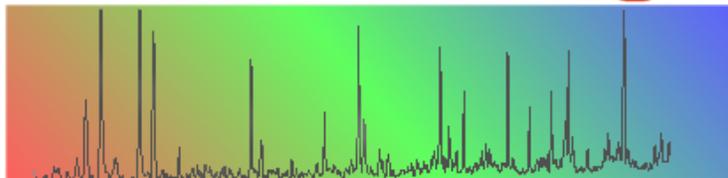




SAS-Chicago



September Meeting

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

The September 2005 meeting will be held at the Wellington Restaurant, located at 2121 S Arlington Heights Rd, Arlington Heights, IL 60005. See the map on the following page.

Social Hour: 5:30 - 6:30 PM

Dinner: 6:30 PM

Speaker: 7:30 – 9:00 PM

Analyses of White Powders

Presentation by
Gretchen Shearer, Ph.D.
(McCrone Associates)

The general public envisions suspected weapons of mass destruction (WMD) as white powders, which must be contained and investigated by first responders. These white powder investigations require rapid, specific identification which should ideally be carried out on site by a First Responder Team or, if not on site, near-by in a local laboratory. Mobile emergency laboratories utilize polarized light microscopy (PLM) integrated with other microscopical analysis such as infrared microspectrophotometry (FTIR) to attempt to characterize more fully unknown, potentially dangerous, white powder samples and mixtures. PLM provides a quick means to identify many of these white powders and provides crystallographic and morphological information that can refine and complement vibrational spectroscopy such as Raman or FTIR. Microscopical analysis techniques can be combined to fully characterize unknown samples and mixtures of white powders. New developments in instrumentation have resulted in smaller and more portable spectrometers and as accessories for polarizing light microscopes. Real world examples will be discussed that highlight how different types of samples are more effectively identified using this integrated approach. PLM combined with other techniques can enable differentiation between a potentially hazardous situation and false alarms.

Please make your dinner reservations for the upcoming meeting by using the form on our web page < <http://www.sas-chicago.org/Online%20Registration%20at%20Wellington.htm> > , by email at sas.chicago@bigfoot.com or by calling Mary Kaplar at 708-449-5767. Leave your name, company affiliation, a telephone number, the number of reservations and your choice of entree. Please call by noon Friday, Sept. 9th, so that proper arrangements can be made with the LaMirage Restaurant. If you can't attend, cancel by Mon. noon: SAS is charged for no-shows.

Entree choices: London Broil with Bordelaise Sauce, Breast of Chicken with Teriyaki Sauce, or Vegetarian Fettuccine.

Dinner Cost Members: \$25

Students and Unemployed Members: \$10

Non-members: \$30

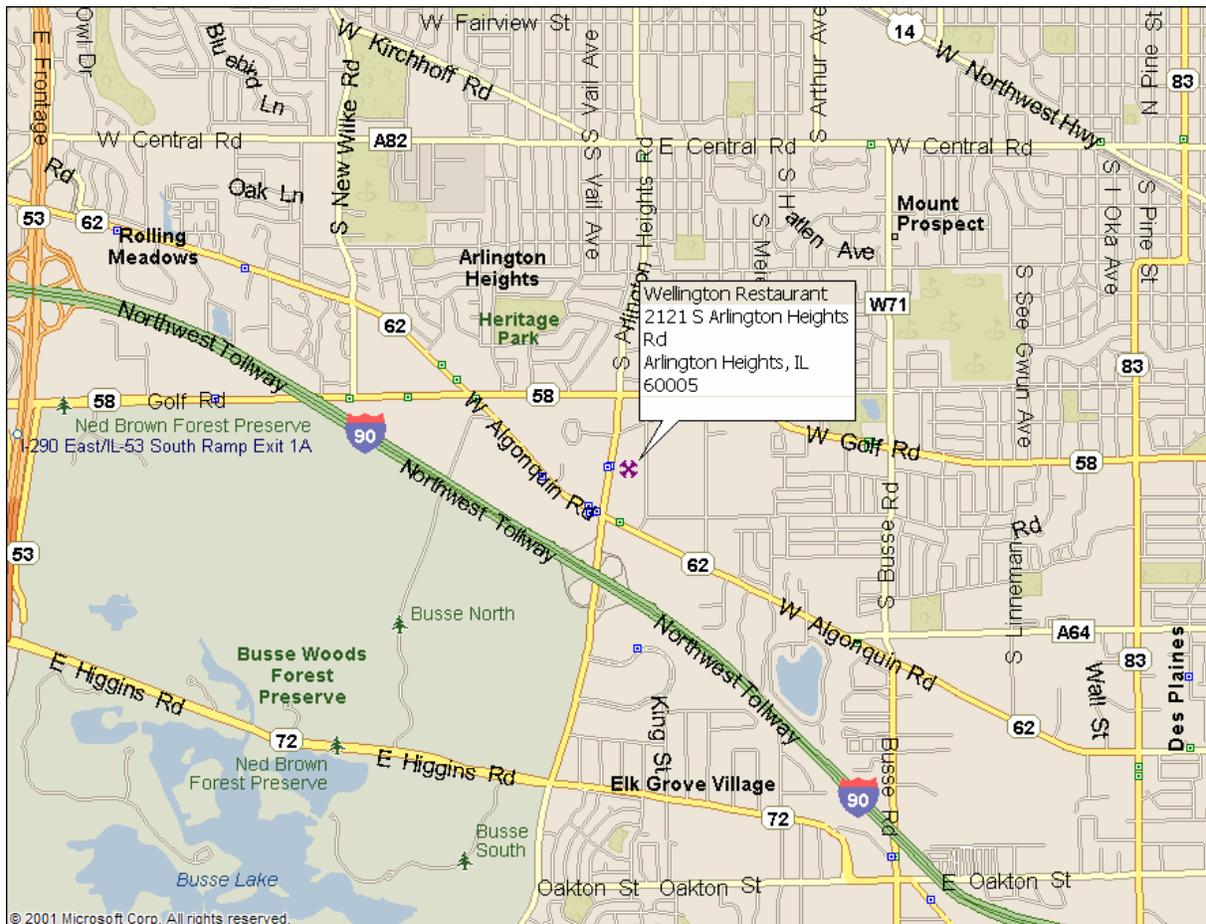
Biography

Gretchen received a B.A. in Chemistry from the College of Wooster (Ohio) and a Ph.D. in archaeology from the University of London. Her doctoral research topic was the application of Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy to art and archeological samples. She was an L.W. Frohlich Research Fellow at the Metropolitan Museum of Art where she studied reactions of alkoxysilane based stone consolidants. After further postdoctoral appointments at the University of Iowa and the University of Chicago, she joined McCrone Associates in 1995. She is a Senior Research Chemist and is responsible for performing chemical analysis using infrared spectroscopy, Raman microspectroscopy, gas and liquid chromatography, polarized light microscopy and microchemical techniques. She has problem solving experience in a wide variety of industries including pharmaceutical, paints and coatings, electronics, forensics, polymers and metals. She has been particularly interested in the identification of foreign matter in pharmaceutical products, evaluation of surface defects and adhesion failures in coatings and the application of spectroscopic techniques to the study of art and archaeological samples. In addition to her consulting work, she is an instructor for the McCrone College of Microscopy and is a contributor to the McCrone's on-line Atlas of Small Particles.

DIRECTIONS TO THE WELLINGTON RESTAURANT

From Chicago: Take Interstate 90 (Northwest Tollway) west to Arlington Heights Road exit. Proceed north to the restaurant.

From the southwest: Take 355 north to Route 53 north and exit at Algonquin Road east. Go to Arlington Heights Road. Turn left (north) and proceed to the restaurant.



Chairperson's Message
08-22-05

Chicago Section SAS Members,

Welcome back! With summer coming to an end, it is time to begin the 2005-2006 SAS monthly meetings. The governing board has kept busy over the summer planning the meetings and lining up speakers. A member survey was conducted at the end of last year and the results have been reviewed. This letter will give you a preview of the schedule for the year and inform you of some upcoming changes.

The survey results indicated that some members are not attending meetings because of the distance they would have to travel. Lack of time and cost were other issues cited by members as the reasons for not attending meetings. Suggestions for topics and format were also received. The results were reviewed and some changes will be implemented.

The first change you will notice this year is a change in venue for the meetings. We have decided not to return to LaMirage this year because of rising costs. We are looking at several facilities to find a room that is not too noisy and will not require any increase in meeting costs. We are also looking into the possibility of different locations throughout the area so that not all of our meetings are in the Schaumburg area.

SAS section funds are used to fund the technical presentation. We try to cover dinner costs with the \$25 (member) or \$30 (non-member) meeting fees. We have decided this year that we can no longer afford to absorb the dinner cost for those that make a reservation and fail to attend the meeting. In the past, we have been charged for the number of reservations that were called into the restaurant whether all of the individuals showed or not. To keep costs down, we will be billing individuals if a reservation was made and they failed to attend the meeting. We understand that sometimes events occur that are beyond our control and may prevent us from attending. We ask that you call to cancel your reservation if you find yourself in that situation. If we are able to revise our headcount for that meeting, you will not be charged. If SAS is charged for your reservation, you will be billed.

Along the same line, we make every effort to accommodate persons that show up at the meeting without a reservation. It is difficult for the restaurant to make last minute adjustments to the count. Without a reservation, there is no nametag or receipt for you and not enough places set. Please, if you plan on attending a meeting, call or e-mail your reservation by the due date.

If time and or meeting costs are keeping you from the meeting, you may want to attend only the technical presentation. Members and or guests are always welcome to attend the technical presentation at no cost whether or not they make a dinner reservation. The presentation is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p. m.

Topics that will be included this year include polymer analysis, food chemistry and Raman spectroscopy. The February meeting will be a student night poster session. The workshop in May will be on chemometrics.

I hope to see all of the familiar faces at the meetings and also many new faces. If you have not attended meetings in the past please make the effort to attend at least a few. The governing board has taken time to choose topics and find interesting speakers and we would love to have a large group of attendees at each meeting. Watch the newsletter for the schedule of speakers and topics. If you have suggestions or ideas on improving the meetings please talk with one of the board members or drop me an e-mail. If you want to get involved as a board member, let me know. New ideas and viewpoints are always appreciated.

Hope to see you at the September meeting,
Mary Kaplar
Chair, SAS Chicago Section
mkaplar@bodycoteusa.com

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Contact Mary Kaplar to get your business card in the next SAS-Chicago section newsletter.

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