

### Canadian

Nominations are now being accepted for the Lash Miller Award which was created in 1967 to honor the memory of the late Dr. W. Lash Miller. Formerly a Society president and head of the Department of Chemistry at the University of Toronto, the award is presented every two years to recognize outstanding technical contributions to the field of electrochemistry. The award is open to any resident of Canada, under the age of 36, and consists of a cash payment of \$1,000. Deadline for the receipt of nominations is December 31, 1998. More information can be found on the ECS web site at <http://www.electrochem.org>, or by contacting Dr. Gessie Brisard (tel: 819.821.7093, fax: 819.821.8017, e-mail: [gessie.brisard@courrier.usherb.ca](mailto:gessie.brisard@courrier.usherb.ca)); or Dr. Wojtek Halliop (tel.: 613.544.8222, fax: 613.544.5150, e-mail: [wojtek@fuel-cell.kosone.com](mailto:wojtek@fuel-cell.kosone.com)).

The section held its fall symposium, "Applied Electrochemistry/Electrochimie Appliqué," on Friday, October 2 in Montréal, Québec. Honoring the retirement of Professor Guido A. Capuano, the symposium was organized by Drs. Benoît Marsan and Daniel Bélanger of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at UQAM. A total of ten speakers presented lectures on: surface finishing technology, electrode coating by thermal spray technique, fuel cells, nanocrystalline materials, alloys for hydrogen evolution, electrochemical probe for analysis of trace heavy metals, mediated electrochemical dechlorination of PCB, Li-ion batteries, and industrial production of battery-grade Zn powder.

The Canadian Local Section will hold a meeting on May 21, 1999 in Ottawa. The symposium will be organized by Dr. M. Morin, and featured will be the presentation of the 1998 Electrochemical Award to Dr. Jacek Lipkowski. Dr. Lipkowski will give the award lecture.

### Chicago

The section held a dinner meeting on September 21 in Naperville, IL. Featured were presentations on chemical sensors and biosensors, with Dr. Petr Vanysek of Northern Illinois University and Dr. Joseph Stetter of Illinois Institute of Technology as guest speakers. Highlights included the Gordon Conference on Chemical Sensors and Inter-

facial Design, the NIST Conferences, and the Beijing Conference on Chemical Sensors.

The section is compiling information about its past accomplishments, special meetings, student symposia, awards and distinctions to its members and the like; all of this to be included in an upcoming publication celebrating 100 years of the Society. In particular, input from people who have been in the Chicago area and have moved away, is needed. If you have any old files, want to share a recollection, or have an interesting story to share, please contact Petr Vanysek, [pvanyssek@niu.edu](mailto:pvanyssek@niu.edu).

Here is an abbreviated, and not final, list of the 1998/99 meetings of the section. November 19, 1998 - Katsumi Niki; December 8 - David Goad; January 24 or 25, 1999 - ECS national speaker; February - Milan Mrksich; March - speaker from Nalco, April - Graduate Student Symposium, jointly with the Southern Wisconsin Section (probably at Marquette University); May - Chad Mirkin. An up-to-date list can be always found on the Web at <http://www.electrochem.org/localsec/chicago.html>.

### The Gwendolyn B. Wood Award



**Excellence Is Rewarded**—The 1998 Gwendolyn B. Wood Local Section Excellence Award was presented to Gessie Brisard (left), of the Canadian Local Section, and to Robert G. Kelly (right), of the National Capital Local Section, by ECS President Gerard Blom (center).

### National Capitol

The section held its first meeting of the program year on October 22. The speaker for the evening was Dr. Gary Wnek of Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Wnek presented a lecture titled "New Proton Exchange Membranes for Low-cost Fuel Cell Technology." The presentation gave a brief overview of the newly discovered inexpensive block copolymer membranes with high proton conductivity essential in hydrogen-based fuel cells. These membranes have operated at room temperature and in air without hydration of hydrogen gas. Numerous redox-active molecules may be ion-exchanged into the films, which may prove useful as coatings for chemically modified electrodes.

### New England

The section held its inaugural dinner meeting of the 1998-1999 season at the Sheraton Inn, Lexington, on October 13. Dr. James Fenton of the University of Connecticut, presented a talk on "The Recycling of Post Consumer Tin Cans using Electrochemical Methods." Dr. Fenton discussed the two step electrochemical delacquering and de-tin-

ning process which has been developed in an effort to recycle post consumer tin cans. A patent for this process has been filed, and Yukon ReSteel Corporation has licensed the process from The University of Connecticut.

On November 2, the section held a meeting where Professor M. Bawendi of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology spoke on "Semiconductor Nanocrystallites; Artificial Atoms, Designer Chromophores, Building Blocks for Heterostructures." The national meeting was held at the Boston Sheraton Hotel.

On December 8, the section held a meeting where Professor Donald Sadoway of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology spoke on "Toward Viable Lithium Solid Polymer Batteries: An Integrated Materials Approach." The meeting was held at the Sheraton, Lexington.

### Israel

The first annual Israel Electrochemical Symposium was held at Hebrew University, Jerusalem, on May 21. Organized by the Israel Section, the

symposium was a "tribute to the origins, growth, and contributions of the Israeli electrochemical community." Keynote speaker, Prof. Allen Bard presented "Probing Electrode Surface Charge and the Diffusion Double Layer by Atomic Force Microscopy," which was followed by plenary lectures by Prof. Itamar Willner, Prof. Eliezer Gileadi, and Dr. Jonathan Goldstein. Also included were awards and technical sessions on electrochemical storage, electroanalytical and microelectrochemistry, and interfacial electrochemistry, including 32 student lectures and posters.

### Pittsburgh

On November 2, the section held a joint meeting with The Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh. The meeting was held at the Duquesne University. It began with a social/dinner hour, and was followed by a business/technical meeting. The 1998 Pittsburgh Analytical Chemistry Award recipient, Dr. Janet Osteryoung of the National Science Foundation and North Carolina State University,

presented the featured lecture titled "Microions: From the Molecular to the Microscopic." Dr. Osteryoung discussed the many common features microions share although they comprise a wide range of sizes.

### San Francisco ES&T

The section held a dinner meeting on October 14 at Manna's Thai Cuisine in Hayward. Featured was a lecture titled "Lithium Ion Batteries for Electric Vehicles" given by Robert Spotnitz, Director of Advanced Product Development in Dublin, California. Environmental concerns which drive the development of electric vehicles, ranging from battery-powered bicycles to buses, were discussed.

### South Texas

The section returned to Texas A&M University, College Station on July 11 for their 10th meeting of the year. Elections were held and new officers were chosen for the upcoming year. The new officers are: Dr. Arumugam Manthiram, Chair

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## Local Section News

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(University of Texas, Austin); Dr. Harovel Wheat, Vice-chair (University of Texas, Austin); Dr. Michael Pishko, Secretary (Texas A&M University, College Station); and Dr. Zoran Minevski, Treasurer (Lynnntech Inc., College Station).

The section held their September Meeting on September 12 at the University of Texas at Austin. The morning session began with welcoming remarks by Professor Arumugam Mathiram, the section's chairman, and was followed by three presentations, all by University of Texas at Austin professors. The first, "Scanning Electrochemical Microscopy - An Overview," was presented by Professor Allen J. Bard. Professor John T. McDevitt then presented "Studies of Self-Assembled Monolayers Atop Cuprate Surfaces: Molecular Engineering of Superconductor Interfaces," and finally, Professor Dim-Lee Kwong presented "Advanced MOS Gate Dielectric Technology for ULSI Applications." The afternoon session consisted of two presentations; the first being "Voltage Profile Across the Lead-Acid Cell: Theoretical and Experimental Evidence for the Violation of Local Electroneutrality," presented by Professor Wayne Saslow of the Texas A&M University; the second was "Oxygen Permeation Studies of the Intergrowth Oxide  $\text{Sr}_4\text{Fe}_{6-x}\text{Co}_x\text{O}_{13}$ ," presented by graduate student Tad Armstrong, who is currently working with Professor Arumugam Manthiram at the University of Texas at Austin. Closing remarks by Dr. Zoran Minevski, the section's treasurer, ended the meeting.

## Southern Wisconsin

The section held a meeting on October 21 at the Imperial Garden Restaurant in Middleton which included a presentation by Professor Robert Corn of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The meeting began with a social and dinner which was then followed by Professor Corn's presentation on "DNA Computing at Surfaces." The issues of attachment surface chemistry, DNA word design, and surface enzymatic activity were discussed.

The section held its November meeting on November 19 in Milwaukee. Featured was a discussion on "Process Monitoring Using Impedance Spectroscopy," given by Professor Martin A. Speitz of Marquette University. The representation of materials systems using a lumped parameter equivalent circuit approach and AC

electrical theory was discussed, and several examples of how this method can be employed were given.

## Twin Cities

The section held a meeting on September 29 at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Dr. Andreas Stein, assistant professor of Chemistry at the University of Minnesota presented a lecture titled "Templated Synthesis of Porous Metal Oxides and Hybrid Materials." Methods of controlling the pore dimensions, pore architecture and surface compositions of inorganic and hybrid porous solids were discussed. ■

## Local Section Events

*Interface* is always looking for news of your upcoming Section events to publish.

Send your announcements to **Interface**, 10 South Main Street, Pennington, NJ 08534 or e-mail us at: [membership@electrochem.org](mailto:membership@electrochem.org).

For a list of Local Section Chairmen and how to contact them, please see page 64.