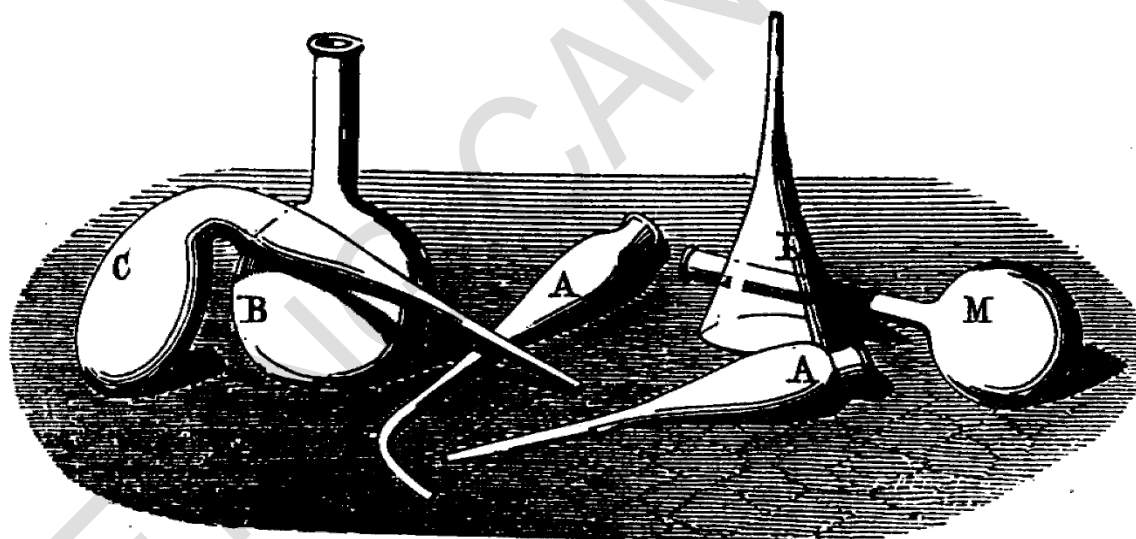




ACS
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American Chemical Society
**DIVISION OF THE
HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY**



NEWSLETTER

259th ACS National Meeting
Philadelphia, PA
March 22-26, 2020

Nicolay V. Tsarevsky, Program Chair

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Mission Statement

The Division of the History of Chemistry ([HIST](#)) of the American Chemical Society (ACS) seeks to advance knowledge and appreciation of the history of the chemical sciences among chemists, students, historians of science, and the broader public by

- Encouraging research and scholarship in history of the chemical sciences;
- Providing a welcoming environment for the discussion of history of chemistry in a variety of venues, particularly in symposia at national ACS meetings;
- Serving as a resource for chemical scientists in general, and members of the ACS in particular, who seek to understand the roots of their discipline, sub-discipline, or interdisciplinary subject;
- Recognizing major achievements from the past in the chemical sciences and the individuals who made those achievements;
- Publishing a scholarly journal in history of chemistry;
- Interacting with other organizations interested in the history of science; and
- Adding value to the ACS by helping it achieve its vision and missions.

Division Governance

Message from the HIST Division Chair

The International Year of the Periodic Table (2019) is in the books now and we certainly contributed to the celebrations. The Fall 2019 National ACS meeting featured two excellent relevant symposia, namely “150 Years of the Periodic Table” and “150 Years since the Publication of the First Issue of the *Journal of the Russian Chemical Society*”. The Division is always seeking to increase its visibility and expand its membership, and one way to do that is by supporting HIST programming at regional ACS meetings. Accordingly, HIST sponsored well-attended symposia related to the periodic table at the 71st Southeastern Regional Meeting, held in Savannah, GA, in October, and at the joint Southwest & Rocky Mountain Regional Meeting in El Paso, TX, in November.



On a more personal level, one of the highlights of my first year as HIST Chair was representing the Division in a small ceremony organized by Gail Webster (Guilford College, Greensboro, NC) to honor Ted Benfey, recipient of the 2019 HIST Award for Outstanding Achievement in the History of Chemistry. It was a small but meaningful event, held on Saturday, October 26th, and attended by several of Ted's colleagues, the President of Guilford College, and two of his four children, among other friends and family of Ted. It was an honor to meet Ted in person for the first time, some 53 years after he served as HIST Chair! Here's my favorite picture of Ted holding the award plaque.

In closing, I should mention that I recently attended the ACS Leadership Institute in Atlanta in January 2020 and I had rewarding interactions with other local section and technical division officers and ACS governance. Any ideas that increase the value of membership in HIST are always worth considering, and I learned some interesting strategies that may help us achieve that by using social media (Instagram, Twitter), to attract young(er) professionals to the Division. We do have an active Facebook page and an excellent website with plenty of resources, but that's not how *millennials* are communicating these days. We must already be doing something right because I learned that HIST showed (by far) the largest percentual increase in membership among all 32 technical divisions during the past three years: from 675 in 2017 to 1122 in 2019 (a 66% increase!). Let's all keep up the good work!

Daniel Rabinovich, HIST Chair

Report of Councilors, Division of the History of Chemistry 258th ACS National Meeting – San Diego, CA, August 28, 2019

Actions of the Council

I. Elections

Election Results: Candidates for Service on Standing Committees

By electronic ballot, the Council elected **Anne M. Gaffney, Lydia E. M. Hines, Will E. Lynch, and Sally B. Peters** for three-year terms (2020-2022), and **Dee Ann Casteel** for a one-year term (2020) on the Council Policy Committee (CPC).

George M. Bodner	172	Joseph A. Heppert	175
James C. Carver	177	*Lydia E. M. Hines	199
*Dee Ann Casteel	183	*Will E. Lynch	222
Kenneth P. Fivizzani	136	*Sally B. Peters	235
*Anne M. Gaffney	201	Margaret J. Schooler	178

By electronic ballot, the Council elected **Michelle V. Buchanan, Charles E. Cannon, Alan A. Hazari, Amber S. Hinkle, and Thomas H. Lane** for three-year terms (2020-2022) on the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E).

V. Dean Adams	132	Alan M. Ehrlich	148
Mark A. Benvenuto	126	*Alan A. Hazari	198
*Michelle V. Buchanan	212	*Amber S. Hinkle	302
*Charles E. Cannon	179	*Thomas H. Lane	288
Alan B. Cooper	163	Joseph P. Stoner	119

By electronic ballot, the Council elected **Lisa M. Balbes, D. Richard Cobb, Emilio X. Esposito, Jason E. Ritchie, and Stephanie J. Watson** for three-year terms (2020-2022) on the Committee on Committees (ConC).

Satinder Ahuja	99	Sarah M. Mullins	175
*Lisa M. Balbes	242	*Jason E. Ritchie	210
*D. Richard Cobb	266	Susan M. Schelble	172
Harry J. Elston	78	Andrea B. Twiss-Brooks	169
*Emilio X. Esposito	247	*Stephanie J. Watson	176

II. Other Council Actions

Continuation of Committees

On the recommendation of the Committee on Committees, and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the continuation of the Committees on International Activities and Professional Training, contingent on approval by the Board of Directors.

Establishment of an International Chemical Sciences Chapter

On the recommendation of the Committee on International Activities, and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the creation of an ACS International Chemical Sciences Chapter in the Republic of Georgia, contingent on approval by the Board of Directors.

Redistricting of a Local Section

On the recommendation of Nominations & Elections, the Council voted that the Pittsburgh Local Section be transferred from District II to District III in order to bring District III's member population into compliance with bylaw requirements.

Resolutions

The Council passed resolutions:

- in memory of former Executive Director John Kistler Crum;
- in memory of other deceased Councilors;
- in recognition and celebration of the 100th birthday of Gerald Meyer, and his 80 years of service to the Society
- in gratitude for the officers and members of the San Diego Local Section - host Section for the 258th National Meeting, the divisional program chairs and symposium organizers, and ACS staff; and
- acknowledging Bonnie A. Charpentier's service as ACS President and presiding officer of the Council.

Highlights from Committee Reports

Nominations and Elections

Ballots for the 2019 fall national election will be distributed starting on September 30th, with a voting deadline four weeks later on October 25th. ACS members eligible to vote and with an email address on file will receive an electronic ballot with the option to request a paper ballot. Those members with no email address on file will be sent a paper ballot with the option to vote electronically. The ACS election vendor, Survey & Ballot Systems, will send three email reminders during the voting period to those who have not voted as of the reminder dates. N&E encourages all ACS members to vote for President-Elect and the Constitutional Amendment. Election information may be viewed at acs.org/elections.

Budget and Finance

The Society's 2019 financial performance through July 31st yielded a Net from Operations of \$30.1 million. This is \$10 million favorable to the Approved Budget, and \$1.7 million less than the same period in 2018. Total revenues are right on budget at \$338 million. Total expenses are \$308 million, which is \$10 million favorable to budget.

The committee considered two 2020 program funding reauthorization requests, and on its recommendations, the Board subsequently approved funding for the *ChemIDP* and the *International Student Chapters Programs* in the 2020 Proposed Budget.

The committee considered new program funding requests for 2020 as well. The Board subsequently approved funding for the *Green and Sustainable Chemistry Education Resources* pilot for inclusion in the 2020 Proposed Budget.

The Society is expected to end the year in compliance with each of the five Board-established financial guidelines. Additional information can be found at www.acs.org. At the bottom of the page, click 'About ACS', then 'Financial'.

San Diego Meeting Attendance

The theme of the 258th National Meeting was "Chemistry and Water." As of August 27, attendance was:

Attendees	7,488
Students	3,095
Exhibitors	995
Expo only	430
Guest	401
Total	12,409

HIST Councilors

Mary Virginia Orna is serving as a member of the Divisional Activities Committee (DAC) and the DAC Technical Programming and Collaboration Subcommittee. She was able to report to the HIST Executive

Committee the developing rubric for evaluating Innovative Project Grant (IPG) proposals, the summarized best practices gleaned from former successful IPGs, the progress of her subcommittee on drafting a pilot project called “Convergent Research Communities,” and the possible use of “ACS Change Drivers” to create more engaging programming.

Roger Egolf is serving as a member of the Meetings and Expositions Committee (M&E) and its Technical Program Subcommittee. That subcommittee is responsible for advising the ACS meetings staff on the format of national meeting technical programming and the allocation of meeting rooms to the various divisions.

Report prepared and submitted by Mary Virginia Orna and Roger Egolf, HIST councilors

News and Announcements

HIST Award

The History of Chemistry Division of the American Chemical Society is proud to present the 2019 HIST Award for Outstanding Achievement in the History of Chemistry to Lawrence M. Principe for “*his insightful and groundbreaking studies of the actual laboratory chemistry and its documentary presentation in the 17th and 18th centuries.*”



Lawrence (Larry) M. Principe was born in northern New Jersey in 1962. He first fell in love with alchemy while studying at the University of Delaware (B.S. Chemistry, B.A. Liberal Studies, 1983). A “dual approach” to the history of Chemistry has characterized his work ever since. He obtained a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from Indiana University in 1988, but his love of the History and Philosophy of Science motivated him to earn a second Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins University in History of Science, from which he graduated in 1996. His thesis became the best-selling book: *The Aspiring Adept: Robert Boyle and His Alchemical Quest* (Princeton, 1998). Meanwhile, the Chemistry Department at Johns Hopkins took advantage of the presence of a star

organic chemist by hiring him as a Laboratory Instructor. He progressed through the ranks of the non-tenure track faculty in Chemistry, but when an actual tenure-track position in the History of Science opened, he was chosen in 1997 for a joint-appointment between Chemistry and History of Science. In 2006 he was honored as the endowed Drew Professor of the Humanities, with Chairs in both Chemistry and the History of Science. Larry Principe is indeed a HIST unicorn.

Principe continued his Boyle scholarship and joined with Michael Hunter and Antonio Clericuzio to produce the six volume complete *Correspondence of Robert Boyle* (Pickering and Chatto, 1999-2000). Not only was Larry a superb laboratory chemist, but he was capable of the most demanding and detailed scholarship.

One of the ongoing projects that Larry has contributed to the worldwide community of scholars of alchemy is his collaboration with William Newman. They jointly examined the laboratory notebooks of George Starkey and Robert Boyle and discovered the actual chemistry being shared. Their deep insights into the realities of 17th century *chymistry* have revolutionized the discussion of science in this time period. This project produced *Alchemy Tried in the Fire* (Chicago, 2002), which won the History of Science Society’s Pfizer Prize (2005), given for the best book in the History of Science in the prior three year period.

Another contribution to the community was the organization of the 2006 conference on alchemy held at the Chemical Heritage Foundation. One hundred thirty-five scholars of alchemy gathered and listened to erudite discourses and engaged in intense discussions about all aspects of the scholarship of

alchemy. The volume *Chymists and Chymistry* (Science History Publications, 2007, edited by L. M. Principe) is the record of this event. It has proved to be a major stimulant to research into alchemy ever since.

Larry Principe has also contributed one of the best works intended for a broader audience interested in alchemy: *The Secrets of Alchemy* (Chicago, 2013). In addition to a nuanced history of the development of alchemy from ancient times to the present, it employs actual laboratory reconstructions of classic recipes for *arcana*. Rather than mythical stories about fictional materials, Principe has used the real materials and discovered just how the laboratory procedures were followed. He produced many classic alchemical materials and presents visual evidence in the book. This attempt to fully contextualize human activity in chemistry (chymistry) has revolutionized the understanding of the 17th century (and beyond).

Not content to become merely a 17th century specialist, he has struck out in both directions. Starting in 2004, he organized an international workshop at CalTech, which gave opportunity to produce *New Narratives in Eighteenth-Century Chemistry* (Springer, 2007), containing his opening salvo regarding the inadequacies of the historiography of 18th century chemistry. The culmination of this work is the book: *The Transmutations of Chymistry: Wilhelm Homberg and the Academie Royale des Sciences* (Chicago, 2020). This book is already poised to produce both many awards and to jump-start a re-appraisal of the narrative of this era. There is much more to discuss than the work of Lavoisier.

Lawrence M. Principe has already received many awards and honors. Among these, he was the recipient of the Franklin-Lavoisier Prize of the Maison de la Chimie and the Chemical Heritage Foundation in 2016. He was the George Sarton Memorial Lecturer of the AAAS in 2011. He received the Francis Bacon Award for the History and Philosophy of Science in 2004.

Submitted by Gary Patterson

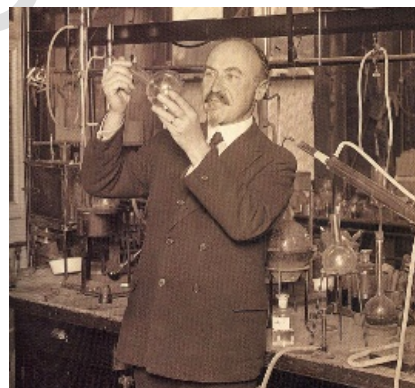
History of Chemistry Documentary

All Things Bakelite: The Age of Plastic

tells the joyous and provocative story about the “Father of Modern Plastic,” Leo Hendrik Baekeland (shown in his lab). In 1907, this Belgian-born American chemist made one of the most transformative discoveries of the 20th century, the first wholly synthetic plastic, which he called Bakelite. This invention was integral to the beginning of the modern industrial age, ushering in a myriad of plastics that have improved our lives and supported critical advancements.

History comes alive in this unique and innovative 59-minute documentary. Reenactments of Baekeland’s life, rare archival footage, photos and journal entries, interviews with scientists, historians, artists and satirical musical performances capture both the wonder and the curse of Baekeland’s discovery.

The primary source and inspiration for this illuminating film is great grandson of Baekeland, Hugh Karraker, the film’s executive producer. While the film



celebrates Baekeland, his invention and its descendants, it does not shy away from the global plastic problem. In the end, it offers a view into essential solutions

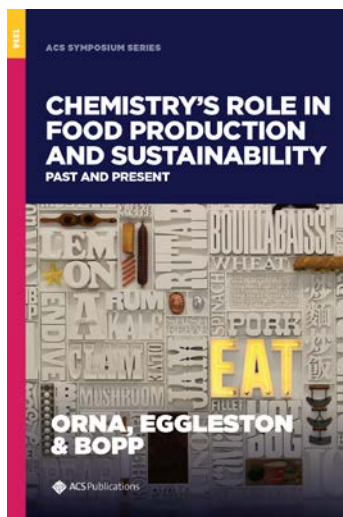
You can learn more about the history at www.allthingsbakelite.com.

Submitted by Marc Huberman

History of Chemistry Books

A New ACS Volume

We are pleased to announce the recent publication of the ACS book on the history of chemistry titled “Chemistry’s Role in Food Production and Sustainability: Past and Present”, which is edited by Mary Virginia Orna, Gillian Eggleston, and Alvin F. Bopp. As with all ACS eBooks, Chapter 1 is freely available to read online, and the printed copy of the book will be available to purchase from OUP with the 30% ACS Members discount.



The Table of Contents can be viewed at <https://pubs.acs.org/isbn/9780841234284>.

Call for Papers

Historical Thoughts on ‘From Bench to Market’ will be a HIST symposium, which will take place at the San Francisco 2020 ACS Meeting. While some chemists pursued purely avocational interests, most chemists in the last 500 years had a primary interest in selling the product of their labor. When they could reproducibly and reliably synthesize materials of commercial interest, they often sought to market their wares. This process started more than 25,000 years ago with the pigments that were used to paint images in caves. They continued with the cosmetics used to paint Queens and the purple used to dye clerical vestments. This symposium seeks to present

historical instances where a clear improvement in technique or understanding led to a commercially viable product.

Please consider contributing to this MPPG themed HIST Symposium. Real Chemistry happens in the laboratory, but it stops when the money runs out. Only the brave chemists who risked both their fortunes and their lives brought chemistry to market.

Submitted by Gary Patterson

Continuing to Celebrate the Periodic Table

Elemental Art: A Competition Open to All

As announced previously, we are delighted to invite original art contributions, including *poems*, *cartoons*, or *photographs*, the subject of which is a specific chemical element (e.g., its discovery, properties, uses), group of elements, or the Periodic Table itself. The submissions must be received by August 31 2020 (please note the extended deadline). They will be reviewed by a panel, and three winners will be selected in each of the three categories. The winners will receive certificates and monetary awards (\$250, \$200, or \$150 for first, second, and third place, respectively) and the best artworks will be published in the HIST Newsletter, on the HIST website, and other publicly available sources. Submissions should be sent to the HIST program chair, Nick Tsarevsky (nvt@smu.edu or nicktsarevsky@gmail.com), as attachments to an email, the subject line of which reads “Elemental Art Competition – XYZ” (where “XYZ” stands for the name of the person who created the artwork). The winners will be informed in the late fall of 2020 and will be announced at a future ACS meeting at a HIST symposium.

BULLETIN FOR THE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY

A publication of the Division of the History of Chemistry of the American Chemical Society

Available online: <http://www.scs.illinois.edu/~mainzv/HIST/bulletin/index.php>

PAPER SUBMISSIONS: Articles of 4-20 pages, double-spaced (excluding references) should be submitted electronically by email attachment to the Editor, Carmen Giunta, at giunta@lemoyne.edu. The title of the article should be of reasonable length (up to 15 words); a subtitle may be included if appropriate. Authors should strive to make the title descriptive of the specific scope and content of the paper. Preferred file formats for submissions are .doc, .docx, and .rtf.

Full instructions for authors can be found at <http://www.scs.illinois.edu/~mainzv/HIST/info/bull-info.php> or in the back cover of all issues of the *Bulletin*.

All matters relating to manuscripts, etc. should be sent to:
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MEETING

HIST Programming

Message from the HIST Program Chair

Welcome to the 259th ACS National Meeting and to the great city of Philadelphia! On behalf of HIST, I am delighted to invite you to attend as many lectures as you can at the symposia offered by the Division. I know you will find this to be an efficient and pleasant way to learn, get fascinated and inspired by the rich history of our discipline, and meet new (or greet some old) friends. As is often the case, we will start on Sunday morning and will finish on Tuesday (all day) with *General Papers and Tutorial* sessions. You will have the chance to enjoy a selection of papers on diverse topics. On Sunday afternoon, we will celebrate the life and many achievements of a remarkable chemist, entrepreneur, philanthropist, art collector and connoisseur, whom the chemistry community lost in December of 2018 – Alfred Bader. In the 1950s, he co-founded Aldrich Chemical Company (known to all chemists) and in 1998 (the 75th anniversary of *Chemical & Engineering News*), he was chosen by the readers of the Magazine as one of the top 75 contributors to the chemical enterprise. The symposium is organized by Mary Virginia Orna and will feature lectures by several of Dr. Bader's colleagues and close friends and admirers. On Monday (all day), we will celebrate one very important anniversary – the 100th year since the publication of the influential paper by Hermann Staudinger (*Ber. Deutsch. Chem. Ges.*, **1920**, 53, 1073), in which the idea was put forward that the molecules of polymers (rubber, starch, cellulose, polystyrene, etc.) are long chains consisting of short repeating units connected by regular covalent bonds. Although Staudinger went on to win the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1953, at the time the macromolecular hypothesis was first described, it was by no means accepted universally, and a number of eminent chemists believed that the experimentally determined high molecular weights of the mentioned substances were merely apparent and the result of colloid-like aggregation of smaller molecules. Even though some may find the thought incorrect or exaggerated, we do live in the Polymer age (just look around, if you are not fully convinced), which is why the anniversary of the event that marked the beginning of our understanding about what polymers are, is truly important and worth celebrating. The *History of Polymer Science* symposium is co-organized by three polymer scientists at HIST – Gary Patterson, Seth Rasmussen, and myself. You will be able to learn about the most important discoveries in polymer chemistry and physics as well as about some of the contributors to the field and the places where important discoveries were made. On Monday night, during the SciMix session, please stop by the HIST table at Division Row. We will be happy to tell you more about the Division and to listen to ideas you may have about future symposia and other events. We hope you and your friends would become interested in getting involved in one of the most interdisciplinary divisions of the ACS. When you are not attending a lecture or discussing a poster, I encourage you to take advantage of the location of the ACS meeting and visit our friends at the Science History Institute and their outstanding museum, which every professional chemist or science enthusiast should see.



In the last HIST Newsletter, I announced a HIST-sponsored contest, open to all, which we dubbed *Elemental Art*. In order to compete with your peers, submit an original art piece (a poem, a photograph, or a cartoon) dedicated to the elements, their discovery, or applications, or to the Periodic Table itself. The contest is still ongoing and submissions can be sent to me (at either nvt@smu.edu or nicktsarevsky@gmail.com) until August 31, 2020 (please note that we extended the original deadline). I remind you that there will be winners and awards!

My fellow HIST-ers and I wish you a productive and fulfilling meeting! We would love to see you at our sessions and talk with you!

Nick Tsarevsky, HIST Program Chair

HIST SYMPOSIA, 259th ACS Meeting in Philadelphia, PA, March 22-26, 2020

Schedules and abstracts are listed at the end of this Newsletter.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND HIST DEADLINES

Subject to change. Check the HIST website (<http://www.scs.illinois.edu/~mainzv/HIST/>) for updates.

260th ACS Meeting, San Francisco, CA, August 16-20, 2020

(abstract submission deadline – April 6, 2020)

HIST Tutorial and General Papers (*Seeking contributors*) Nicolay V. Tsarevsky, Department of Chemistry, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275, Phone: (214) 768-3259, email: nvt@smu.edu

HIST Award Symposium (Invited) Nicolay V. Tsarevsky, Department of Chemistry, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275, Phone: (214) 768-3259, email: nvt@smu.edu

Springer Briefs in the History of Chemistry: 10th Anniversary (Invited) Seth C. Rasmussen, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, North Dakota State University, NDSU Dept. 2735, P.O. Box 6050, Fargo, ND 58108, Phone: (701) 231-8747, email: seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu

Historical Thoughts on ‘From Bench to Market’ (*Invited and contributed*) Gary Patterson, Vancouver, WA 98661, (412) 480-0656, email: gp9a@andrew.cmu.edu; David E. Lewis, Department of Chemistry, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Phone: (715) 836-4744, email: lewisd@uwec.edu

The Science and Legacy of Glenn Seaborg (Invited) Roger Egolf, Pennsylvania State University - Lehigh Valley Campus, Center Valley, PA 18034, Phone: (610) 285-5110, Email: rae4@psu.edu and Jan Hayes, Email: janan.hayes@gmail.com

261st ACS Meeting, San Antonio, TX, March 21-25, 2021

HIST Tutorial and General Papers (*Seeking contributors*) Nicolay V. Tsarevsky, Department of Chemistry, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275, Phone: (214) 768-3259, email: nvt@smu.edu

History of Forensic Chemistry (*Invited and contributed*) Nicolay V. Tsarevsky, Department of Chemistry, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275, Phone: (214) 768-3259, email: nvt@smu.edu

ACS Presidents from the South (Invited) Roger Egolf, Pennsylvania State University - Lehigh Valley Campus, Center Valley, PA 18034, Email: rae4@psu.edu and Jan Hayes, Email: janan.hayes@gmail.com

262nd ACS Meeting, Atlanta, GA, Atlanta 22-26, 2021

HIST Tutorial and General Papers (*Seeking contributors*) Nicolay V. Tsarevsky, Department of Chemistry, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275, Phone: (214) 768-3259, email: nvt@smu.edu

HIST Award Symposium (Invited) Nicolay V. Tsarevsky, Department of Chemistry, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275, Phone: (214) 768-3259, email: nvt@smu.edu

History of Glass (*Invited and contributed*) Seth C. Rasmussen, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, North Dakota State University, NDSU Dept. 2735, P.O. Box 6050, Fargo, ND 58108, Phone: (701) 231-8747, email: seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu

MEETING CANCELLED