

The Syracuse Chemist

Volume 103/Issue 1



January/February 2011

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High School Chemistry Club Prepared Hassium Tile

The American Chemical Society High School Chemistry Club of East Syracuse Minoa Central School prepared a tile for the International Year of Chemistry Periodic Table Project. All elements on the periodic table were assigned to students around the world. Participants made a 150 mm x 150 mm tile for their assigned element. The tiles were intended to highlight any aspect of the element the students found interesting. The ESM club was assigned the synthetic element Hassium, element #108, discovered in 1984. The tile and the abstract are shown below.

Once all of the tiles have been completed the University of Waterloo's *Chem 13 News Magazine* will compile the periodic table which will then tour various chemistry conferences and produce a poster of the finished product. For more information and to follow the progress of the project please visit the following website: <http://www.chem13news.uwaterloo.ca/IYC/iyc-periodic-table.html>.



Entry Abstract: This tile was designed by Erica Binion, a junior at East Syracuse Minoa High School, East Syracuse, NY and the ESM ACS Chem Club. The history of this element is the theme for our tile. German scientists at the Darmstadt Institute for Heavy Ion Research discovered Hassium in 1984. Hassium was first synthesized using UNILAC, a heavy ion particle accelerator, which can be seen in the background of the image along with charged particles necessary for this synthesis with Fe-58 and Pb-208 smashing together to form Hs-265. At the bottom of the tile there is a quote from the German scientist, Gottfried Münzenberg, who helped discover this element in 1984. This quote is written in German but translates to "that we see our beautiful land of Hesse honoured."

A Letter from your new Chair

Dear Membership:

2011, the International Year of Chemistry, is upon us and I am very excited to be your chair for this year-long celebration of chemistry. I look forward to all that we will accomplish as a Section to promote chemistry both as a science and as a profession.

To make sure that I can bring the best possible leadership to the Section this year, I will be attending the National ACS leadership conference in Dallas, Texas later this month. I look forward to learning about new opportunities for the Section and new ideas about how to involve more of our membership in our community activities.

As an educator I would like to see more cross-over between our professional membership and our students both at the college/university level as well as the K-12 level. While the local section sponsors many events for the K-12 level, one area where local section members could have a more significant influence is in mentoring research projects.

Many high school students, would love to participate in real, substantive research projects. As we all know, learning in context is simply the best way to investigate chemistry.

My agenda for 2011 includes all of our hallmark events, such as Chemist Celebrate Earth Day, Science Café's, Chemistry Olympiad, Sustainability Fairs, Education Night, Dinner Meetings, National Chemistry Week and a Career Fair.

The speakers this year include Roald Hoffman, Don Showalter and Bassam Shkhashiri. Roald Hoffman and Don Showalter will be our guest speakers for Education Night. Many of you will remember them from their World of Chemistry videos from the 1990's and perhaps Dr. Hoffman's 1981 Nobel Prize. Bassam Shkhashiri will be joining us in December for our annual December dinner meeting. We can all look forward to these two events as they are sure to be entertaining, informative and filled with exciting chemical demonstrations.

We have a wonderful, experienced and dedicated Executive Committee this year. Michelle Boucher from Utica College is our past chair, Elizabeth Mitchell from Syracuse University is our secretary, Darius Robinson from Ithaca College is our Treasurer and Venera Joureava from Oswego is our Councilor. Our district delegates include Curtis Pulliam and Alyssa Thomas from Utica College and Nicole Snyder from Hamilton College. I have also re-appointed Kelley Donaghy from SUNY-ESF as the Education Chair and the Editor of the Syracuse Chemist. I am sure you will join me in thanking them all for their service throughout the past year and for many, for remaining in their position an additional year as we look forward to new bylaws. Without these visionary Section leaders, the wonderful activities we plan would not occur.

Finally, I hope you will all join me in Denver to accept all of the Chemluminary Awards that we are sure to win this year!

Sincerely,

Sally B. Mitchell
Chair of the Syracuse Section



Sally Mitchell and Roald Hoffman at the Salt Lake City Spring National ACS Meeting 2009

National Chemistry Week 2010 Another Success

The 2010 National Chemistry Week celebration was held on October, 23, MOLE Day at East Syracuse Minoa High School (ESM). The change in venue was an improvement both as a money saving measure as well as in terms of space and facilities. With more than 200 visitors to the event and almost 150 volunteers, the event was well received all around. New participants included the Chemistry Club at Onondaga Community College and the two new ACS High School Chemistry Clubs at Jamesville-Dewitt and Fayetteville-Manlius High Schools. Veteran volunteers hailed from Utica College, SUNY-ESF (Alchemists and Freshmen Chemistry), Syracuse University (Alpha Chi Sigma), LeMoyne and ESM.

The Harry Potter Movies and books were used to help promote this years theme "Behind the Scenes with



Investigating the properties of a non-Newtonian fluid made from cornstarch and water with a Utica College Student Affiliate member.



Bellatrix and Luna greet guests and help them through "The Wall" and onto the Platform for the Hogwarts Express.

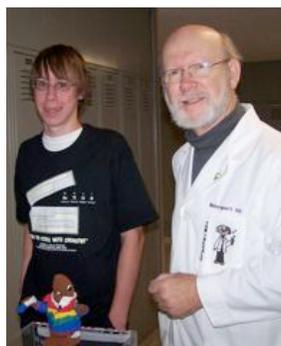
Chemistry". A Platform 9 and $\frac{3}{4}$ was made and participants pushed a luggage cart through the wall to enter the world of Harry Potter.

More than nine rooms were set up throughout the D-Wing for each of the hands-on activities as well as club demonstrations. Activities included making your own Iron Gall Ink, silver bottleing, nano-dots, crayon making, indigo dyeing, tie-dyeing silk scarves, Nitrogen Ice Cream and more! Several clubs used the events proximity to Halloween to infuse their demonstrations with a goulish glow such as the Alchemists foaming Jack-O-Lanterns and chemilumenesence demonstrations.

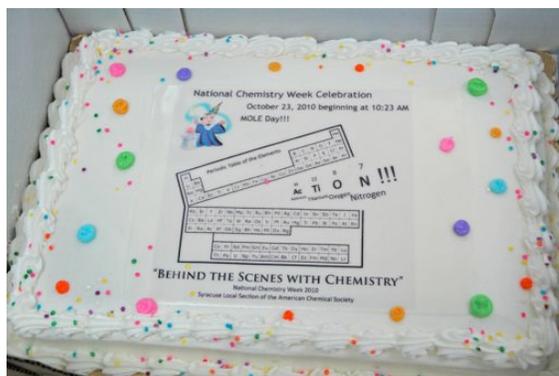
A special guest appearance from, Tom Tweedle, a former Mole of the Year brought an added dimension to the day.

Many in-kind donations were received as well as a substantial donation of liquid Nitrogen and Helium from Haun Gas. A special thank you to all that participated, let's keep our

fingers crossed for another Chemluminary Award this year for best use of theme!



Tom Tweedle, an ESM Chemistry Club Student and a MOLE!



Silk Tie Dyeing made its debut this year and it was a big hit.

By-Laws Revisions in a Few Words....

The Bylaws of the Syracuse Section were reviewed by both the Executive Committee and the American Chemical Society National Bylaws committee; recommendations were made and incorporated into a 2010 Bylaws document. This document is being distributed prior to a vote to be held on January 28th at the Beer and Bylaws meeting to be held at SUNY-ESF from 5PM-7PM. Other than changes to modernize the language used, inclusion of student members and the elimination of committees that have not been functional in more than five years, the most significant changes involve the assignment of the Delegates to the Executive Committee and Electronic Balloting.

Previously Delegates needed to reside outside Onondaga County. As proposed in the 2010 version, two delegates must be outside Onondaga County with two others can be from anywhere, including Onondaga County. Over the past several years we have consistently not had representation for all four delegates. It is anticipated that this change will provide greater opportunity for involvement.

The other prominent change is to allow for electronic balloting. To send a mailing to the entire Section currently costs over \$250 in postage alone, this without a stamped return envelope. Electronic balloting will allow for a more environmentally friendly and potentially easier route for members to take part in Section votes. Current bylaws require elections to be conducted by written ballot; the proposed changes would permit electronic ballots, but not require them.

Finally, at the suggestion of the national committee on Constitution and Bylaws, the 2010 draft Bylaws include a procedure for recall of elected officials of the Section. We have included the standard language for such a provision.

An electronic version of the bylaws both with mark-up and without mark-up will be distributed via email and posted on the Section website, <http://www.syracusesection.sites.acs.org>. Paper copies of the bylaws are available upon request and a limited supply will be available at the Beer and Bylaws meeting.

In order for these changes to become permanent according to our present bylaws, we need to have a minimum of 25 **VOTING** Members present to have a valid vote. The Executive Committee strongly encourages you to attend our **FREE Beer and Bylaws Event** to make this happen.

Save
These
Dates!!



Syracuse Section Schedule

Spring Schedule

January 28	Beer and By-Laws Meeting
March 19-20	TRSEF Science Fair
April 17-23	Earth Week (CCED Activities)
April 23	Adopt-a-Stream
June 8	Education Night (Hoffman and Showalter)

PLEASE POST

Syracuse Section of the American Chemical Society invites you to:



Beer and By-Laws

Date: Friday, January 28th, 2011

Time: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Where: SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
Reception: Baker Lab Atrium
Presentation: Baker Lab 148

What: Appetizers and Microbrews and Homebrew
(Brew your own? Bring a few for sampling.)

Cost: FREE to members, \$2.00 for non-members

Parking: TBA

The Executive Committee, lead by Carmen Guinta have modernized the by-laws of the section to reflect current needs and participation. We need **MEMBERS** to ratify them so we can be in compliance with the National ACS. Therefore, members and their guests are invited to attend a meeting on January 28th beginning at 5PM with beer and appetizers and ending with a discussion and subsequent vote on the new by-laws.

In addition to the by-laws, our new Chair Sally Mitchell will outline her plans for 2011 and we will review all of the good work that was accomplished in 2010 in a State of the Section Slideshow.

So join us for “Happy Hour” on the section and help us accomplish a goal by reviewing, discussing and voting on the Section by-laws!!



Syracuse Chemist

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Deadline for material:

Chemists will be published every other month beginning in January. The deadline for submitted materials will be the 15th of every even numbered month (Ex. 2/15 for the March issue). Please submit print ready materials to Kelley Donaghy at kdonaghy@esf.edu

Founded in 1908, The Syracuse Chemist (ISSN 0039-792X) is the American Chemical Society's Oldest Section publication issued monthly (except July and August) by the Syracuse Section of the Society. It is distributed free to members of the Syracuse Section – and to others for \$0.25 per copy or \$2.00 per year.

The American Chemical Society, the Syracuse Section thereof, and The Syracuse Chemist assume no responsibility for the opinions or statements expressed by contributors and do not necessarily subscribe thereunto. Permission to reprint is hereby granted to all ACS publications.

Organized as the Syracuse Chemical Society in 1902 and chartered as a section of the American Chemical Society in 1907, the Syracuse Section now includes Central New York counties of Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego and Seneca.

Advertising Rates

Full Page	\$70.00
Half Page	\$50.00
Quarter Page	\$25.00
One-eighth Page	\$20.00
Circulation	525

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