

Creating Enthusiasm for Science in the High School Classroom

T.O. Spicer and E.C. Clausen

**University of Arkansas
Ralph E. Martin Department of Chemical Engineering
3202 Bell Engineering Center
Fayetteville, AR 72701**

Abstract

High school teachers are increasingly concerned with sparking and maintaining student interest in science, particularly as classroom laboratory activities have grown stale due to their age. A limited number of high school biology, chemistry and physics teachers were invited to a one week pilot program at the University of Arkansas, designed to introduce the teachers to science and engineering experiments and create enthusiasm for science.

The format for the program included:

- An introduction of the topic with background;
- Experimentation by teachers in small groups, led by the coordinator;
- Discussion with applications;
- Experimentation with teachers leading the exercise; and,
- Experiment/program evaluation.

This paper presents results from the program as carried out in the summer of 2006.