Toledo, a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and a B.A. in chemistry from Cornell College. She worked as an Area Chemist in the agricultural chemicals business at Du Pont, and taught Introduction to Chemistry and Organic Chemistry at community colleges in Texas before attending law school. As a patent lawyer, she specializes in patent related issues, including the development, management, and enforcement of worldwide patent portfolios. She has experience in counseling pharmaceutical, chemical, and food science companies, including Fortune 500 companies as well as start-up companies and universities. She works closely with her clients to protect their commercially important products and to help them achieve their business goals while avoiding infringement of competitors' patents.

ROBERT DITTRICH

Robert L. Dittrich is a Research Chemist at NP Analytical Laboratories in St. Louis, MO, a division of Nestlé Purina Pet Care. Mr. Dittrich graduated from University of Missouri at -St.

Louis [UMSL] in 1975 with a B.A. in Biology, and in 1976 with a B.S. in Chemistry. While at UMSL he conducted independent research in organometallic synthesis, partially supported by an NSF fellowship grant. For 10 years he worked at Carboline Coatings Company as Analytical/Quality Polymer Chemist, serving both governmental and heavy industrial clients. For the past 26 years, he has provided analytical services at Nestlé Purina on food/feed production samples, and non-routine methods analysis, specializing in SPME sampling for GC and GC/MS. He also works on special projects, such as 10 years as UNIX System Administrator, Y2K Impact team, Spill Response Team Leader, Melamine/Cyanuric Acid contamination, and equipment modification/repair.

ERIC HALL

Erik Hall is a Forensic Scientist at the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department Crime Laboratory. He received a B.S. in Biochemistry from Messiah College, and obtained his M.S. in Forensic Science from the University of New Haven under the direction of Dr. Henry Lee. After graduation, Erik accepted a position as a DNA analyst in St. Louis City. Erik works on a variety of criminal cases in the lab, as well as conducting bloodstain pattern analysis at crime scenes. In addition to his work at the Police Department, Erik is an adjunct professor at Concordia University in St. Louis, where he teaches an Introduction to Forensic Science class. Erik is a regular lecturer at the Medicolegal Death Investigation Training Course in St. Louis, as well as at other local universities and venues.

JOSEPH ACKERMAN

Joseph J. H. Ackerman, Ph.D., is the William Greenleaf Eliot Professor, Department of Chemistry, at Washington University in St. Louis. He also holds appointments in Departments of Radiology and Internal Medicine, and is Laboratory Chief of Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology's Biomedical Magnetic Resonance Laboratory (BMRL). As Gold Medal Award recipient and Fellow of the International Society of Magnetic Resonance (MR), his research efforts involve the development and implementation of MR imaging and spectroscopy techniques to provide a more complete understanding of the complex microstructure and governing biophysical, physiologic, and metabolic determinants of cells, tissues, and organisms in the intact, functioning state. Over his three decades at Washington University in St. Louis, Prof. Ackerman has trained and mentored numerous high-school, undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral researchers, many of whom now hold senior positions in academe and industry.