



American Chemical Society

Nebraska Section Newsletter

<http://nebraskaacs.nebrwesleyan.edu/>

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February Speaker: Mary Virginia Orna

Thursday, February 12, 2009

“Doing Chemistry at the Art/Archeological Interface”

Time: 6:00 pm Venue: Lied 152 Doane College

The archaeological chemical rewards of spending a sabbatical year in Israel and Italy will be discussed along with modern methods used to examine both ancient and modern artifacts. The archaeological work in Israel involved analysis of ancient pigments and dyes found on excavated materials from caves in the Judean desert and the ancient fortress of Masada. Textiles from the "Cave of the Warrior" were examined from their pigment content. The work in Italy involved examination of medieval artists' manuals for recipes for blue pigments, which were then carried out and characterized, with some surprising results. Additional applications of the methods of archaeological chemistry to such famous artifacts as the forgeries of Han van Meegeran and the Shroud of Turin will be discussed, including some evidence that the radiocarbon date of the shroud may not be valid because of fire damage it experienced by the Shroud in 1532. Pros and cons will be discussed.

Biographical Sketch: Sister Mary Virginia Orna, O.U. (Order of Saint Ursula) is professor of chemistry at the College of New Rochelle and Editor-at-Large, Chemical Heritage magazine. She has lectured and published widely in the areas of color chemistry and archaeological chemistry. She is active in several divisions of the American Chemical Society, having served as chair of the History and Chemical Education Divisions. She is a recipient of the following major awards: the 1984 CMA Catalyst Award for excellence in college chemistry teaching, the 1989 New York State Professor of the Year and National Gold Medalist, the 1989 Merck Innovation Award, the 1996 ACS Visiting Scientist Award, the 1996 James Flack Norris Award, the 1999 ACS George C. Pimentel Award in Chemical Education, and the 2001 New England Association of Chemistry Teachers J. A. Timm Award for excellence in chemistry teaching. She is presently president of ChemSource, Inc., a major effort in chemistry teacher preparation and enhancement funded by the National Science Foundation.



Send Chemistry to Congress

Less than 5% of our congressional members have scientific backgrounds, yet everyday legislators are asked to make decisions that affect our nation's scientific enterprise. As an ACS member, you can help Congress make more informed decisions by becoming a member of the **Legislative Action Network (LAN)**. The LAN is a Web-based political involvement program that gives you an easy, effective way to voice opinions on science legislation.

ACS has been a respected source of information and advocacy on Capitol Hill for decades. With the LAN, ACS connects its members with their representatives. Congressional members listen to their *constituents* and value their timely input. That's where you can play a valuable role as a member of the LAN. It's free, simple, and done entirely via the Web. But more to the point, by participating in the LAN, chemists can impact federal policies critical to chemistry and our nation. **Please register** online at <http://www.act4chemistry.org/register>.

March Speaker: Dr. J. Ernest Simpson

Tuesday, March 17, 2009 Time: 6:00 pm Venue: TBA

"Chemistry of Wine" This will be a Science Café event sponsored by the ACS Office of Local Section Activities.

April Speaker: Dr. Lisa M. Balbes

Wednesday, April 15, 2009 Time: 6:00pm Venue: TBA

"Nontraditional Careers for Chemists: New Formulas for Chemistry Careers"

Directions to Doane College

Driving directions from Lincoln:

1. South US-77
2. West on US-33 toward Crete
3. Turn left on Boswell Ave.
4. Turn left on 13th St.
5. Turn right at Doane College
6. Go to Lied 152

