

NEBRASKA ACS NEWS

March 2006 Newsletter

March 8 2005

Word from the Throne

Greetings fellow Nebraska ACS'ers! It's my pleasure to begin my term as your Local Section Chair. We have an exciting spring schedule in front of us, beginning with our first speaker, Bill Mattson, whose talk is being hosted by Union College on March 8th.

One of my goals for this term will be to increase student participation in this section. I am particularly interested in promoting the scholarship of our sections' many talented undergraduate students. In the coming fall, I would like to host a symposium of undergraduate research somewhere within the section. As you are aware, our section encompasses most of the State of Nebraska; a fact that presents a challenge in organizing events that are accessible to all of our members. I would appreciate any comments or suggestions that you might have. Please feel free to contact me directly through email at jkautz2@unl.edu.

I hope to see you at Union College!

In the bond,

Jason Kautz

Nebraska ACS Regional Elections Results

We have a call for nominations for the next regional election of officers. The following positions will be open: chair elect, secretary, treasurer, and board members.

Current officers:

Chair:	Jason Kautz
Chair Elect:	Neil Heckman
Treasurer:	Carrie Wolfe
Secretary:	Stacy Stoll
Board:	Dennis Eddy
	Frank Kovacs
	Peggy Ruhn
Councilor/Alt. Councilor:	Mike Mosher and Scott Darveau

ACS Tour Speaker

William Mattson

Randolph-Macon Woman's College

March 8th at 6 PM

Union College
Ortner Center
President's Dinning Room
3800 South 48th Street
Lincoln, NE

Small Personal Bio:

Bill Mattson is a professor of analytical chemistry at Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, Virginia. He earned a B.S. and a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia and an M.S. from American University. A sampling of some of his activities includes teaching some nonchemistry courses such as Creative and Critical Problem Solving, the Use of Spreadsheets, Freshman Colloquium, and a "First Year Experience" course; developing a campus computer allocation model; and spending 16 of the last 18 summers teaching or doing research at the University of Virginia, James Madison University, the University of North Carolina, and the University of Tennessee. He has been a National Science Foundation panel member for grant evaluation; director of the Central Virginia Regional Science Fair, and a master of ceremonies for a high school Academic Competition for Excellence program. Bill has written dozens of papers and publications. He has taken students to regional and national ACS meetings to present their research. He has done experimental research in such areas as molecular absorption spectrophotometry, mass spectrometry, the standard addition method, chemical equilibrium, and acid/base indicators. However, he sees himself more as an educator and a generalist, having publications and papers in education in such areas as chemical equilibrium, exploring in the laboratory, experiencing the skills of scientific practice, computer interfacing, solving simultaneous equations in multiequilibria problems, and creative problem solving in research.

Creative Problem Solving for Chemists, Other Scientists, and Everyone

Abstract:

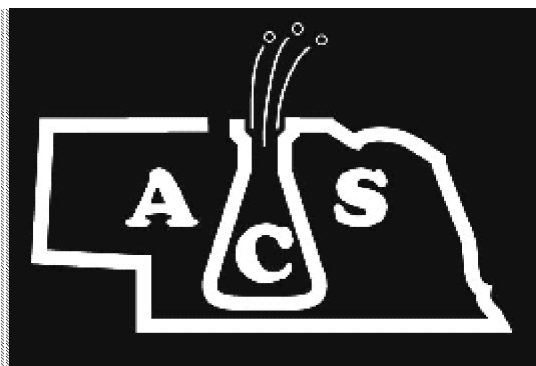
In the day to day work environments of chemists and others, one is often expected to solve problems creatively. Such problems might involve obtaining new research ideas, problems in industry in a variety of areas such as production, dealing with problems which arise when one is doing research, or even personal problems. Oftentimes people apply a random process rather than something more directed. Results are often quite poor. This presentation will include 1) an interactive discussion of some important steps to follow when trying to solve problems, including those encountered when doing research; 2) some insights into mental blocks that limit our problem solving abilities, 3) a listing of some characteristics of creative people; and 4) some additional suggestions for improving ones creative problem solving abilities. The speaker has been teaching creative problem solving for over 25 years. Past responses from numerous presentations suggest that regardless of whether or not you are a scientist this interactive presentation will be worthy of your time for both its value and its thought provoking and entertaining elements.

Nebraska Local Section Website

The website for our ACS section is still up and running. Feel free to visit the website, which is located at www.chem.unl.edu/nebraskaacs . We are updating the biographies for the current officers, and a copy of the newsletter is also available. If you have any questions or comments please drop us a note.

Contact Us

If you have any questions concerning the society please feel free to contact our section Chair Jason Kautz, (jkautz2@unl.edu) or our section secretary, Stacy Stoll (stacystoll@gmail.com).



Nebraska Section- American Chemical Society
Stacy Stoll, Secretary