



Philippine CHEMICAL NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Philippine Federation of Chemistry Societies

February 2001

The 17th Philippine Chemistry Congress

The Kapisanang Kimika ng Pilipinas and KKP-ICP Region X/XII will play hosts to the upcoming 17th Philippine Chemistry Congress which will be held on May 23-25 2001 at Xavier Sports and Country Club, Cagayan de Oro City. "KIMIKA para sa KAUNLARAN ng PILIPINO" is the main theme of this year's congress. The highlights of this much-awaited event for chemists all over the country include plenary lectures, oral paper presentations, and poster presentations.

In the morning of May 23, there will be a registration and the 1st Philippine Chemistry Olympiad National Finals. The final rounds of the Olympiad will continue in the afternoon and this will be followed by the Eco Village Tour. Opening ceremonies, display of exhibits, and poster session will take place in the afternoon of the first day.

Several plenary lectures will be delivered by distinguished local and foreign chemists who are experts in their respective fields. Likewise, research works from different universities and research institutions will be presented during the three-day conference.

Dr. Cherrie Pascual from UP Diliman is the national organizing committee chair while Dr. Lina Kwong from Xavier University is the local organizing committee chair. For registration contact the Secretariat, 17th Philippine Chemistry Congress, c/o Dr. Jose S. Solis, Institute of Chemistry, College of Science, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines, Telefax: (02) 920 5432, E-mail: jsolis@chem.upd.edu.ph or 17th Philippine Chemistry Congress, c/o Dr. Heide R. Rabanes, Chemistry Department, Xavier University, Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines, E-mail: pcchem17@xu.edu.ph, lgkwong@xu.edu.ph.

The Committee on Scientific Paper is still accepting papers until 31 March 2001. Submit abstracts to the Committee on Scientific Papers, 17th Philippine Chemistry Congress, c/o Dr. Titos A. O. Quibuyen, Institute of Chemistry, College of Science University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines, Telefax: (02) 920-5427, E-mail: tquibuye@chem.upd.edu.ph.

Format of Abstract:

The abstract should be prepared according to the following template: (a) one A4 page printed on white paper using a high quality printer; (b) abstract must be written in English; (c) use 2 cm margins all around; (d) use 12 pt Time or Times New Roman font; (e) use 1 line spacing; (f) the title should be in capitals and centered; (g) the author name should be centered and with the presenter's name; underlined; (h) author affiliations should be centered and italics; (i) references should be formatted according to ACS guidelines.

17th PHILIPPINE CHEMISTRY CONGRESS

"KIMIKA para sa KAUNLARAN ng PILIPINO"

**Xavier Sports and Country Club
Cagayan de Oro City
23 - 25 May 2001**

**HOSTS:
KAPISANANG KIMIKA NG PILIPINAS
KKP - ICP REGION X / XII**

Cagayan de Oro City

MESSAGE FROM THE PFCS PRESIDENT

The members of the Board of Directors and the officers of the Philippine Federation of Chemistry Societies (PFCS) send their greetings to all chemists and students of chemistry on the occasion of Chemistry Week, 2001!

We also wish to congratulate Dr. Christina Binag and her staff for the revival of the Philippine Chemical News (PCN), the semi-annual newsletter which resumed publication in May 2000. The PCN serves as the PFCS' medium for the exchange of information on the activities of its member organizations and for the publication of articles on current issues and recent developments in the various fields of chemistry.

The PFCS has embarked on two major programs to help promote chemistry in the Philippines. The first is the popularization of chemistry through the enhancement of the public's awareness of the relevance of chemistry in our daily lives. The second is to strengthen its advocacy role on public issues. The federation, as an organization, or through its members, shall endeavor to participate in the formulation of science policy, science based legislation, as well as in organizing scientific symposia for the public.

The activities for Chemistry Week 2001 and the forthcoming 17th Philippine Chemistry Congress (17th PCC) on May 23–25, 2001 in Cagayan de Oro all reflect the federation's thrusts. Chemistry Week opens with the Second National Chemistry Student Congress which shall focus on chemistry as a career. This shall be followed by a series of public symposia on the applications of chemistry in a diversity of fields — arts, law enforcement, archaeology, information technology and industry.

The 17th PCC will open with the final round of the First Philippine Chemistry Olympiad. This is the culmination of a national high school chemistry competition currently being conducted by the Kapisanang Kimika ng Pilipinas (KKP), one of the PFCS' member societies. The congress itself will feature research papers, plenary lectures by national and international experts on scientific and public issues and exhibits of scientific equipment.

The PFCS as an umbrella organization of five chemistry societies can become an effective force in the promotion of science, particularly chemistry, not only in the Philippines but in the international community as well. Let us continue working together to achieve progress in science for the country.

Thank you and MABUHAY!

Dr. Elma C. Llaguno
President

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The PCN invites contributions of news, announcements, features and opinions on chemistry related topics. Contributions to the PCN should be sent to the editor:

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Articles on diskette are especially welcome; any of the more popular word processing software may be used. Matters pertaining to advertisements and subscriptions should be addressed to the editor.

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NRCP Grants Research Award to Prof. Guevara

The National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP) had granted the 2000 NRCP Achievement Award (Division of Chemical Sciences) to Professor Emeritus Beatrice Q. Guevara, Ph.D. The award was given during the NRCP 67th Annual Meeting held last March 11, 2000 at the EDSA Shangri-la Hotel.

Prof. Guevara, who was formerly Assistant to the Rector for Research, Planning, and Development and professor at the College of Science and the Graduate School, was recognized by her fellow researchers for her outstanding contribution in the Natural Products research in the Philippines and in Asia. Prof. Guevara is very well known for her pioneering work in the alkaloid field screening of Philippine plants and chemical characterizations of biologically active compounds found in Philippine medicinal plants particularly *Ipomoea muricata*.

Prof. Guevara who was conferred Professor Emeritus in 1998 had been in the academe for 44 years rising from the ranks to full professor. She had served UST as Assistant Dean of the College of Science and Chair of the Department of Chemistry. She was likewise a recipient of the Metrobank Outstanding Educator Award.

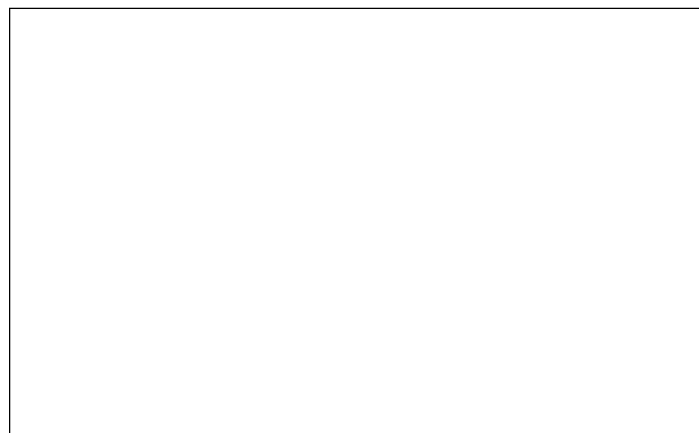


Prof. Beatrice Q. Guevara receiving her NRCP achievement award.

NAST 2000 Winners

The National Academy of Science and Technology granted the Outstanding Young Scientist (OYS) Award (Division of Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences) to Dr. Ishmael Ordoñez of the Institute of Chemistry, UP Diliman. This prestigious award was given during the academy's 22nd Annual Scientific Meeting held last July 6, 2000 at the Manila Hotel.

The Outstanding Young Scientist (OYS) Awards are given to young Filipino scientists (less than 40 years old) who have made significant contributions to science and technology. Likewise, Dr. Ordoñez was judged based on the quality and number of scientific work and publications he made, his contributions to the advances of science in general and to science in the Philippines, in particular, and his contribution to the well-being of the Philippine economy and culture.



Dr. I. Ordoñez accepting his Outstanding Young Scientist Award, and Dr. C. Binag and Dr. F. Sevilla showing their Outstanding Scientific Paper Award.

On the other hand, the Outstanding Scientific Paper was given to the research conducted by Ms. Amelita Bartolome, Dr. Christina Binag, and Dr. Fortunato Sevilla of the UST Research Center for the Natural Sciences (RCNS) entitled, "Triacylglycerol Biosensor Based on Conducting Polypyrrole" published in 1998 KIMIKA, the official journal of the Kapisanang Kimika ng Pilipinas.

The outstanding scientific paper awards are given annually to papers published in Philippine scientific technical journals within five years prior to the award. The criteria for judging the best scientific paper include quality and originality of content, contribution to science and technology, clarity of presentation and thoroughness of investigation.

PFCS Celebrates Chemistry Week 2001

“Chemistry is FUNdamental” is this year’s theme for the Chemistry Week which was celebrated last February 17–24, 2001. The Philippine Federation of Chemistry Societies (PFCS) prepared various seminar-workshops and symposia through its member societies, namely: ICP, KKP, OCTA, PACT, and PACS.

PACS Day

The Philippine Association of Chemistry Students (PACS) contemplates on its theme, “Chemistry and Information Technology,” as the student organization commemorated the 2nd Philippine Student Chemistry Congress. This was held last February 17 (UP ISMED) and February 18 (UP Eng’g. Theater) at the University of the Philippines, Diliman.

On the first day, there were series of plenary sessions which were delivered by distinguished chemists in the academe. These include topics such as “Chemistry and Information Technology” by Dr. Erwin Enriquez, “e-Commerce” by Mr. Jay Duque (Trevoca.com), “Molecules in 3-D (MI-3)” by Dr. Roberto Andres and Mr. Rafael Alfonso, “Philippine Chemistry Education in the 21st Century” by Dr. Maribel G. Nonato, “Job Opportunities for Chemistry in Industry” by Dr. Cecilia Bayquen and “Application for Chemistry: Forensic Science” by PInsp. Morphy Dumlao.

Meanwhile, the much-awaited PACSiklaban 2001 took place on the second day. This annual Chemistry quiz contest is a venue for intellectual and social interaction among chemistry students from various colleges and universities.

ICP-KKP Day

“From Arts to Waste Management: Chemistry in Action” is the main theme for the Integrated Chemists of the Philippines (ICP) and the Kapisanang Kimika ng Pilipinas (KKP). Highly respected resource persons were invited to deliver lectures related to this theme.

Mr. Jun Concepcion of the Arts Division, National Museum talked about the relationship and integration of “Chemistry and Arts.” This was followed by a lecture on the role and importance of “Chemistry in the Forensic Laboratory” which was conducted by Dr. Marlene M. Salongod of the PNP Crime Laboratory. To end the morning session, “The Chemical Analysis of Dangerous Drugs” was discussed by Dr. Cherrie Pascual of the Institute of Chemistry, UP Diliman.

Lecture sessions in the afternoon started off with the ICP Resource Speakers as they tackled Laboratory Accreditation. After this, Dr. Eusebio Dizon of the Archaeological Studies Program of UP Diliman dwelt on “Chemistry and Archaeology.” Finally, the “Chemistry of Waste Management” was elaborated by Dr. Joselito Duyanen of NIGS, UP Diliman.

This whole day seminar took place at the CME Auditorium of the University of Santo Tomas last February 20, 2001.

KKP-DAS Day

The KKP-DAS presented the 5th Kapisanang Kimika ng Pilipinas Division of Analytical Sciences (KKP-DAS) Symposium on “New Developments in Process Analytical Chemistry: On-line Measurements.”

The symposium aims to make the participants understand the principles of process analytical chemistry and to provide them with a background on the new developments in this field.

The provisional program features talks on the following topics:

- Overview of Process Analytical Chemistry –
Dr. Fortunato B. Sevilla (UST)
- Flow Injection Analysis –
Dr. Florian Del Mundo (UP-Diliman)
- On-line Chemical Sensors –
Dr. Roberto Andres (UST)
- Continuous Environmental Monitoring –
Mr. James Lee Dumaoag, Safety and Environmental Manager (Trigon Management and Industrial Corporations)

The said symposium happened last February 21, 2001 also at the CME Auditorium of the University of Santo Tomas.

OCTA Day

The Organic Chemistry Teachers Association (OCTA) tackled "KULAY". This whole day affair happened last February 22, 2001 at the Tanghalang Teresita Quirino, Graduate School, University of Santo Tomas.

As the name implies, "KULAY" is all about colors and its application in the industry. Opening remarks was delivered by Prof. Angelita Reyes (UP Manila). Dr. Eric Punzalan (DLSU) tackled the origin and theory of colors. Hair Dyes were elaborated by Ms. Fely Rose F. Aguinaldo, Product Development Specialist Manager (Splash Research Institute) while Natural Dyes was discussed by Mrs. Zenaida de Guzman, Chief Science Research Specialist R&D Division (Philippine Textile Research Institute). In the afternoon, a topic on Food Coloring (Food Dyes) was shared by Ms. Rosario Martin, OIC of Food Section and Supervisor of Toxicology Section (BFAD). A lecture on Paint Dyes was delivered by Mr. Avelino Go (Pacific Paint and Oil Mfg., Inc.).

The event culminated with closing remarks given by Dr. Maribel G. Nonato. Dr. Salvador Cresidio was the moderator for that day.

PACT Day

The Philippine Association of Chemistry Teachers (PACT) held its National Convention 2001 last February 23–24, 2001 at CAS Little Theater, College of Arts and Sciences, University of the Philippines Manila.

The two-day affair featured plenary lectures and a business meeting with regional chapter officers on the first day and seminar-workshops on the second day. Both plenary lectures and seminar-workshops dwelt on PACT's theme on "Chemistry Education in a Global Society."

Seminar Workshop Series on Electrochemical Sensors

Through a collaboration between the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), Spain and the University of Santo Tomas (UST), a post graduate course in Electrochemical Sensors was held last January 15–19, 2001 at the UST Graduate School. The five-day seminar workshop was likewise conducted in Aquinas University, Legaspi City (January 22–26) University of San Agustin, Iloilo City (January 29–February 2), and Holy Trinity College, Puerto Princesa City (February 5–9).

The seminar workshop aims not only to introduce Filipino chemists to the rapid progress of electrochemical sensors in biomedical, environmental, and industrial monitoring but also to develop and fabricate low cost scientific instruments.

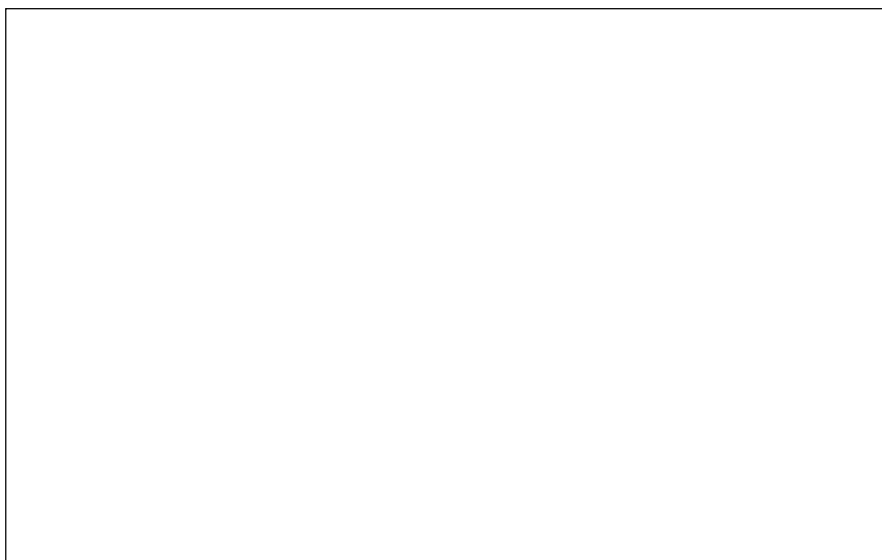
Prof. Salvador Alegret and Dr. Arben Merkoci of UAB delivered lectures on the basic principles and applications of potentiometry and amperometry and their applications as chemical and biosensors. Particularly interesting are the chemically modified electrodes (CME) based on liquid membranes and conductive polymers, field effect transistors (FET), molecular imprinting, and biomimetic sensors. The foreign scientists elaborated that electrochemical sensors are

now a trend in analytical technology because of its processability and ease of miniaturization.

The afternoon was allotted for laboratory and practical sessions wherein participants were given a chance to construct low cost and miniaturized sensors and to characterize the analytical performance of the fabricated sensors.

There were 29 participants in UST, 17 in Aquinas University, 20 in University of San Agustin, and 17 in Holy Trinity College.

The series of seminar-workshop was under the auspices of Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional.



The participants of the seminar-workshop in the UST venue.

PAASE Conference

The Philippine American Academy of Science and Engineering (PAASE) held its 20th Anniversary Meeting and Symposium on July 7–8, 2000 at the Shangri-la Hotel Makati, Makati City. Founded in 1980 in the State of Indiana, USA, PAASE is an intellectual organization of highly educated Filipino-Americans who have made distinct contributions in science and engineering through publications and other technical achievements. This was the fourth time that PAASE held its annual meeting in Manila.

Faculty researchers from UP Diliman, UP Los Baños, UST, Ateneo, DLSU and distinguished research institutions in the country presented their researches, either oral or poster, in their respective fields such as Agriculture and Forestry; Biology, Biotechnology, and Health Sciences; Marine Sciences; Chemistry and Novel Therapeutics; and Physics and Mathematics.

Presently, PAASE's president is Sevilla Detera-Wadleigh, Ph.D. (National Institute of Health) while its vice-president and president-elect is Marjorie B. Medina, Ph.D. (Department of Agriculture). This year's local organizing committee includes Ameurfina D. Santos (*Chair*), Virginia D. Monje (*Co-chair*), Gloria C. Bernas (*Special Activities*), and Ma. Eloisa A. Zabat (*Secretariat*). Currently, local members of this prestigious organization are Dr. Christina A. Binag (UST), Dr. Lourdes J. Cruz (UP Diliman), Dr. Alvin B. Culaba (DLSU), Dr. Gloria De Castro-Bernas (UST), Dr. Jerrold Garcia (AdMU), Dr. Elsie C. Jimenez (UP College Baguio), Dr. Virginia D. Monje (UP Diliman), Dr. Maribel G. Nonato (UST), Dr. Ameurfina D. Santos (UP Diliman), Dr. Fortunato B. Sevilla III (UST), Dr. Mafel C. Ysrael (UST), and Dr. Ela Tarroja (UP Diliman).

2000 INTERNATIONAL CHEMICAL CONGRESS OF PACIFIC BASIN SOCIETIES

More than 8,000 research papers were presented during the 2000 International Chemical Congress of Pacific Basin Societies held last December 14-19, 2000 at Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.

Filipino scientists who were in attendance to the said conference were Assoc. Prof. Erwin Enriquez, Ph.D. of the Department of Chemistry, Ateneo de Manila University and Assoc. Prof. Jonel Saludes of the University of San Agustin, Iloilo City.

Dr. Enriquez got a travel grant as Young Chemistry Scholar from the American Chemical Society for his participation in the conference and represented the Integrated Chemists of the Philippines on behalf of Dr. Fabian M. Dayrit, who is presently the president of ICP.

Dr. Enriquez presented a poster paper entitled "*Semiconductor Nanoparticle Crystallization in Adsorbed Polysaccharide Layers*" under the symposium on "Nanomaterials: Synthesis, Characterization and Catalysis". His co-authors were Anne Kathrena A. Aliganga, Erwin M. Sabio, and Rommel M. Castillo also from the Department of Chemistry and Neil Raymund Y. Caranto of the Department of Physics and Engineering, Ateneo de Manila University.

His paper dwelt on the use of polysaccharides derived from local seaweed varieties as matrix for dispersions of nanoparticle systems, either in gel or thin films. He and his co-investigators at the Ateneo presented the utilization of the polysaccharides, *iota*- and *kappa*-carrageenan in the synthesis of semiconductor nanoparticles of CdS and PbS. The results of their research implies the potential of using CdS-carageenan in developing sensing elements for fiber optics in evanescent wave mode.

On the other hand, A/Prof. Jonel Saludes who is currently chairman of the Department of Chemistry at the University of San Agustin presented a poster paper on the potential of Noni plant (*Morinda citrifolia*) as an anti-tuberculosis drug.

While traditional Hawaiian healers have long used the plant to treat patients afflicted with tuberculosis (TB), this study represents the first report identifying the compounds that may be responsible for this action, according to Saludes who finished his M.S. Chemistry at the University of Santo Tomas.

He and his co-researchers at UST randomly screened a group of native plants for potential activity against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacterium that causes TB. In laboratory tests, a concentration of extracts from the leaves of the noni showed a significant inhibitory rate, killing 89% of the pathogens. This compares favorably with rifampicin, a drug commonly used to treat TB, which has an inhibition rate of 97% at the same concentration, according to the researchers.

His study was funded by the DOST-ESEP, the International Foundation for Science, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The weeklong scientific meeting which is held once every five years was hosted by the American Chemical Society, The Chemical Society of Japan, The Canadian Society for Chemistry, The New Zealand Institute of Chemistry, and The Royal Australian Chemical Institute.

Iron Man LQ

He was invited by the Japanese Chemical Society as a specialist in the field of bioinorganic chemistry to talk about his science in the “International Symposium on New Horizons of Coordination Chemistry towards the 21st Century” held at Ritsumeikan University in Shiga, Japan. The gathering included other top caliber scientists such as Nobel Laureates Henry Taube and Jean Marie Lehn as well as American Chemical Society (ACS) President Daryle H. Busch. He is Prof. Lawrence Que, Jr. and he gave a presentation on “Biomimetic High-Valent Non-Heme Iron-Oxo Complexes,” results from years of research in his laboratory.

Prof. Que was a BS Chemistry graduate of the Ateneo de Manila in 1969. He immediately left for America to pursue his doctorate in inorganic chemistry under Prof. Louis H. Pignolet at the University of Minnesota (UM). He finished in 1973 and proceeded to carry out postdoctoral work with Prof. Richard H. Holm at MIT (now at Harvard), who was an established inorganic chemist and at that time, was also starting to do research on proteins. Dr. Que was the first researcher in that laboratory to purify a protein. This sparked his interest in biochemistry and to learn more about the field, and, as he was still young, he did another postdoctoral stint with Prof. Eckard Münck at UM. In 1977, he joined the Cornell University faculty as an assistant professor of chemistry and in 1983, he returned to UM where he established a prolific career in biological inorganic chemistry.

Larry Que is presently, the 3M/Alumni Distinguished Professor and co-director of the Center for Metals in Biocatalysis of UM. He is also the chief editor of the *Journal of Biological Inorganic Chemistry* (Springer) and a member of the editorial boards of *Accounts of Chemical Research* and *Inorganic Chemistry* (ACS Publications). Research interests in his lab include mechanistic studies of metalloenzymes using various spectroscopic methods, design of structural and functional models of metalloenzyme active sites, trapping of reactive intermediates and development of metal reagents for the hydrolytic cleavage of DNA. Recently, he has started to branch out into heterogeneous catalysis. Since the start of his career, he has accumulated more than 200 publications with more coming.

As a graduate student who was for the first time away from home, he got homesick but this was alleviated by his easy integration into the Filipino community in Minnesota. He was not that worried about his family in Manila when Martial law was imposed but was concerned about visiting the Philippines and not being allowed to return to the US to finish his studies.

Up until his graduation from PhD, he was determined to return and serve his homeland but research ideas sprouted while he was doing postdoctoral work and he realized that those ideas could not come to fruition in the Philippines. He made the difficult decision of staying in the US. He said that this was a sad statement and regret over this showed on his face. When he was given the chance to serve,

he generously gave his time and expertise and taught a graduate course at the Ateneo, which was also opened to Consortium students. This course, which lasted for more than a month, was made possible through the Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) program of the United Nations in August 1993. He said that if given the chance, he would gladly do this again.

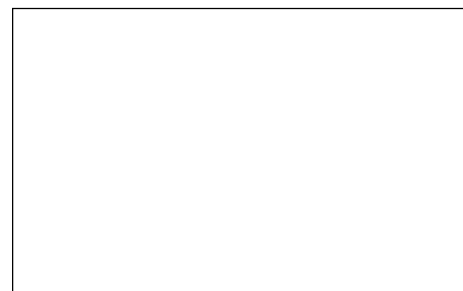
His TOKTEN trip was quite rewarding personally, as he was able to bring along his two daughters, Emily and Erin to spend some time with his parents. He commuted to Ateneo on his first lecture day from his parents' home in New Manila and was happy that it took him only 45 minutes to get to the Ateneo. The trip back took twice as long due to the horrible traffic congestion in Cubao and so, from then on he always borrowed a car from his mom. He is hoping that the LRT along Aurora Blvd. would be finished by the time he gets to visit the Philippines again as he was practically stuck at home when he and his family visited to attend his parents 50th wedding anniversary celebration.

Dr. Que sports his cool, easy manner in the same comfortable way that he wears his shorts in class. His height and deep, resonant voice commands and maintains attention as he discusses an otherwise difficult topic. He has an uncanny ability to simplify esoteric subjects, which results from his mastery and deep understanding of his field of interest.

He takes pride in the syntheses and characterization of unprecedented high valent dinuclear metal complexes that mimic the intermediates of metalloenzymes that catalyze alkane oxidation. These results are vital to understanding key processes in living systems and in practical applications, catalysis using atmospheric oxygen. Another feather in his cap is his elder daughter's formal entry into the chemistry world as a freshman at UM. Dr. Que recalls in hindsight how grade schooler Emily was able to understand VSEPR theory from a five-minute discussion with her dad and he thinks that she has great talent and potential.

Prof. Lawrence Que Jr. has gone a long way in the tough and competitive field that he is in. He may not have gone back to the Philippines to serve but he has made a pillar upon which the interface of biology and inorganic chemistry is built and as a result he has done service to everybody.

*For more information on the research interests of the laboratory of Larry Que Jr., visit his website, <http://bioinorg.chem.umn.edu/quespace>.



Prof. Lawrence Que (left) poses with JSPS scholars, Armando Quidote, Jr and Odette Pangan during a conference in Organic Chemistry in Japan.

News Bits

SEAFDEC-Iloilo Hosts 27th PSBMB Convention

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center–Aquaculture Department (SEAFDEC) played host to the 27th Philippine Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (PSBMB) Convention on December 6–8, 2000. This was held in their sprawling research complex in the southern Iloilo town of Tigbauan. This annual gathering of biochemists and molecular biologists sponsored by PSBMB was held for the first time in Iloilo following a successful hosting by PhilRice on the same month last year. The convention's theme is "Harnessing the potentials of aquatic resources through biochemistry and molecular biology research and development."

According to Mrs. Ilda Borlongan of the Feed Development Section, SEAFDEC and overall chair of the local organizing committee, about one hundred participants attended the convention. They learned about current advances in biochemistry and molecular biology to meet global challenges like food security, sustainability and environmental protection. Topics covered during scientific sessions include applications of biochemistry & molecular biology in environmental safety, agriculture, aquaculture & marine science, and pharmaceuticals & health, biotechnology education in tertiary schools and safety of genetically modified foods. The keynote address was given by Dr.

Rafael Guerrero on "Aquatic Biotechnology Research & Development in the Philippines." Plenary speakers were Dr. Lourdes Cruz (MSI-UPD), Dr. Ida Dalmacio (PCASTRD), Dr. Gloria De Castro-Bernas (UST), Dr. Ma. Jamela Revilleza (UPLB), Ms. Karen Eloisa Barroga (PhilRice), Dr. Manuel Logronio (Monsanto), Dr. Nemesio Montaña (MSI-UPD), and Dr. Ester Ogena (DOST).

The gathering featured contributed papers for oral and poster presentations. In the Young Scientist Forum, an outstanding research paper was chosen among the oral presentations. A post convention tour was arranged to visit SEAFDEC research facilities in Tigbauan and Igang Marine Substation in Guimaras Island.

NPSP Holds its 5th Annual Convention in Laguna

Bonded together by a common interest in natural products, the Natural Products Society of the Philippines (NPSP) celebrated its 5th Annual Convention last December 1, 2000 at the E.O. Tan Hall, PCARRD, Los Baños, Laguna.

The program started off with a welcome remarks delivered by Dr. Lourdes B. Cardenas, Organizing Committee Chair. Dr. Delia Ontengco of UNILAB introduced this year's keynote speaker who was Dr. Gisela Concepcion of the Marine Natural Products Group, Marine Science Institute, UP Diliman. Dr. Concepcion's talk was focused on the "Strategies for Discovering Potential Therapeutic Agents from Marine Organisms."

In her lecture addressed to the natural product chemists, she mentioned about the local effort of her group to develop anticancer therapy, specifically on breast cancer which has the highest incidence in the Philippines. They combine the use of antibody biotechnology and liposome drug delivery technology with indigenous anticancer natural products.

Richmond L. Gregorio, UST BS Biochem student presenting his winning entry entitled "Studies of an Apoptosis-Inducing Buffalo Milk Fraction" in the Young Scientist Forum.

This whole day convention featured various natural product researches from the academe and research institutes which were presented as oral and poster presentations. Late afternoon's activities included awarding of certificates of appreciation, a business meeting where the President's and Treasurer's reports were presented. This was followed by oath-taking of new members.

The scientific gathering was culminated with a closing remark delivered by Dr. Alicia M. Aguinaldo, NPSP President. Dr. Irene Villaseñor was the emcee for that day.

CLSU Hosts PACT 3 Seminar Workshops

The Philippine Association of Chemistry Teachers Region 3 (PACT 3) held a seminar-workshop and business meeting last September 21–22, 2000 at the Central Luzon State University (CLSU) in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija. The activity which was co-sponsored by the Department of Chemistry of the College of Arts and Sciences of the said institution is aimed at enhancing teacher's capability in teaching Chemistry both at secondary and tertiary levels.

"Chemistry Topics Made Easy – Redox" and "Chemical Equilibrium" were discussed by Dr. Marcelita C. Magno of UP-ISMED while the "Bird's Eye View of the American Chemical Society Convention" was presented by Prof. Carmelita S. Garsin of the University of the Assumption in Pampanga.

PACT 3 participants doing a laboratory exercise on Chemical Equilibrium.

Dr. Adelina P. Valdez of CLSU and President of PACT 3 together with Prof. Alfredo Agustin of Wesleyan University of the Philippines, Cabanatuan City discussed the topic on "Improvisation of Science Apparatus." The participants did not only have lectures but also got the chance of performing simple laboratory experiments.

A total of 100 participants both Chemistry and science-related teachers were in attendance. They came from the different universities and colleges of Pampanga, Bulacan, Bataan, Zambales, Tarlac, and Nueva Ecija. Dr. Ruben C. Sevilleja, Vice-President for Academic Affairs of CLSU warmly welcomed the participants while the president of the university, Dr. Rodolfo C Undan conveyed his unwavering support for the enhancement of Chemistry and related activities in his short message. He also lauded the enormous efforts of PACT Region 3 in advancing its member's welfare and in the promotion of Chemistry. The activity culminated with a guided tour in the university campus for the participants to interact with the managers of the various projects and researches being undertaken in this famous institution.

UPCB Conducts Seminar on Updates in General and Organic Chemistry

The University of the Philippines College Baguio (UPCB) spearheaded a seminar on Updates in General and Organic Chemistry last April 10–15, 2000. The said seminar was attended by 25 teacher-participants (tertiary level) from CAR and Region I. This is part of UPCB's 8th SINSM (Summer Institute in the Natural Sciences and Mathematics).

The objectives of the training program were to provide enrichment in the areas of General Chemistry and Organic Chemistry, to enhance the capability of chemistry teachers in developing scientific and higher order thinking skills, and to provide innovative, interactive, and challenging strategies which will make the teaching and learning of chemistry enjoyable.

The lecture-seminar was conducted by the faculty members of the Institute of Chemistry, UP Diliman, namely, Dr. Girlie Sison, Dr. Susan Arco, Dr. Mary Ann Endoma, and Dr. Florecita de Guzman. This is part of their activities as CHED-Center of Excellence in Chemistry.

Topics for General Chemistry include Kinetic Molecular Theory of Gases, Atomic Structure, Chemical Bonding Theories, Intermolecular Forces of Attraction, Colligative Properties, Acids and Bases, Equilibrium, Thermodynamics and Electrochemistry, and Molecular Orbital Theory. In Organic Chemistry, topics such as Organic Synthesis and Natural Products Chemistry were discussed.

ICP-Panay Granted SEC Recognition and Elects New Officers

The Integrated Chemists of the Philippines—Panay Chapter, Inc. (ICP-Panay) was granted recognition by the Securities and Exchange Commission as a registered entity and Chapter of the ICP existing under Philippine laws of incorporation. This made the organization a legal entity and gave it a freehand to execute its goals and objectives as a professional organization of chemists serving the three cities and four provinces of the island of Panay.

Meanwhile, a general assembly was gathered on June 3, 2000 at the University of San Agustin to elect a new set of officers. Mr. Mario Jiz, a chemist cum entrepreneur was elected president. He succeeded Mr. Alan Young of DOST-VI who occupied the post for two years.

The other elected officers are: Vice President - Florenda Española (UP Visayas); Secretary - Evangeline Maybay (University of Iloilo); Asst. Secretary - Ma. Nena Gerado (DENR); Treasurer - Teresita. Lipa (University of San Agustin); Asst. Treasurer - Liberty Salazar (DA); Auditor - Jonel Saludes (University of San Agustin); Asst. Auditor - Victoria Caños (NBI); Business Manager - Evelyn Taberna (UP Visayas); Asst. Bus. Manager - Alan Young (DOST); P.R.O. - Leonor Calabing (DOST); Nerisa Mandario

(DENR); P.C.O. - Myna Theresa Deles (New Frontier Sugar); Lorna Servita (Capiz Sugar Central); Evelyn Enriquez (SP Sugar Central).

The new officers were sworn into office by Judge Merlin Deloria of Regional Trial Court Branch 65 last July 22 at the Mansion Garden, Iloilo City. Among the immediate plans of the new board are the following: (a) creation of a semiannual newsletter, the maiden issue of which will be released on January, (b) conduct career campaign in secondary schools to encourage students to pursue Chemistry as a profession, and (c) adopt a barangay as beneficiary of community outreach programs.

29th KKP-LB Annual Convention Held

The Kapisanang Kimika ng Pilipinas-Sangay sa Los Banos (KKP-LB) held its 29th Annual Convention last October 24–25, 2000 at the D.L. Umali Hall, SEARCA Bldg., UP Los Banos. This year's theme is "Chemistry: Serving the Filipino in the 21st Century" The convention was attended by chemists from Los Banos and the Southern Tagalog area.

Congressman Nereus O. Acosta delivered the Keynote Address on the Clean Air Act of 1999. The convention was highlighted by Plenary lectures and Paper Presentations. The Best Scientific Paper Award was given to the paper entitled "Voltammetric Determination of Lead and Mercury Using Carbon Paste Electrode modified with Water Hyacinth" by Princess C. Hernandez. The Best Poster Paper was awarded to the poster paper entitled "Isolation, Purification and Partial Characterization of Lectin from the Leaves of *Schefflera odorata* (Blanco) Merr. & Rolfe" by Grace Jones D. Kalaw.

The following are the officers of the society: Ma. Jamela R. Revilleza (President), Ninfa P. Roxas (Vice-President), Katherine Ann T. Castillo (Secretary), Edralina P. Serrano (Treasurer), Norma N. Fajardo (Auditor), Milagros M. Peralta (PRO). The Board members are Gaspar S. Alberto, Evamarie P. Capareda, Ma. Theresa C. Cayton, Reynaldo C. Mabesa, Erlinda L. Mari and Hidelisa P. Hernandez.

New Set of PFCS Officers Inducted

The Philippine Federation of Chemistry Societies (PFCS) named its new set of officers for this term. They are:

Dr. Elma C. Llaguno (*President*)
Dr. Ernesto Del Rosario (*Vice President*)
Dr. Maribel G. Nonato (*Secretary*)
Ms. Elizabeth Ibuyan (*Treasurer*)
Ms. Nora C. Cordero (*Auditor*)
Dr. Christina Binag (*PRO*)
Dr. Eric Punzalan (*PRO*)

Board members for PFCS member societies include:

ICP: Dr. Fabian Dayrit
Dr. Elma Llaguno
Dr. Titos Quibuyen

KKP: Dr. Eric Punzalan
Dr. Ernesto Del Rosario
Dr. Cherrie Pascual

PACT: Ms. Elizabeth Ibuyan
Ms. Nora Cordero
Ms. Luciana Ilao

OCTA: Dr. Maribel G. Nonato
Dr. Alicia M. Aguinaldo
Ms. Liduvina Nery

PACS: Dr. Christina A. Binag
Ms. Kristine Bragado
Mr. Jerome Gumayagay

2nd National Chemistry Student's Congress

The Philippine Association of Chemistry Students, Inc. in cooperation of the Philippine Federation of Chemistry Societies hosted the 2nd National Chemistry Student's Congress last February 17 at the UP-NISMED and February 18 at the UP Engineering Theater. The annual Inter-University Chemistry Quiz Contest dubbed as PACSiklaban 2001 highlighted the event.

Four judges were invited they were Dr. Eric Punzalan (DLSU), Dr. Corazon Menguito (UST-Chem), Dr. Ernesto del Rosario (UP-LB) and Dr. Elma Llaguno (UP-Dil). There were 12 participating teams who joined the contest among which the top six teams qualified for the final round. The contest was well organized primarily because of the help rendered by the RS Review Center.

The team from the University of the Philippines-Los Baños retained their title as the champion for two consecutive years. The team members were Joan Zapiter, Chester Dabalos, Oscar Torres, Catherine Santos, Mae Joane Aguila, Ronald Soriano, and Joey Ancheta with Jocelyn Pineda and Michelle Regulacio as their coaches. The first runner-up was University of Santo Tomas-Chemistry with members Jerome Talla, Joy Gonzales, Karlynn Cruz, Karlo Paolo Alejo, Gordon Marilao, Rey Rañola and Steven Tan with coach Mr. Allan Macabeo and Dr. Carlos Garcia as adviser. The University of the Philippines-Diliman kept their second runner title for two years in a row. The team members were Mailene Supetran, Ma. Conchita Morabe, Monissa Paderes, Leah Buenaflor, Ana Esmeralda Javier, Mark Francis Melendres, and Bon Ryan Sy with Christian Canlas as the coach.

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