Greetings!

The 2009 SWCS Spring Symposium will be held on April 24, 2009, Friday, at Rice University, Houston, TX. This annual regional meeting provides a forum where catalysis in its various forms – heterogeneous to homogeneous, computational to the experimental, surface science to materials synthesis, applied to fundamental, academic to industrial – can be discussed.

Rice University is ~25 miles from George Bush Intercontinental Airport and 18 miles from Hobby Airport. The symposium will be held in Duncan Hall (not Farnsworth Pavilion as last year) (http://www.rice.edu/maps/), several buildings away from Central Campus Garage. Driving directions can be obtained from http://futureowls.rice.edu/futureowls/Driving_Directions.asp.

On-site registration will begin at 8:00 AM and the program will begin at 8:30 AM. There will be coffee/beverages/snacks provided throughout the day.

The registration fee is $40, which includes NACS and SWCS yearly membership dues and the coffee/snack breaks. To speed registration, please bring your business card to give with your registration fee. Students pay $10 for registration (NACS and SWCS membership dues included). Unfortunately, we cannot take credit cards for payment. For those who cannot attend, mail in your membership due ($25) to our Treasurer, Prof. George Stanley.

There will also be a poster session at the Symposium. For meritorious posters, we will offer Best Poster Awards to students/post-docs, carrying cash prizes. We encourage students and postdocs to submit titles and abstracts to Dr. Mike Reynolds (Mike.Reynolds@shell.com) by April 15. We have limited space, so the earlier the submission, the better chance for acceptance. Posterboards (4' x 6') and easels will be provided at the site.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Sincerely,

Michael Wong, Chair
PROGRAM (PRELIMINARY)

8:00 AM  Registration – Prof. George Stanley (LSU)
          Duncan Hall Rm. 1075

8:30 AM  Chair's Welcoming Remarks – Prof. Michael Wong (Rice)
          Duncan Hall Rm. 1064

8:45 AM  Dr. Ruth M. Kowaleski (CRI/Criterion, Houston, TX)
          "Ethylbenzene Dehydrogenation Catalyst Development &
          Commercialization Utilizing High Throughput Experimentation"

9:15 AM  Prof. Kenneth J. Balkus, Jr. (UT Dallas, Richardson, TX)

9:45 AM  Coffee Break / Poster Setup
          Duncan Hall Rm. 1075

10:15 AM Prof. Donghui Zhang (LSU, Baton Rouge, LA)
          "Catalytic Routes towards Well-Defined Poly-α-Peptoids"

10:45 AM Prof. Janet Bluemel (Texas A&M University, College Station, TX)
          "Immobilized Catalysts: New Insights by Solid-State NMR Spectroscopy"

11:15 AM Lunch Break (on your own) / Poster Preview
          Rice Student Center

~12:20 PM Return from lunch and re-assemble

12:30 PM Dr. Z. Conrad Zhang (Kior Inc., Pasadena, TX)
          "Liquid Phase Catalytic Conversion of Cellulosic Biomass to Biofuels and
          Biobased Products"

1:00 PM  Prof. Manos Mavrikakis (U. Wisconsin, Madison, WI)
          2009 Paul H. Emmett Award in Fundamental Catalysis
          "The Importance of Nano-Architecture in Heterogeneous Catalysis"

1:45 PM  Poster Session / Coffee Break
          Duncan Hall Rm. 1075

3:30 PM  Poster Awards and SWCS Business

4:00 PM  Adjourn