



Chinese American Chemical Society

## **Tri-State Chinese American Chemical Society Successfully Holds Its Annual Symposium**

The Tri-State Chinese American Chemical Society (Tri-State CACS) successfully held its annual symposium on June 10 at the Rutgers Busch Campus Center. Despite the sunny weather after many days of rain and cloudiness, about 150 spent part of their precious weekend to participate in the important event.

The annual symposium serves the purpose of bringing the CACS members and non-member Chinese American chemists together. The theme of this year's symposium was "Cooperation and Collaboration in the Age of Competition," which attempted to capture the prevailing trend of increasing economic ties across the Pacific in chemistry-related endeavors.

Dr. Catherine T. Hunt, the president-elect of the American Chemical Society (ACS) and leader of Technology Partnerships in Rohm and Haas Co., delivered the first keynote speech. She shared her experience in setting up and managing partnerships with various companies and government agencies, pointing out the importance of cross-organizational and international collaborations in today's global economy. She also shared her mission statement for the ACS once she takes over as the president of the ACS. She also commended the CACS for making a great effort in helping both its own members as well as reaching out to other organizations to advance the cause of the American chemical enterprise. She presented books on "green chemistry" to key members of the Tri-State CACS Executive Committee, and a book on "Successful Woman Chemists" to the female members of the committee.

Dr. Mark Powell, senior vice-president of Pharmaceutical Development at Bristol-Myers Squibb, delivered the 2<sup>nd</sup> keynote speech. Dr. Powell shared his vision on the pharmaceutical industry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, using examples of recent technological advances in his own company. He foresees consolidation in the industry and he predicts that the drug development process will be a much more integrated process, from discovery, lead evaluation, to clinical trial. Multiple-parallel experimentation will replace single experimentation. In-line, real-time monitor of reactions and processes will supplant off-line or at-line, delayed monitoring. In the end, he also pointed out that it is an exciting time to be a scientist and working in drug development. Both speeches by Drs. Hunt and Powell generated extensive discussions with the audience.

As a tradition, the symposium also featured outstanding Chinese-American chemists. Dr. Margaret Wu, Senior Scientific Advisor at the Corporate Strategic Research of ExxonMobil (the highest technical rank group at ExxonMobil) and the recipient of 2005 Thomas Alva Edison Patent Award, gave an overview of the state-of-the-art in lubricant science and technology. She spoke on both aviation lubes (for airplane and space shuttle, etc.) and automotive and machinery lubes, especially on the development of an advanced

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lubricant that is used in all world-class race cars (Mobil 1<sup>®</sup>). Prof. Jing Li of Rutgers University talked on her cutting edge discoveries of a class of millimeter-sized semi-conducting materials that exhibit properties of nanometer-sized semiconductors. Her work has the potential of leading to applications in harvesting solar energy, among others.

Other speakers included Dr. Birendra N. Pramanik, Distinguished Fellow at Schering-Plough Research Institute, who gave a presentation on the latest advances in mass spectrometry for drug discovery and development. Dr. Peijun Cong, vice president of Technology Development at Accelrys Corp, gave an introduction to his young but fast growing (3 year existence, 150 employees) high throughput chemical R&D company in China. Marketing Manager Ms. Ping Cao and Chief Operating Officer Dr. James A. Schwindeman of Tyger Scientific illustrated their philosophy in customer service and technical capabilities at Tyger, a custom chemical company. Dr. Lixin Shen, vice president of AstaTech told the audience AstaTech's capability in providing small to large quantities of custom chemicals from its US, Canadian, as well as its China facilities. Both Tyger and AstaTech have seen more than 20% growth rate in the past several years

Since its founding 25 years ago, the CACS, a volunteer-based, non-political, non-profit professional organization has worked to address the common interest and concerns of Chinese-American chemical professionals. It has recently established a mentor program to help new comers gain a quick footing in their professional careers in the US. It has presented Young Chemist Award in the last three years to outstanding high school students to help cultivate interest in chemical sciences. Starting this year it has added immigration and other legal referral services so that its members can receive these services at a discounted rate. Having just successfully held an International Pharmaceutical and Chemical Intellectual Property Forum in Beijing in April of 2006, the Tri-State CACS and now its annual symposium, it will continue to address the common interest and concerns of Chinese American chemical professionals.