

# The Syracuse Chemist

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October 2011

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## Syracuse Section Wins Three ChemLuminary Awards!

August 30<sup>th</sup> was a fantastic night for the Syracuse Section. We were notified in June that we were finalists for five ChemLuminary awards. By itself this was an honor, serving as recognition by ACS National of all the hard work and great chemistry fun we had during the 2010 year. On August 30<sup>th</sup> we had even more to celebrate, since we won three ChemLuminary Awards!

After an evening of celebration and a poster session highlighting the accomplishments of each section, the awards were finally announced. And we were winners! Syracuse Chair Sally Mitchell and Secretary Elizabeth Mitchell were on hand to accept the awards. The three awards the Syracuse Local Section received were:



From left to right: Lee Latimer, committee on Local section Activities, Elizabeth Mitchell, Secretary, Sally Mitchell, Syracuse Chair, and Joseph Francisco, Past President of the ACS

**Outstanding Sustainability Activities and Best Activity or Program in a Local Section Stimulating Membership Involvement** were awarded as the result of the Syracuse Section's Sustainability Fair held in Oswego. The fair attracted over 600 people, provided seminars, and promoted green products and services. The event was a networking opportunity bringing together 55 businesses and vendors working toward sustainability and highlighting a new coalition, the Sustainable Upstate Network.

**Best High School Event** was awarded for the National Chemistry Week celebration, held on Mole Day, at East Syracuse Minoa High School with more than 200 visitors and almost 150 volunteers. More than nine rooms were set up for each of the hands-on activities and demonstrations.

**Congratulations everyone!!**

# Education Night - So Much to Celebrate!



Dr. Roald Hoffmann and Dr. Donald Showlater

Dr. Benjamin Burttt

Education Night is always a special evening for our section, but this year we had an amazing amount to celebrate! On June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at East Syracuse Minoa High School our annual Education Night celebration of youth in science was renamed in honor of Dr. Benjamin P. Burttt. Dr. Burttt has contributed a great deal to chemical education through his 45 year career in the chemistry department at Syracuse University. He is well known for his innovations in the classroom, such as making tape recordings of his lectures available after class and video pre-laboratory lectures to ensure consistency in multiple section laboratory courses.

To help us celebrate our inaugural Benjamin P. Burttt Chemical Education Lecture were two very special speakers. Attendees were treated to a lecture given by Nobel Prize winner Dr. Roald Hoffmann and Dr. Donald Showalter, creators of the World of Chemistry video series. This series was filmed by the Annenberg Foundation in 1988 and first aired on PBS in 1990. These two distinguished chemists and old friends had not seen each other since making those tapes so long ago!

We had dinner and then the awards. The Fayetteville-Manlius ChemClub did a presentation on their projects this year and highlighted all the hard work and dedication the student members had for bringing chemistry to the community. Everyone sang Happy Birthday to Ben Burttt (90th so a thorium cupcake) and then went to the lecture in the auditorium. The crowd was enormous - approximately 400 attend the lecture. What a way to honor our commitment to education!

# Area High School Students Score High in Chemistry Olympiad

By: *Carmen Giunta*

The Syracuse Section participated in the ACS-sponsored National Chemistry Olympiad competition again in 2011. The Chemistry Olympiad is a multi-tiered competition for high school students. ACS holds local and national competitions in the US. The exams for these competitions are prepared by the ACS Chemistry Olympiad Examinations Task Force—a national task force chaired by Arden Zipp of SUNY Cortland. Winners of the national competition were invited to a study camp

The top ten finishers in the local exam were:

1	Shane Stone	East Syracuse-Minoa
2	Kunal Sangani	Fayetteville-Manlius
3	Christopher Brenon	East Syracuse-Minoa
4	Andrew Lee	Jamesville-Dewitt
4	Lydia Nevin	Jamesville-Dewitt
6	Erik Davis	Jamesville-Dewitt
7	Brendan Coli	Jamesville-Dewitt
8	Allison LaChanse	East Syracuse-Minoa
9	Matt Deyo	Fayetteville-Manlius
10	Thomas Giffune	Vernon-Verona-Sherrill

from which a team is drawn to represent the US in the International Chemistry Olympiad. This year's international competition was held in July in Ankara, Turkey.

Five area students qualified to take the national exam. They are Shane Stone and Christopher Brenon of East Syracuse-Minoa High School, Kunal Sangani of Fayetteville-Manlius High School, and Lydia Nevin and Andrew Lee of Jamesville-Dewitt High School. Shane Stone scored well enough to earn honors on the test. The national exam is an all-day event consisting of a multiple-choice portion, a set of free-response problems, and a laboratory practical. This year 941 students took the exam at sites around the country selected by local ACS sections between April 14 and 17. The Syracuse Section's testing site was Le Moyne College on April 14.

Although none of the Syracuse Section students qualified for the study camp, Stone, Brenon, Sangani, and Nevin all scored above the mean in the national exam.

The five area students who took the national exam qualified by scoring well in the local competition, held at four sites in Central New York on March 31 and April 1. The students were the top five finishers out of 102 motivated students from six schools in a two-hour standardized test. Shane Stone topped the scoring at the local competition.

The local exam was offered at East Syracuse-Minoa High School, Thomas Proctor High School in Utica, and Vernon-Verona-Sherrill High School, and at Le Moyne College. Thanks to high school teachers Sally Mitchell, Mary Ann Mazzola, and Bernadette VanValkenburg for hosting the exam at the high schools. Carmen Giunta hosted the local and national exams at Le Moyne and he coordinates the section's participation in Chemistry Olympiad activities.

Save  
These  
Dates!!



## Syracuse Section Schedule

Fall Schedule (details page 7 and on website)

October 11 TACNY Sweet Lecture

October 13 Green Drinks

October 23 NCW Celebration

October 28 Rochester Awards Night

November 1 Dinner Meeting

December 16 "State of the Section" meeting

## Fingerlakes Winery Tour with Rochester



*By: Deborah Janes*

Dr. Donald Dittmer, Elizabeth Mitchell, Katherine Mittiga, and Sally Mitchell accompanied the Rochester Section on Saturday, September 24, 2011 for a joint meeting and celebration of our Finger Lakes by meeting at the Montezuma Winery in Seneca Falls, NY. After a quick tasting of fruit wines, they headed over to Wagner Winery for lunch which included tasting their homebrewed root beer. They enjoyed the wine tasting and their Beeriodic Table tee shirts.

The day concluded with the group touring Lakewood Winery in Watkins Glen during which they enjoyed a goat cheese spread, sharp cheddar and eight additional wines.



It was great to join our neighbors from the Rochester Section. We look forward to their awards night on October 28, 2011 when Nancy Jackson, President of ACS, speaks to the local Rochester section.

## Chemistry in Health: Scientists Run for Life

*By: Bill Ayling*

In celebration of National Chemistry Week, scientists from the Syracuse Section of the American Chemical Society will participate in the inaugural Carol M. Baldwin "A Run For THEIR Life" event that will be held on Sunday, October 23, 2011. The 15K run, and the 5K run and walk will begin at 9 a.m. Same day registration at SU's Manley Field House is available beginning at 7 a.m., closing at 8:15 a.m. The 5K run and walk travels through Thornden Park, and the 15K run will proceed through Thornden Park and down through the Connective Corridor to the Armory Square area, and back to Manley Field house.

After the race/walk, a celebration of National Chemistry Week will be held at Manely Field House that will include a chemistry exhibit and demonstrations of how chemists contribute to improving health by making important contributions to the prevention of illness and finding cures to diseases. For more information about the run/walk, contact Sally Mitchell [sbmitchell2@gmail.com](mailto:sbmitchell2@gmail.com). For more information about the chemistry exhibit and demonstrations, contact Neal Abrams [nmabrams@esf.edu](mailto:nmabrams@esf.edu). Check out the flier on the website for further details, and hope to see you there!

# GENIUS Olympiad Attracted Young Minds

By: Fehmi Damkaci

SUNY Oswego and Terra Science and Education Foundation hosted and organized the first GENIUS Olympiad, an international high school project fair about environmental issues, in June 2011. It attracted 142 science and art projects from 33 countries and 30 states. Several ACS members took part in as organizers or judges.

The keynote speaker, Annie Griffiths from National Geographic's Magazine delivered an outstanding speech which energized the young minds. GENIUS Olympiad 2012 will host projects in 4 different disciplines; science, art, creative writing, and architectural design, which will make the event the biggest environment related project fair with wide scope.



Our aim is to provide a platform for creative high school students with different talents to work on environmental issues, and give them a gathering place to share their work and create a better



future. In addition to the environmental competition itself, we would like to provide educational opportunities to both teachers and students. Students will be able to attend an international fair to learn about other world cultures. We will host a college fair to provide information about several colleges as well as the college application process. Teachers will have the opportunity to be involved in a 2 day teacher workshop developed by faculty from the SUNY Oswego School of Education.



Please visit [www.geniusolympiad.org](http://www.geniusolympiad.org) for more information and spread the word.

# July Meeting: Exploration at the Nanoscale

By: Sally Mitchell

Every year we have been proud to partner with Syracuse University for a summer section meeting. Typically this is our “Eat Like a Student Night” as we invite our members to mingle with the Syracuse REU students. This year was no exception, and we enjoyed our college-student centered evening on July 14, 2011 at Syracuse University.



Dr. Alyssa Thomas and Allen Prusinowski



Dr. Patrick Mather

The evening started with a celebration of our undergraduate and graduate student members. Dr. Alyssa Thomas of Utica College awarded ChemClub member Allen Prusinowski the student member award along with a IYC periodic table blanket. Dr. Michael Sponsler, advisor of the Pi Chapter of Alpha Chi Sigma, awarded Elizabeth Mitchell the Alpha Chi Sigma Service to the Fraternity Award. After a fantastic dinner, the evening was then kicked off with lectures by Dr. Becky Bader and Dr. Patrick Mather, of Syracuse University’s Chemical Engineering and Biomedical departments, with a lecture titled “Nanoscale Polymeric Biomaterials.” The evening was concluded with a tour of the Syracuse Biomaterials Institute in Bowne Hall. The Syracuse Section would like to thank our guest speakers and section members for presenting their work at the Summer REU meeting at Syracuse University.



# Upcoming Section Events

Want up-to-the-minute information about the section? Bookmark

<http://syracusesection.sites.acs.org>  
to get all the latest news and events!

**TACNY Sweet Lecture** **Tuesday October 11, 2011 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

4585 West Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY 13215

"Nanotechnology: Driving a 21st Century Educational and Economic Renaissance in New York State" by Dr. Alain E. Kaloyeros, Senior VP and CEO, CNSE at SUNY Albany. Meeting is at the Whitney Applied Technology Center at SUNY OCC.

**Syracuse Green Drinks** **Thursday October 13, 2011 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

Hotel Skyler, 601 South Crouse Ave, Syracuse, NY 13210 1-800-365-4663 The hotel is directly on the Connective Corridor bus route and has dedicated parking accessible from South Crouse Ave and street parking on Harrison Street. Bike parking is directly in front of the entrance.

Every month people who work in the environmental field meet up at informal sessions known as Green Drinks. We have a lively mixture of people from NGOs, academia, government and business. Come along and you'll be made welcome. Just say, "are you green?" and we will look after you and introduce you to whoever is there. It's a great way of catching up with people you know and also for making new contacts. Everyone invites someone else along, so there's always a different crowd, making Green Drinks an organic, self-organizing network.

These events are very simple and unstructured, but many people have found employment, made friends, developed new ideas, done deals and had moments of serendipity. It's a force for the good. Always the second Thursday of the month.

**National Chemistry Week Celebration** **Sunday October 23, 2011 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

Manley Field House, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY ([map](#))

The Syracuse University Student Section is sponsoring a Mole Day Run in conjunction with the Carol M. Baldwin "A Run for Their Life" for Breast Cancer Research. This will tie in with the National Chemistry Week theme of "Health." We hope to form a team from all of our chemclubs, College Student Members, ACS members from industry and academia. If you want to run, join the Syracuse Section ACS team at <http://www.cmbarunfortheirlife.com/> or send Sally Mitchell an email at sbmitchell2@gmail.com and she will send you an invite. Cost of the race is \$30. Race begins promptly at 9 am and will begin and end at Manley Field House. After the race, the Syracuse Section will provide chemistry entertainment. Please join in and help.

**Rochester Section Awards Night** **Friday October 28, 2011 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM**

Mario's Restaurant, 2740 Monroe Ave, Rochester, NY ([map](#))

Nancy Jackson, President of the American Chemical Society will be the speaker. All are invited to attend. Cost is \$35, contact Sally Mitchell sbmitchell2@gmail.com if interested and want to carpool.

**November Section Meeting** **Tuesday November 1, 2011 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM**

OCC Campus, Syracuse, NY

Further details soon!!



## Syracuse Chemist

Acting Editor  
Michelle Boucher  
1600 Burrstone Rd  
Utica, NY 13502  
315-792-3120

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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.

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## SECTION OFFICERS

Chair	Sally Mitchell <a href="mailto:sbmitchell2@gmail.com">sbmitchell2@gmail.com</a>
Chair-elect	Vacant
Past Chair	Michelle Boucher <a href="mailto:mboucher@utica.edu">mboucher@utica.edu</a>
Secretary	Elizabeth Mitchell <a href="mailto:eilishk@aol.com">eilishk@aol.com</a>
Treasurer	DJ Robinson <a href="mailto:djrobinson@ithaca.edu">djrobinson@ithaca.edu</a>
Councilors	Venera Jouraeva 560-8525 <a href="mailto:vajourae@gmail.com">vajourae@gmail.com</a> Kelley Donaghy 470-6826 <a href="mailto:kdonaghy@esf.edu">kdonaghy@esf.edu</a>
Dist 1 Del	Curtis Pulliam <a href="mailto:cpullia@utica.edu">cpullia@utica.edu</a>
Dist 2 Del	Alyssa Thomas <a href="mailto:acthomas@utica.edu">acthomas@utica.edu</a>
Dist. 3 Del.	Venera Jouraeva 560-8525 <a href="mailto:vajourae@gmail.com">vajourae@gmail.com</a>
Dist. 4 Del.	Nicole Snyder <a href="mailto:nsnyder@hamilton.edu">nsnyder@hamilton.edu</a>

## Committee Chairs

Awards	Alyssa Thomas <a href="mailto:acthomas@utica.edu">acthomas@utica.edu</a>
Career Services	Raymond O'Donnell 343-5783
Education	Neal Abrams <a href="mailto:nmabrams@esf.edu">nmabrams@esf.edu</a>
Nominations and Elections	Paul Bertan <a href="mailto:paulbertan@peoplepc.com">paulbertan@peoplepc.com</a>
Public Relations	Bill Ayling <a href="mailto:aylingwa@verizon.net">aylingwa@verizon.net</a>
Student Affiliates	Robert Stankavage