



THE IOTAN

Iota Sigma Pi

National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry

November 2010 No. 103

The 30th National Triennial Convention: “Chemistry Rocks”

June 23-26, 2011 in Cleveland, Ohio

National Convention Hosted by Fluorine Chapter

By Theresa M. Nawalaniec, Lily
M. Ng and QuynhGiao N.
Nguyen

Every three years, Iota Sigma Pi holds a national meeting to convene all chapters and conduct national business. Each chapter is represented by an elected delegate: each chapter sends one delegate, chapters with more than 75 members send two delegates, and Members-at-Large send four delegates. National Council covers most expenses for delegates, the national council members, and others (e.g., award recipients) invited by the national council. Chapters may choose to send alternate delegates as well, with their expenses covered by chapter funds. In addition, all Iotans are invited and encouraged to attend on their own for part or all of the convention.

The major purpose of the convention is to conduct business at a national level. During this time, we review what each chapter had accomplished for the past three years. Issues that are important to the functioning of the organization are identified, discussed, and a plan of action for the next three years is outlined. Changes in policy are discussed at a national level and brought to a vote. Another important item of business is the election of national council members for the following triennium.

The Fluorine chapter in Cleveland, Ohio is hosting the convention, to be held at the Embassy Suites Rockside in Independence, a suburb of Cleveland.

There will be a reception and poster session sponsored by Fluorine chapter Thursday evening. This will be an opportunity for all to meet. The poster session will feature activities and programs of active chapters and the national council, as well as the research and professional activities of attending Iotans, during the past three years. The convention will officially start Friday morning and will end on Sunday. Fluorine Chapter's Convention Committee members have been busily working on additional activities. Further information regarding registration and accommodations will be published in the February Iotan, and updates about the convention and registration will also be placed on the Iota Sigma Pi webpage, Facebook, MySpace as well as Twitter. A call for poster abstracts can be found in this issue.

Begin making plans now with your chapter or contact Karen Knaus to become an MAL delegate so you can join us in Cleveland to meet with other Iotans to conduct national business, to reacquaint with old friends and meet new ones, and have a “rocking” good time.

The City of Cleveland is on the famous “north coast” of the United States, situated at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River, on the south shore of Lake Erie. Cleveland started as a village in 1814 and became a city in 1836. Cleveland is the center of the largest metropolitan area in Ohio and a leading Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway port. A narrow, industrialized ravine (known locally as the Flats) of the Cuyahoga River

divides the city into a West Side and an East Side. Along the lakefront east of the Cuyahoga River are Cleveland Browns Stadium, the Great Lakes Science Center, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum (1995), designed by the Chinese-American architect I.M. Pei. Other major downtown attractions include the Mall area, which encompasses county, city, and federal buildings, the Public Library, the Convention Center, the Warehouse District, which includes fine dining and nightlife, and Playhouse Square Theater District. Public Square is an area of civic monuments, surrounded by the city's tallest buildings, including the renovated Tower City Center, as well as the tallest building in Ohio, the 290-m (950-ft) Key Tower. Erieview Plaza is the site of the Gateway Sports Complex that houses the Cleveland Indians Baseball, the Cavaliers Basketball and Lake Erie Monster Hockey Teams. Cleveland has an extensive park system, including the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo at Brookside Park and the ethnic Cultural Gardens in Rockefeller Park. A ring of parklands surrounds the city.

IN THIS ISSUE..

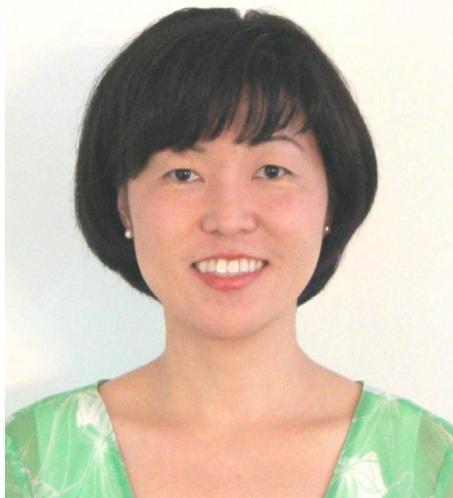
30th Triennial Convention 2011	1-2
2010 Awards	2-4
Chapter News	5
Call for National Council Nominees	6
Convention Agenda	6
National Council	7

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Cleveland is famous for its medical and health facilities including the University Hospital System and the Cleveland Clinic. Among the city's numerous institutions of higher education are Case Western Reserve University (1967), John Carroll University (1886), Notre Dame College (1922), Ursuline College (1871), Cleveland Institute of Art (1882), Baldwin-Wallace College (1845), Cleveland State University (1964), and Cleveland Institute of Music (1920). Many of the city's leading cultural institutions, including the Cleveland Museum of Art (1913), Severance Hall (home of the Cleveland Orchestra), the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (1920), the African American Museum, and the Cleveland Botanical Garden, are found in the 488-acre site of University Circle. Cleveland's performance groups include the Cleveland Play House, a resident professional theater, and Karamu House, an interracial cultural center. (Link for Cleveland: <http://www.cleveland.com/>)

2010 Iota Sigma Pi Agnes Fay Morgan Research Award



Professor Kyoung-Shin Choi, Purdue University

Dr. Kyoung-Shin Choi is the 2010 recipient of the Agnes Fay Morgan Award. This annual award is given for research achievement in chemistry or biochemistry. The nominee must be a

woman chemist or biochemist, not over forty years of age at the time of her nomination. Dr. Kyoung-Shin Choi is an associate professor of chemistry at Purdue University. She received her B.S. and M.S. degrees from Seoul National University in South Korea in 1993 and 1995, respectively. She received a Ph.D. degree from Michigan State University in 2000 (with Prof. Mercouri Kanatzidis), and then spent two years at the University of California, Santa Barbara as a postdoctoral researcher (with Prof. Galen Stuky).

Dr. Kyoung-Shin Choi joined the chemistry faculty at Purdue University as an assistant professor in 2002, and was promoted to an associate professor in 2008. She was a visiting scholar at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) during fall of 2008. Dr. Kyoung-Shin Choi's current research combines solid-state chemistry, electrochemistry, and materials chemistry in order to address materials-related issues of electrode materials for use in electrochemical and photo-electrochemical devices. Her specific research interest lies in the construction of multi-component composite electrodes (e.g., photoelectrode / catalyst) with optimum architectures via precise and rational morphology control during materials synthesis. Dr. Kyoung-Shin Choi was a recipient of a 2006 Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship and the 2007 ACS ExxonMobil Faculty Fellowship in Solid-State Chemistry. She also received the 2008 Purdue College of Science Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching by an Assistant Professor Award. Dr. Kyoung-Shin Choi is currently the 2011 chair elect of the American Chemical Society--Division of Inorganic Chemistry, Solid State Chemistry Sub-division.

Congratulations to Dr. Choi !!!

2010 Iota Sigma Pi Centennial Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

Dr. Debra Dee Dolliver is the 2010 recipient of the Iota Sigma Pi Centennial Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. This award is given for excellence in teaching chemistry, biochemistry, or a chemistry-related field at an undergraduate institution that does not offer a graduate program in that field.



Professor Debra Dee Dolliver, Southeastern Louisiana University

Dr. Debra Dee Dolliver is the 2010 recipient of the Iota Sigma Pi Centennial Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. This award is given for excellence in teaching chemistry, biochemistry, or a chemistry-related field at an undergraduate institution that does not offer a graduate program in that field. Dr. Debra Dee Dolliver returned to school (after completing a B.A. in English in 1985) to take a couple of science classes at Texas Woman's University just to see if she liked them. There she had the opportunity to participate in meaningful chemistry research with a supportive mentor (Dr. Jim Johnson) as an undergraduate, and this totally changed her life: she decided to pursue a career in chemistry. She graduated with a B.S. in chemistry in 1994 and completed an M.S. in 1997 from TWU. She then completed a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry at the University of North Texas in 2001. Dr. Dolliver's teaching career began modestly with a temporary instructor position at Southeastern Louisiana University in 2001. Even as an instructor, Dr. Dolliver understood that providing an

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

opportunity for undergraduates to participate in research was critical to the quality of their education in chemistry. Because of this, she acquired small internal university grants to establish an active undergraduate research group even as a non-tenure-track faculty member.

Dr. Dolliver was hired as an Assistant Professor at Southeastern in 2003 and has subsequently been promoted to Associate Professor. In this position she has actively acquired external funding both for research in small molecule synthetic method development and instrumentation. This has allowed her to mentor and support 33 undergraduate researchers--resulting in 26 student presentations at regional and national chemistry conferences, 11 undergraduate student co-authors on peer-reviewed papers, and 9 students progressing to graduate studies in chemistry at prestigious universities. Dr. Dolliver hopes that her efforts to provide her students with valuable research experiences has had the same positive impact that her mentor's support had on her as an undergraduate.

Congratulations to Dr. Dolliver!

2010 Iota Sigma Pi Anna Louise Hoffman Award for Outstanding Achievement in Graduate Research



Aurelia Rose Honerkamp-Smith
Ms. Aurelia Honerkamp-Smith is an

accomplished graduate student of Professor Sarah L. Keller at the University of Washington. Ms. Honerkamp-Smith is using Physical Chemistry to rigorously quantify the physical parameters of membranes exhibiting compositional heterogeneity. The problem is important because membrane protein function and spatial distribution can vary significantly in response to change in membrane lipid composition, meaning important cell functions such as signaling budding and transport may be affected. Aurelia has already made major contributions to research and the scientific community. Her nominator writes concerning a recent publication of her work, one of her reviewers wrote "Congratulations to the authors for an outstanding contribution ... This is indeed one of the best, if not the best, manuscript that I have read in the field over the last few years." Ms. Honerkamp-Smith is a proven leader in the classroom, research laboratory and as a mentor and a volunteer. She is an accomplished young scientist with excellent potential to become an important leader in the biophysical chemistry community. Her work, drive, and interdisciplinary strength are outstanding, and she seems extremely focused and aware of where she wants to be in the future.

Congratulations Aurelia Rose!

2010 Gladys Anderson Emerson Scholarship Winners



Shannen Cravens
Shannen Cravens, a third year student at the University of San Diego, is a

superb student who also has been actively doing research involving both computational methods and biophysical laboratory techniques. Shannen desires to pursue a Ph.D. in chemistry and go onto teach at a primarily undergraduate institution. Shannen is a very well rounded student, excelling in the field of chemistry as well as in other extracurricular activities. Her nominator, Dr. Debbie Tahmassebi, writes: "Shannen has shown a remarkable ability to grasp and learn some very complicated computational methods. At an early state in her research she took ownership of her work.... Shannen is working to determine the structure of actinomycin bound to a DNA duplex containing a non-natural nucleoside using NMR and computational techniques. The project requires very careful data analysis and meticulous record keeping. Shannen has learned several computational and modeling programs and has proven to be a very fast learner and a very focused young scientist." Furthermore, Shannen achieves all of this while volunteering as a chemistry tutor and playing clarinet in the Pep Band.

Congratulations to Shannen!!

2010 Gladys Anderson Emerson Scholarship Winners



Caitlyn Rose Kennedy,

Caitlyn Rose Kennedy an undergraduate at the University of San Diego, is a

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

Rochester is a stellar student who has been active in research and TAing. She is a "go getter" with the goal of achieving a PhD. Rose's desire to help others appears in her service as a medical response team member and in her desire to pursue research in medicinal chemistry while continuing involvement in the medical field. Professor Kara L. Bren, who nominated Rose, writes about her determination in research: "She was able to characterize the absorption properties, redox behavior, circular dichroism spectrum and thermodynamic stability of the Met-to -His mutation in Pseudomonas aeruginosa cytochrome c551 in spite low protein expression yields. She got much more information from these samples than I thought was possible, and drew interesting conclusion regarding the effect of the mutation on the protein stability (despite poor expression, the protein fold was highly stable)." **Congratulations Caitlyn!**

2010 Iota Sigma Pi Undergraduate Award for Excellence In Chemistry



Jenna Luek

Jenna Luek, a senior at Chatham University, has demonstrated excellence in chemistry through course work, awards and research. She writes: "I began college as a Chemistry major and French minor, but after an introductory Environmental course, I quickly changed to a Chemistry major and Environmental minor. Once I finish my PhD in Environmental Chemistry, my ideal career is to become a Chemistry professor at a small college

where I can spend time both teaching and doing research." Her nominator, Dr. Renee L. Falconer, writes about her research in chemical pollutant analyses of Antarctic samples done with Dr. Rebecca Dickhut at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science: "She did such a great job (the summer of 2008) that Dr. Dickhut asked if she could continue the work at Chatham over the school year. Jenna set up a special lab space and continued the sample workup. She then went back to VIMS this past summer and finished the analysis of the samples. She is currently working on a publication that will be submitted in the next couple of months. Jenna is definitely a top notch student researcher already and will do great things in graduate school – she is planning on attending VIMS and has already written proposals to both EPA and NSF for funding for her research while there. She will make a great environmental chemistry researcher someday and I hope to continue our collaboration for years to come."

Congratulations to Jenna!!!

Iota Sigma Pi Outstanding Young Women in Chemistry Award

Iota Sigma Pi offers a yearly award, to be given to female high school students with high academic achievement in Chemistry. Through this award, ΙΣΠ wishes to promote interests in chemistry among young women and to recognize those who excel. The award includes an official certificate issued by ΙΣΠ, and recognition in the *Iotan*, the National publication of the society. The following students are this year's (2010) graduating seniors who achieved the grade point average (GPA) of 3.8/4.0 or higher and have taken at least one high school chemistry course. Abby Gayle Comes, Immaculate Heart H.S., Los Angeles, CA; Michelle Fleetwood, Sycamore H.S., Sycamore, IL; Booyeon Han, Deset Vista H.S., Phoenix, AZ; Katherine S. Hazen, Maple Grove Sr.H.S., Maple Grove,

MN; Valentina Semenova, Paul D. Schraiber Sr.H.S., Port Washington, NY; Zahra Walji, Barrington H.S., Barrington, IL. Nominations were made by the chemistry instructors, councilors or principals. The awards were to be presented at an official school event. We are extremely pleased to see all of these young ladies receive recognitions for their academic achievements in Chemistry.

Congratulations!

CHAPTER NEWS: Fluorine Chapter Initiation 2010 and a Presentation on Skepticism

Reported by Samina Azad

The Fluorine Chapter New Member Initiation Ceremony was held on Thursday April 15 this year. The event took place at Dolan Science Center of John Carroll University in University Heights, Ohio. Thirteen new student members joined the society and two professional members were initiated. The refreshments included several veggie and fruit trays, desserts, and a fabulous punch by Tama Darnski. Tama shared her secret recipe for this year's punch: 1 liter 7-up, 1 gallon apple juice and 1 quart lemon-Lime sorbet, poured in a punch bowl in this order. Chapter President Anne O'Conner started the ceremony by welcoming all of the new members. The chapter officers read the history of the Iota Sigma Pi society. New members were asked to come to the stage one at a time and each received her award and initiation package. Everyone received a yellow rose with her award.

Joan Lambros Award

Next, the Joan Lambros award was presented. Reiko Simmons gave an overview of Joan's life and her contributions to scientific societies like ACS and ΙΣΠ. Reiko, since she usually carpooled with Joan to the initiations, also shared her feelings this year. Joan was no longer with us. This year's Joan Lambros award winner was Tama Darnskie.

Congratulations Tama!

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

“Science and Skepticism”

Reported by Samina Azad

The last item on the agenda was an exciting presentation by Professor David Ball from Chemistry Department of Cleveland State University. Here is a summary of his talk.

What is Science? It is a way of knowing about the universe. It is not facts or knowledge but it is a method by which we determine facts or knowledge. It is the process of studying the natural universe through Observation and Experiments. Observation + Experiment → Evidence (nothing should be accepted without evidence!) K. Popper (1902-1994) defined Science as “Science is that which is falsifiable”. However, this definition is not reflexive as something may be falsifiable but still not science. Why go through all these trouble of trying to learn the universe? Carl Sagan (1935-1997) commented: “Nature does not care about our models. Nature is subtle.” Therefore, we must be wary.

How do scientists work? Scientists work using the scientific method: 1. Hypothesize a model, 2. Test the model, 3. Refine the model. However, in reality scientists do not always follow the Scientific method explicitly. In the last hundred years, a self-consistent explanation of the universe has been forthcoming and we build on that.

What is Skepticism? It is the philosophical doctrine that suggests: the truth of all knowledge must always be in question, and that the process of inquiry must include doubt. Skeptics do not simply disbelieve; they usually doubt a conclusion and require additional evidence before acknowledgement of truth. Most importantly, extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence. Degree of doubt is also an important issue. The fact that “a hammer falls if I drop it” is not questionable but “It will rain next Tuesday” requires additional evidence. Too often, we do not ask the right questions.

Lack of Skepticism: One incident that clearly showed our lack of skepticism

was the “cold fusion” scandal. In 1989, a scientist claimed that “fusion happened in a test tube” and that “radiation, neutrons, and helium were detected in the test tube along with the fusion reaction”. This announcement was made at a press conference and copies of the publication were faxed all over the world (before it was reviewed by other scientists). The announcement process faced much criticism; scientists all around the world tried to duplicate. The results were: 1. No one was able to duplicate, 2. Criticism of the original work was very sloppy and 3. Organizations withdrew funding. Here are the take home points: 1. People (even scientists) are willing to believe but belief does not make things true. 2. Lack of appropriate skepticism allowed such an incident to happen. 3. “Extraordinary claims require extraordinary proof”

What would a proper skeptical view of these claims be? Human factors can and do invade the scientific endeavor. However, science is self-correcting and this is what makes it such a useful process. Although science is not “facts” per se, knowledge is important as well because it allows us to determine our point of ignorance and push it back. Skepticism is applicable not only in science but should also be used in politics, religion, advertising, societal changes, etc. Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence and nothing should be accepted without reliable research and evidence. Professor Ball acknowledged the Ohio Supercomputer Center and the Scientific American Book Club in his presentation.

Professor Ball’s achievement

Professor Ball recently got a book on phi (Φ). Phi is the golden ratio. Anything with 5-sided symmetry is related to phi. Professor Ball thought about the golden ratio a lot and daydreamed: “what in chemistry has five-fold symmetry (and so is related to phi)?” He thought of some examples: cyclopentadiene, ferrocene, quasi-crystals (overlapping 10-fold-symmetry), and buckminsterfullerene. Suddenly, a new compound came to his

mind: A saturated hydrocarbon that has the structure of a star! His research work focuses on computational chemistry of new potential high-energy materials using GAUSSIAN’ 03 and other standard computational programs. He applied high level theories to predict the energy properties of his new found compound and named it “Pentagrammane”. His computations showed this compound burns to give off 49 kJ/g of substance compared to methane that gives 55kJ/g. This work has been published as an article in the Journal of Physical Organic Chemistry. After reading an interesting mathematical concept and applying appropriate levels of skepticism and performing reliable research Professor Ball predicted the existence of an unusual and unique molecule. The Fluorine Chapter thanks Professor David Ball for his wonderful talk.

ΣΠ Member News



Dr. Carolyn Bertozzi (2004 Agnes Fay Morgan Research Award recipient), through her pioneering inventions and her current work manipulating processes within living cells to engineer their surfaces and secreted proteins, had won her the prestigious 2010 \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize. She accepted the prize and presented her accomplishments to the public at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology during the Lemelson- MIT Program’s fourth-annual EurekaFest, a multi-day celebration of the inventive spirit, June 16-19. As a University of California, Berkeley Professor and Director of the Molecular Foundry at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Bertozzi and her team study the biology of glycans, also known as complex carbohydrates, and develop nanotechnologies for probing biological systems.

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

Iota Sigma Pi 30th National Triennial Convention
June 23-June 26, 2011
Tentative Agenda

Wednesday, June 22, 2011 National Council members arrive and check in

Thursday, June 23, 2011

6:30 am	Breakfast in hotel
8:00 am-5:00 pm	National Council meeting
2:00 pm-7:00 pm	Registration for delegates, awardees, non-delegate members, and guests
7:00 pm-9:00 pm	Reception and Poster Session, (<i>including light dinner</i>)
7:45 pm	Welcome & Introductions

Friday, June 24, 2011

6:30 am	Breakfast in hotel
8:00 am-11:00 am	Convention
11:00 am-1:00 pm	Lunch (Morgan & Centennial Awardees Panel)
1:00 pm-5:00 pm	Convention Committee Sessions
5:00 pm-6:30 pm	Committee report preparation
6:30 pm-7:00 pm	Photo Session / Social
7:00 pm-9:30 pm	Awards Banquet (Speaker: National Honorary Member) ,Memorial Service

Saturday, June 25, 2011

7:00 am	Breakfast in hotel
8:00 am-11:30 am	Convention
11:30 am-12:30 pm	2011-2014 National Council Election, Photo Session (NC only)
12:30 pm-2:00 pm	Lunch (Professional Excellence Award recipient as speaker)
2:00 pm-Evening	Tours & activities, free time, dinner on own

Sunday, June 26

7:00 am	Breakfast in hotel
8:00 am-11:00 am	Convention
11:30 am	Delegates depart for home
12:00 pm-3:00pm	Joint National Council Post-convention meeting

Nominees Needed for 2011-2014 National Council Officers

Ever wonder what goes on “behind-the-scenes” in Iota Sigma Pi? Are you interested in being part of setting the future direction of the organization? Do you know someone in your chapter with leadership skills and the ability to get things done? Needing to boost your network and make some lastly friendships? Janet Clark, Immediate Past President and Chair of the Committee on Nominations, is seeking nominations or recommendations for national officer positions on the National Council for the triennium 2011-2014. The next election will occur in June 2011 and the elected National Council members will serve from July 2011 to June 2014. The national officer positions are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Coordinator of Members-at-Large, Records Chair, Editor, Director of Professional Awards, Director of Student Awards, Historian, Webmaster and Coordinator of Initiates and Supplies. Nominees for the National President have to have served on National Council for at least one term in another position. Descriptions of the responsibilities of the positions can be found on our website under the Official Documents link to the Constitution and Rules and Regulations. Please nominate yourself or another member by contacting Janet Clark at jclark@smwc.edu or 812-535-5295.

**2011 National Convention
Call for Posters**

Poster Session, Thursday,
June 23, 2011 7-9 pm
All chapters and National
Council members are
encouraged to submit posters on
their activities over the past
three years. Abstracts of no
more than 250 words should be
sent to Anne O'Connor,
Chemistry Department,
Cleveland State University,
2121 Euclid Ave, Cleveland,
OH 44115. Phone: 440-667-869
Email: anne3266@aol.com

Continued on Page 7

**Sources of Iota Sigma Pi
Supplies and Information**

Supplies

For "Membership Information" and "National Awards" pamphlets, History, Constitution and Bylaws, Rituals of Iota Sigma Pi, Rules and Regulations, *The Iotan*, Speakers Bureau information, contact the Supplies Coordinator.

Initiation

For Membership Application and Summary of Applicants forms, contact the National Secretary.

Forming a Chapter

For procedural information and application forms, contact the National Vice President.

For Charter Certificate, contact the National Historian.

Financial Reports

For Financial Report forms, contact the National Treasurer.

Awards

For criteria and nomination forms: *Agnes Fay Morgan Research Award*, *National Honorary Member*, or the *Violet Diller Award for Professional Excellence*, contact the Director for Professional Awards.

Undergraduate Award for Excellence in Chemistry, *Anna Louise Hoffman Graduate Research Achievement Award*, *Gladys Anderson Emerson Scholarship*, contact the Director for Student Awards.

Dues

For dues statements and payments, contact the National Treasurer.

Chapter Operations

For changes in Chapter Officers list and forms for reporting local elected officers, contact the National Vice President.

Address Labels & Membership List
For change of address and member death, contact the Records Chair.

Historical Information

Contact: National Historian

See National Council listing for officers' names and addresses.

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Continued in Page 8



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Wait!

News about you makes this publication interesting for other Iotans.
Please take a few minutes to jot down what you are doing.

- 1) Speeches, papers, symposia, invited talks
- 2) Publications, patents, grants awarded
- 3) New positions, appointments, promotions, awards, honors,
 retirements, postdoctoral research
- 4) Offices held in professional societies
- 5) Avocational achievements, miscellaneous

Items for “Chapter News” or for general information are also solicited. Send a photo of your activity
(electronic format preferred). Please include your chapter name.

Please send news and information to

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or contact by phone for fax information.