

TO BE  
LEADERS IN  
ATTRACTING,  
DEVELOPING,  
& PROMOTING  
WOMEN  
IN THE  
CHEMICAL  
SCIENCES



NOVEMBER 1996  
American Chemical  
Society  
Women Chemists  
Committee  
1155 Sixteenth St. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036

# WOMEN CHEMISTS

## *A Day in the Life of an Astronaut*

Catherine D. (Cady) Coleman, Ph.D., a major in the U.S. Air Force and NASA astronaut, was the guest speaker at the WCC luncheon in Orlando. She described the intensive training and preparation astronauts go through before a space shuttle mission; a video of her mission aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia depicted life and work in orbit. Coleman described the difficulties of performing experiments in the space lab. Mission Control in Houston monitors the experimental progress and coordinates communication between the astronauts and the scientists who designed the experiments.

How does one qualify to become an astronaut? The basic qualifications are good physical condition and a bachelor's degree in a technical field, but most scientists and engineers who are selected have advanced degrees. Typically, there will be about 2,500 applicants for NASA's 20 openings every 2-3 years. The four categories of assignments on shuttle missions are commander, pilot, mission specialist, and payload specialist.

Each crew consists of five to seven members, who are selected based on the skills required to carry out the mission objectives.

Born in Charleston, South Carolina, Coleman graduated in 1983 from M.I.T. with a B.S. degree in chemistry and was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. She received a doctorate in polymer science and engineering in 1991 from the University of Massachusetts, where her research focused on polymer synthesis using olefin metathesis reactions and polymer surface modification.

When Coleman entered active duty in 1988, she was assigned to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. As a research chemist at the Materials Directorate of the Wright Laboratory, she synthesized model compounds to investigate the advanced use of organic polymers for third-order nonlinear optical applications such as advanced computers and data

storage. In addition to her assigned duties, Coleman was a volunteer test subject for the centrifuge program at the Crew System Directorate of the Armstrong Aeromedical Laboratory. She set several endurance and tolerance records during physiological and new equipment studies.

In March 1992, Coleman was selected by NASA. Initially assigned to the Astronaut Office Mission Support Branch and detailed to flight software verification in the Shuttle Avionics Integration Laboratory, she later became the special assistant to the center director at Johnson Space Center.

From October 20 to November 5, 1995, Coleman served as a mission specialist aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia on STS-73, the second U.S. Microgravity Laboratory Mission. In completing her first space flight with six other astronauts, Coleman orbited Earth 256 times, traveled more than 6 million miles, and logged 15 days, 21 hours, and 52 minutes in space.

During the 16-day mission, two teams of two scientists worked



*Astronaut Cady Coleman with ACS president Ronald Breslow at WCC luncheon in Orlando*

12-hour shifts to complete 30 experiments. The flight was dedicated to microgravity research with a focus on fluid physics, protein crystal growth, materials science, plant growth, and combustion science. Coleman showed slides of the various experiments done on her mission and some of the 6,000 photo images acquired while in orbit.

The space shuttle is a special laboratory that exists in a very different environment. Every detail of an experiment must be specifically designed to be conducted in the microgravity environment. Coleman also helps design experiments that have been selected to be done in space. If you are interested in participating in NASA's microgravity research program, contact the appropriate individual in the personnel listing at the Web site: <http://microgravity.msad.hq.nasa.gov>.

—Valerie Barrett



## Focus on ACS Awards

### Ernest Guenther Award in the Chemistry of Natural Products

As part of an ongoing effort to gain recognition for women in the chemical sciences, we occasionally highlight an ACS award. The Ernest Guenther Award in the Chemistry of Natural Products recognizes and encourages outstanding achievements in analysis, structure elucidation, and chemical synthesis of natural products. Special consideration is given to the nominee's independence of thought and originality shown, and the award is granted without regard to age or nationality.

The award consists of \$5,000 and a medal. An allowance of \$1,000 is provided for traveling expenses to the meeting at which the award will be presented.

The award was established in 1948 by Fritzsche Dodge and Oleott, Inc., in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the company. Since 1992, Givaudan-Roure Group has continued to support the award.

Perhaps you know someone who deserves recognition for the outstanding work she has done, but you may not know whether she is eligible, whether there is an appropriate award, or how to go about preparing a nominating document. If you have any of these questions, begin by visiting the ACS Internet site at <http://www.acs.org/acs/gen/awards/quickdst.htm>. You will find a complete list of ACS awards with links to the award descriptions, information on eligibility, and past awardees. For information about making a nomination, see the Web pages at <http://www.acs.org/acs/gen/awards/nomreg.htm> or call 202-872-4408, or e-mail [awards@acs.org](mailto:awards@acs.org).

**Who may nominate:**  
Any individual, except a member of the Award Committee, may submit one nomination or seconding letter for each award in any year.

**The nomination requires:**

- A letter of not more than 1,000 words containing an evaluation of the nominee's accomplishments and identification of the work to be recognized. An analysis of patents is especially valuable. If the nominee is not the sole author of works cited, the contribution of the nominee should be specified. If the proposed nominee is

eligible for any of the other ACS awards, the reasons for nomination for the particular award should be clearly stated.

- A biographical sketch, including date of birth.
- A list of publications and patents written by the nominee.

#### Optional items include:

- No more than two seconding letters, containing factual information not given in the letter of nomination. Up to five reprints or preprints may be included as documentary evidence if the subject is restricted to the work on which the nomination is based.
- Books may not be included, but brochures, abstracts, patents, or reviews may be used in lieu of reprints.
- All nominating documents should be letter size and unbound.
- Standard videocassettes may be used in lieu of reprints. Six copies of each cassette must be included.

Mail six copies of all items in the nomination to the Awards Office, American Chemical Society, 1155 Sixteenth St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. The deadline date (date of postmark) of all nominating material for 1998 ACS awards is February 1, 1997 (except for the James Bryant Conant Award, which is December 1). Regional awardees are automatically considered for the national award.

To ensure that no outstanding candidate is overlooked, a Canvassing Committee for award nominations has been established for each award. Committee members are expected to search the literature and suggest to potential nominators candidates who may have been overlooked.

## Women Chemists in Industry Breakfast

On Monday, August 26, 1996, approximately 125 chemists met to discuss the issues facing the chemical industry today and, in particular, the steps that must be taken to ensure the future success of the industry.

The breakfast discussion was led by a panel that included Christina Bodurow Hendricks (chair, WCC), Barbara Peterson (chair, Corporation Associates), Carolyn Ribes (YCC), and Michael Losee (Office of Industrial Relations). The panel members discussed the role of their committees within ACS and their commitment to encouraging the active participation of their industrial members. Ronald Breslow, president of ACS, supported their initiatives and encouraged the continued involvement of industry (represented by 60% of all ACS members) within the Society.

# P R O M O T I N G

The principal speaker at the breakfast was James W. Meyer, vice president of Eastman Kodak. Meyer believes that the future of the chemical industry is very bright, but he is clearly aware that the industry is undergoing a major change. To ensure its future, chemists must change their focus.

(1) Chemists will need to be interdisciplinary with a much broader knowledge base; they will need to be flexible within the chemical disciplines.

(2) Chemists must identify new materials and develop ways to control these materials at the molecular level.

(3) Chemists must improve manufacturing processes. They must generate high-quality complex systems in shorter cycle times with greater efficiency, increased productivity, and less environmental impact.

(4) Chemists must create tools to accomplish these goals. Tools that currently have a high impact on the chemical industry include molecular modeling and combinatorial chemistry.

Meyer is optimistic about the chemical industry's ability to address these problems and move into the 21st century.

Following Meyer's speech, Losee led a discussion that covered several topics, including the challenges that chemists face as they move from technical to managerial positions, opportunities available in nontraditional chemist roles (e.g., information services and purchasing), and mentoring.

—Margaret Faul

## **Review of Apples, Bubbles, and Crystals, Your Science ABCs**

Have you ever wished that preschool, kindergarten, and early elementary school books focused more on science and discovery? Are you trying to instill in young children that science is fun and that it's everywhere? Well, Andrea Bennett and James Kessler have put together a book that just might be exactly what you are after—*Apples, Bubbles, and Crystals, Your Science ABCs* (copyright 1996, American Chemical Society; published by McGraw-Hill).

With this wonderful book of colorful illustrations, fun poetry, delightful characters, and simple do-at-home science activities, children of all ages will quickly discover that science *is* fun, and it *is* everywhere. The poems, characters, and experiments are woven together to enhance the science demonstrated in the activity. For example, in "F is for Float," we meet Frita the duck, who is quickly snapping up peanuts before they sink. Frita has a special tip for ducks who aren't as fast at snapping the peanuts up

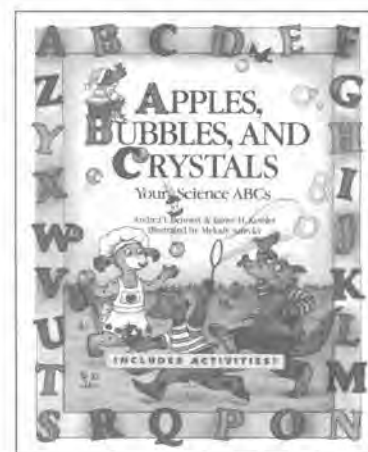
as she is. In the activity, the child and adult float peanuts in water and in saltwater to discover which one floats.

The activities use materials found in almost any home. Step-by-step instructions and questions help the discovery process along. The activities

are designed to be done with the help of an adult to encourage interaction. And these activities just may renew the spark of discovery in the adult as well. (The activities are designed for children 4 and up, but my 3-year-old is having a great time with the activities, too.)

Be careful, though—at my house we spent our story time reading the poems, and I'm now being asked, "Can we make a kazoo? Can we make bubbles? Can we \_\_\_?" My only concern is that the pages aren't waterproof, because my copy has already been heavily used. I have given a copy to the kindergarten teacher at my daughter's school. CONGRATULATIONS!!!! to Andrea Bennett and James Kessler.

—Frankie Wood-Black



## **Francis P. Garvan-John M. Olin Medal**

Karen W. Morse, president of Western Washington University, has received the 1997 Francis P. Garvan-John M. Olin Medal (sponsored by Olin Corporation) in recognition of her work in the area of borane chemistry. By examining the chemistry of phosphorus-borane compounds, Morse determined the relationship between structure and reactivity. She obtained basic information on the effect that molecular structure can have on modes of bonding by examining the chemistry of metal complexes of borane ligands. With B. F. Spielvogel, she has generated several borane analogues of amino acids and derivatives that show very interesting biological activity.

Morse received a B.S. degree in chemistry from Denison University in 1962 and a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1967. Throughout her career, Morse has actively promoted science education. She has been a member and chair of the American Chemical Society's Committee on Professional Training, a member of the board of the

Petroleum Research fund, and a member of the Womens Chemists Committee of the American Chemical Society; she has also served on several National Science Foundation advisory committees. Morse will receive her award at the 213th ACS National Meeting in San Francisco.

## **ACS Award for Encouraging Women into Careers in the Chemical Sciences**

Sister Mary Thompson has received the 1997 ACS Award for Encouraging Women into Careers in the Chemical Sciences, sponsored by the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation, Inc. For more than 32 years, Thompson has been a professor at the College of St. Catherine in Minnesota. Her influence on the education of her students is reflected in the advanced degrees they have received: 25 students have completed Ph.D.s, 30 are MDs or DDS, and 20 are still in graduate school.

Thompson has been actively involved in many programs to encourage women to participate in the chemical sciences. She is a project director of local grants for January programs, which encourage first-year students to continue their education in science and math. She participates in the Women in Chemistry Consortium, which develops new experiments to attract



*Mary Thompson*

women to the sciences, and she has obtained Vision grants from 3M for high school teachers to find ways to adapt these experiments for their schools. Thompson received her B.S. degree in chemistry and math at the College of St. Catherine in 1953 and her Ph.D. in physical inorganic chemistry from the University of California-Berkeley in 1964.

Thompson is actively involved in ACS at national and local levels. She was a member of WCC from 1985 to 1994, serving as chair from 1992 to 1994, and is currently a member of the ACS Committee on Committees.

## **Priestley Medal to Mary Good**

Mary Good, who was highlighted in the May 1996 newsletter as the recipient of the Earl B. Barnes

Award for Leadership in Chemical Research Management, was recently named the recipient of the 1997 Priestley Medal. Given in recognition of distinguished service to chemistry, the Priestley Medal is ACS's most prestigious and oldest award.

Although it has been awarded 61 times, Good is the first woman to receive this prize. She has made numerous contributions to chemistry. After receiving her Ph.D., she embarked upon a distinguished career in academic research, which culminated in the Louisiana State University system in 1980. There, she directed a group of graduate students, postdoctoral students, and research assistants in studies on molecular spectroscopy of catalytic materials and antifouling marine coatings. During her years in academe, Good published 15 invited review articles and 92 research papers.

In 1980 Good began an impressive career as an industrial manager, first as a vice president for research at UOP, Inc., and finally as senior vice president of technology for Allied Signal in 1988. Throughout this time, she pursued state-of-the-art science and its application to commercially important problems. One of the most notable achievements of her research group was the early use of molecular modeling and computer process simulation to design and optimize targeted molecular systems and chemical process conditions.

Good has influenced science nationally and locally. She was a councilor of the Louisiana section of ACS from 1967 to 1971, was elected chair of the ACS board of directors in 1978 and 1980, and was elected president of the society in 1987. She served on the National Science Board under Presidents Carter, Reagan, and Bush. She is now working for President Clinton as the Commerce Department's undersecretary for technology. Good's distinguished scientific career has been recognized and honored by at least 26 scientific and professional awards, including the ACS Garvan-Olin Medal and the Charles Lathrop Parsons Award, as well as more than 20 honorary degrees.

—Margaret Faul

## **“Where Do I Go from Here?”**

A one-day workshop is scheduled for the 1997 spring ACS national meeting in San Francisco on April 13, 1997 (Sunday). This pilot workshop, being developed by ACS staff at the request of WCC with support from Corporate Associates, Division of Professional Relations, and I&EC. The workshop has been designed to help midcareer chemists (i.e., those persons 7–15 years into their careers) evaluate, define, or reformulate career objectives by

assessing values and skills in terms of the market and work environment. Various strategies will help participants focus on and evaluate their career objectives, develop action plans to manage career choices and moves based on an assessment of values and skills, and encourage implementation of that action plan.

The workshop is limited to 50 participants on a first-come, first-serve basis. The cost is \$100, payable to ACS. Deadline for registration is March 1, 1997.

For registration or other information, contact either Frankie Wood-Black at Phillips Petroleum, 393 South 800 West, Woods Cross, UT 84087 (fwblack@bvemx.ppeco.com), or Cheryl Brown at American Chemical Society, 1155 Sixteenth St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036 (c\_brown@acs.org).

—Frankie Wood-Black

## Creative Software for Kids

Do you have a preschooler and a computer at home and want to find the right program to increase learning and have fun? Sounds like a tough order, but five programs from Edmark Software just might fit the bill: Millie's Math House, Sammy's Science House, Trudy's Time and Place House, Bailey's Book House, and Stanley's Stickers Stories. These programs are designed for preschoolers 2 to 6 years old (or adults who just like to explore), and they are available in Mac and IBM formats.

At Millie's, children begin to play with basic math skills such as sizes (little, middle, and big), pattern recognition, problem solving, and counting. They can explore the Cookie Factory or build a bug.

At Sammy's, the children explore science concepts in familiar and fun ways. Visit Acorn Pond



and see how the animals cope with the seasons. At the workshop, you can build boats, castles, and more, by following plans. Stop by the sorting station and sort butterflies, flowers, animals with wings, or animals without wings. Children can change the

weather or make a movie. It is amazing how this exploration builds on the fundamentals of science—observation, classification, and problem solving.

At Trudy's, explore time and place. The calendar and time concepts come alive; children not only get exposed to telling time but also find out the difference among seconds, minutes, hours, weeks, and months. Exploration involves basic geography (the world) with basic map reading and directional skills.

Beginning reading concepts come alive at Bailey's. Rhyming words and prepositions become fun. Children can make cards and letters and write stories. This is more than just the average letter-recognition program; with a new program, Stanley's Stickers Stories, children use skills learned at Bailey's to write more stories.

My home computer has become a new neighborhood for my two children (ages 3 and 5), who love to visit their computer friends and explore.

Although they love all of their friends, currently they spend a great deal of time at Sammy's and Trudy's; but next week, who knows?

—Frankie Wood-Black



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## Kidding Ourselves: Breadwinning, Babies, and Bargaining Power

Rhona Mahoney. New York: Basic Books, 1995; ISBN 0-465-0593-8

*Kidding Ourselves: Breadwinning, Babies, and Bargaining Power* by Rhona Mahoney is a provocative look at why so many ambitious, career-oriented, ardently feminist women end up with nearly sole responsibility for running their households and raising their children. Mahoney follows the decisions that women make as early as high school, which have a profound effect on the division of labor at home. She succinctly explains why change is needed: As long as men devote themselves first and foremost to paid work, they will continue to outperform women, who usually reduce their hours and travel commitments in their paying job after they have children.

Mahoney applies negotiation skills to the struggle for a saner balance between work and home, and she presents a new way of thinking about the division of labor, including the best alternatives to a negotiated agreement (BATNA) and commitment mechanisms. She makes the case that negotiation occurs every day, in every family in the world.

Not only is *Kidding Ourselves* provocative, but Mahoney offers a proactive approach for the future in which the traditional division of labor disappears. She gives women a road map to negotiate what the future will hold for all of us. It places the burden for change squarely upon the shoulders of women. We are kidding ourselves to think that progress is going to happen any other way.

—Teresa Colletti

## Local Women Chemists Committees

These sections have local WCCs: Central Utah, California, Western Connecticut, South Texas, San Diego, Pittsburgh, North Jersey, New York, Nashville, Maryland, Detroit, Central North Carolina, Ozark, and Columbus. Get involved! The new Local Women Chemists Committee brochure is in production, so stay tuned. If you would like to start a local WCC or just find out more about WCC, contact Cheryl Brown (800-227-5558, ext. 8729 or [c\\_brown@acs.org](mailto:c_brown@acs.org)).

## WCC on WWW

The Women Chemists Committee is now available to you via the Internet. Come visit us at <http://www.tamug.tamu.edu/acswcc>. We welcome your suggestions as to what sorts of information you would like to see there.

## WCC Travel Awards

Once again Eli Lilly & Company, Hoechst Celanese Corporation, and the Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Division of the ACS are sponsoring a program to provide funding for undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral women chemists to travel to scientific meetings in 1997 to present the results of their research. Grants may be applied only to registration, travel, and accommodations and are restricted to meetings within the United States. Grant funds are limited, but some funds are designated for undergraduates. Only U.S. citizens and permanent residents are eligible. Preference is given to those who have never made a presentation at a national or major meeting. Applications should be limited to one per research group. Women who have received this award previously are not eligible. The deadlines for receipt of applications for 1997-1998 meetings are: March 15, 1997 (for meetings between July 1 and December 31, 1997) and October 15, 1997 (for meetings between January 1 and June 30, 1998).

More information is available at <http://www.tamug.tamu.edu/acswcc/travel.html>. To request an application or to apply, please contact Cheryl H. Brown, American Chemical Society, 1155 Sixteenth St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036 (202-872-8729 or 800-227-5558, ext. 8729; e-mail [c\\_brown@acs.org](mailto:c_brown@acs.org)).

## Speak Out

The ACS Office of Public Outreach wants you to SPEAK OUT! They want to send you the new Speak Out Toolbox. From slides to prepared text to a "How-To" video, the Toolbox gives you everything you need to talk to the public about Our Chemical World. The presentations are entertaining and fun for adult audiences (PTAs, Chambers of Commerce, garden clubs, etc.). Whether you are an experienced speaker or have only been in front of an audience a few times, the Speak Out Toolbox is designed for you! The only catch is that you must agree to use the Toolbox at least six times for presentations in your community. Use it yourself or share it with other presenters. For more information, call ACS at 800-227-5558, ext. 6293.

## Expect the Best from a Girl

You may have seen or heard those delightful radio and TV ads about women scientists who lead exciting lives doing the things they love and about how they were encouraged at a young age to pursue the sciences. The ads close with the line, "Expect the Best from a Girl. That's What You'll Get!" The ads are the work of the Women's College Coalition and the Ad Council. Visit the Women's College Coalition Web site to find out more about this great group: <http://www.academic.org>.

## Please Steal from Us!

If you edit your local section newsletter, you are undoubtedly looking for interesting material. Please feel free to borrow an article or announcement from this newsletter to share with your section, and let us know what kinds of information you find most valuable.

## Book Notes

The new book *Women Scientists in America: Before Affirmative Action, 1940-1972* will be of interest to many women chemists. It was reviewed in *C&EN*, May 6, 1996, p. 45. Margaret Rossiter, the book's author, began the series with her previous book, *Women Scientists in America: To 1940*.

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