

PHOENIX

meeting highlights



PAUL A. MILNER (above), ECS Fellow and past president, represented the Phoenix Host Committee in welcoming attendees to the 198th Society meeting.

The 2000 class of ECS Fellows (below, seated from left to right): **DAVID S. GINLEY, JOHN C. ANGUS, CAMMY ABERNATHY**, (ECS President Carl Osburn), and **CHARLES W. STRUCK**; (standing from left to right): **ROGER STAEHLE, K. M. ABRAHAM, SERGIO TRASATTI, YASUHIKO ITO, ROBERT F. SAVINELL, AND HOWARD HUFF**. Missing from the photo is **W. RONALD FAWCETT**. (Ed. Note: This image was altered to include two Fellows who were not present at the first photo session.)

MARCIN MAJDA (below right) introduced Larry R. Faulkner, the 2000 Acheson Award medalist.



Fall 2000 marked the Society's return to Phoenix, Arizona after a nine-year hiatus. The meeting was held in the city's new civic center, providing spacious rooms for technical sessions, the technical exhibition, registration, and special events. Over 1600 attendees participated in and listened to 1,181 papers presented in 31 symposia. The social functions, such as the Sunday Evening Get-Together, the Monday Evening Mixer, the Technical Exhibition, poster sessions, and coffee breaks were well attended and enjoyed by all.

Plenary Lecture

The technical program kicked off in style with the plenary lecture by Professor Carl Djerassi on Monday morning. His lecture consisted of a reading of several excerpts from his recent novel "NO" (Nitric Oxide), as well as a short video clip of one of his plays about the highly controversial intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) technique for inducing pregnancy. This writer does not ever recall a talk at a scientific meeting given by a chemist (and an organic chemist, to boot) that contained no slides or transparencies! Judging from the conversations overheard in the hallway after the lecture, Dr. Djerassi's talk appeared to have been very well received. The lecture, as well the novel, addressed three issues in contemporary science: the historical marginalization of women in this male-dominated ("testosterone-heavy," in Djerassi's parlance) culture; the Asianization of the American research enterprise; and in a broader vein, the relative insularity of "scientific tribalism" from the lay public.

As was discussed in more depth in the last issue of this magazine (*Interface*, Vol. 9, No. 3, fall 2000), Professor Djerassi, through his literary efforts, has been attempting to narrow the ever-widening gulf between the scientific community and the other sub-cultures of contemporary society. His argument is that this bridge is best made by an insider of the scientific tribe, so that the science itself can be described correctly. Thus he differentiates his efforts from other attempts to popularize science by calling his genre "science-in-fiction." The plenary session culminated in an immensely popular book-signing session by Djerassi.

Ongoing Symposium Series

Several technical symposia were held on topics that were both timely and of interest to a wide range of audiences. This meeting had a particularly generous offering of ongoing series, including the "Second International Symposium on Pits and Pores," the "Fourth International Symposium on Chemical Mechanical Polishing," the "Sixth International Symposium on Magnetic Materials, Processes, and Devices," the "Ninth International Symposium on the Physics and Chemistry of Luminescent Materials," and "Microfabricated Systems and MEMS V." Another symposium made its debut here: the "First International Symposium on Cold Cathodes." Considering the current interest in "negative work function" materials, it ought to be the forerunner of another successful ECS series. Many of these symposia ran to standing room only audiences, and perennial favorites such as "Rechargeable Lithium Batteries" continued their immense popularity with the technical sessions spanning all five weekdays of the meeting.

Two new symposia were held on topics that cut across the Society membership interests, namely: "Electrochemistry vs. the Global Climate Change," and "Electrochemistry and Solid-State Science/Technology in the Service of Medicine." The latter symposium was featured in the preceding issue of this magazine (*Interface*, Vol. 9, No. 3, fall 2000). "Global Climate Change" will be the topical theme of the spring 2001 issue and will contain feature articles on important topics (e.g., fuel cells, CO₂ reduction and sequestration) that were discussed in this forum.

Acheson Award Address

The Edward Goodrich Acheson award address was given by Dr. Larry Faulkner, President of the University of Texas at Austin, after the Honors and Awards session on Wednesday morning. His thought-provoking and entertaining lecture was entitled, "The Heartbeat of Science." In his talk, Dr. Faulkner likened the phenomenon of scientific research endeavor to the beating of a heart. (Excerpts from Dr. Faulkner's talk may be found on page 19 of this issue.) ■

These meeting highlights were written by Krishnan Rajeshwar and Mary Yess, Interface's Editor and Managing Editor, respectively.



LARRY FAULKNER, (at center in above photo), recipient of the 2000 Acheson Award, is flanked by ECS president CARL OSBURN (left), and ECS Executive Director ROQUE CALVO (right).

Over 20 exhibitors (center photo) participated in the TECHNICAL EXHIBITION, presenting a variety of technical goods and services to meeting attendees.



CARL DIERASSI (seated at left), signed copies of his book, "NO," after delivering the plenary lecture at the Phoenix meeting.

Board Highlights

The ECS Board of Trustees met on Thursday, and as usual, covered a lot of territory in a short amount of time. The Finance Committee was pleased to report that the projected year end difference between income and expenses had shifted from a negative bottom line to a healthy positive one. It was noted that the Society always budgets very conservatively, sometimes projecting a deficit, but careful management has always resulted in positive year-end numbers. The Publication Committee reported that it had discussed a proposal to issue the Meeting Abstracts volume on CD-ROM; the earliest this would be available is for the San Francisco Meeting in September 2001. The Honors and Awards Committee announced a number of winners (see page 60), and the Board of Directors voted to award the 2001 Solid-State Science and Technology Award to Arnold Reisman of North Carolina State University. Finally, the Board approved Washington, DC as the site of the fall 2006 meeting.