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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 Blumel (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**