

The Syracuse Chemist

Volume 105/Issue 2



February 2013

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Network, Celebrate, and Learn: Syracuse Section Events

Neal Abrams and Michelle Boucher

Your Syracuse Section continues to fill the calendar with events that are social, educational, and great places to network while seeing first hand all the resources our Section has to offer.

On Friday, December 7th, we held our State of the Section December dinner meeting at Utica College. Bill Ayling, 2012 Section Chair, gave a recap of the year's events, and it was amazing to see just how much we accomplished last year. Alyssa Thomas, Section Councilor and Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Utica College, then gave a talk describing ways to integrate nanotechnology into public outreach. This topic was particularly relevant given both the interest in nanotechnology in this area and the 2012 National Chemistry Week theme. Attendants left the evening energized and inspired by what we accomplished in the section and armed with new ideas for the future.

On January 22, 2013 nearly 25 people attended a "soft opening" of the CNY Biotech Accelerator, a joint venture between SUNY ESF and Upstate University. Led by Cindy Dowd Greene and Hank Watson, attendees took a tour of the brand new facility that features high-end, modular wet laboratory space. The facility is designed to function help biotech and biomedical companies become successful and commercialize their products. There were many questions about this "new kid on the block" and we can't wait to see it go into action! The website for the facility is <http://www.upstate.edu/biocenter/>



Left: Mingling at the December Meeting, Right: Hank Watson explains parts of the facility to Rob Stankavage and Paul Bertan

From the Desk of your Section Chair

My fellow members of the Syracuse ACS,

As we are well into the 2013, I want to thank you for providing me the opportunity to serve as Section Chair for 2013. Our Section fills many needs and accomplishes numerous goals, all of it done through the hard work and perseverance of a highly passionate group of volunteers. I consider myself fortunate to work such a dedicated number of officers and committee members who sacrifice their own personal time to serve with the organization. Without them, none of the activities within the Section could have occurred.

In 2012, the Section completed a very successful set of events and programs under Bill Ayling's direction, many of which were nominated for ChemLuminary awards. Locally, the Section fostered new relationships and developed joint meetings with partner organizations including the Technology Alliance of Central New York (TACNY), Syracuse GreenDrinks, and the New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA). We also furthered science education through events like the Science and Chemistry Olympiads and National Chemistry Week. The Section was also the recipient of several National ACS grants and two ChemLuminary awards.

We have an exciting year ahead as we build on these accomplishments in 2013 with a series of events that might be of interest to you. Very shortly in February we will be featuring a nationally broadcast webinar entitled "A Date with Science: Dinner & Dessert Chemistry", which aside from being a fun and informative topic, features one of our own Section members (and past Chair), Ms. Sally Mitchell. The Section will also be participating in several educational events this year including the Science Olympiad for middle- and high-school students as well as hosting the local and national exams for the Chemistry Olympiad. In June, we will continue the highly regarded Education Night and Ben Burtt lecture series followed by the celebration of National Chemistry week in October. We will also have several meetings with local and regional speakers throughout the year. No matter what your interest or discipline, I am sure the Section has an event just for you!

We are currently seeking approval to change our name to the Central New York Section to better represent our membership and I hope that you too can find a place for the Section to represent your life as a Central New Yorker. As chemists and chemical professionals, we all have a common set of interests that can both bring us together and increase STEM initiatives in the region. Whether this is through classroom involvement, industrial partnerships, or informal science experiences, our Section, like chemistry itself, plays a central role for science in the region. As 2013 Chair, I plan to leverage the expertise within our section and connect members to one another and to the community at large. Please consider helping out to accomplish this goal.

As we continue into 2013, I ask that the you look at our events, read the newsletter, and continue to be an advocate for chemistry and the mission of the American Chemical Society by "Improving people's lives through the transforming power of chemistry." Please contact me at nmabrams@esf.edu with your thoughts, ideas, and interests for the section.

Neal Abrams, Ph.D.
2013 Chair, Syracuse Section of the ACS

Spotlight on Students: Bishop Ludden's Chem Club

Maxine K. Babcock

Bishop Ludden's Chem Club, founded this past year (2012), participated in the December drive to help Food Bank of Central New York. The club's 46 members gathered cans and other non-perishables to deliver before Christmas.

Club adviser Maxine Babcock said, " We have been very encouraged by East Syracuse-Minoa Central High School's Chem Club. They have allowed us to join their activities and learn from their experiences. We participated in the Spooktacular at ESM in October and at the Destiny USA Nanotechnology event. We'll be delivering our donations to ESM on December 20.

Bishop Ludden will be participating in the 2013 ACS Earth Day poetry competition for the fifth straight year. Gaelic Knights have submitted over 300 poems over the last few years with a past student winning regionally and finishing second in the national competition. Current seventh grader Holly Babcock has won three regional awards and was the national winner in grades 3-5 in 2010.

Sophomore Ashley Gusman , a founding member, said " I feel like it will expand my options and will bring me more college choices. Chem Club is impressive and it will help me decide if I want a career in science. I'm also on the Science Olympiad team."

Chem Club members Tim Murphy, Marisa Ruane-Foster, Cameron Rustay, and Theodore Gross also hosted a science display for the fifth and sixth grade visitation to Bishop Ludden in November. Over a hundred students participated in interactive displays about food science, aerodynamics. Bernoulli's Principle, and inertia.

Rustay is the president of the club, with Alex Parsons serving as vice-president. Murphy is secretary, while Ruane- Foster is treasurer. All four officers are Science Olympiad team members who have compiled numerous medals since 2010.



Calling all College and University Faculty -

Do you have an exceptional junior or senior who would benefit from having a membership to the American Chemical Society?

If so, please contact our Awards Chair, Alyssa Thomas, who is organizing the Student Affiliate Awards for this year. To nominate a student for the award, send an e-mail with the subject - ACS Syracuse Student Affiliate Awards to acthomas@utica.edu and include the name of the student, the institution, and the student's e-mail address. For more details or any questions, send an e-mail to the above address. Deadline for nominations this year is **April 19th**.

Chemistry Olympiad 2013

Joy Logan and Michelle Boucher

“March Madness” means something completely different to many hard working Chemistry students. March is not about basketball, it is about hard competition centered around the central science!

Planning and staging for the 2013 Chemistry Olympiad is already well underway. The Syracuse Section will be hosting the local exam at several locations including LeMoyne College, where Carmen Guinta will be administering the exam, and in Fulton where Bob Morse, a teacher at G Ray Bodley High School will administer the exam. Plans include arranging for another test administrator at Vernon-Verona-Sherrill to administer at a third testing site to facilitate students and/or teachers who may not be able to travel to LeMoyne. We will administer the local exam between March 25th and March 27th at various test sites.

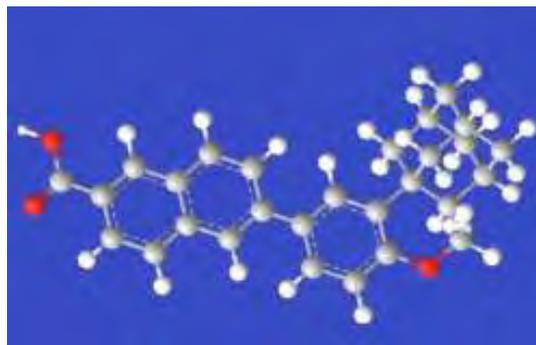
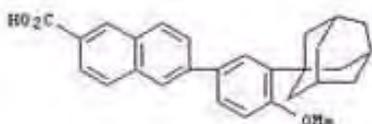
The national written and laboratory exam will be hosted at SUNY ESF where Neal Abrams and Joy Logan will administer/coordinate the exam for the local students who qualify for national testing. Our section is allowed 10 participants based on section size. This exam will be administered on or around April 15th. Sally Mitchell is contacting teachers within our section to encourage participation, and we are looking forward to another record year!



Molecule of the Month

Identify the compound and submit your answers to our Quizmaster, Dr. Daniel Barr (dabarr@utica.edu) - the first person to answer correctly will get a special mention in the next issue of the Chemist!

I am in a class of retinoid-like compounds used to control acne. It is believed that, by binding with specific receptors in the skins cells, it encourages the growth of healthy skin cells and reduces the development of acne lesions. Who am I?



Upcoming Section Events

February

Thursday, February 28, 2013 from 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM (see attached flier on page 6)

A Date with Science Join the [Syracuse Section of the ACS](#) and the [Department of Chemistry and Physics at Le Moyne College](#) as we enjoy a national 30-minute webinar on the chemistry of cooking and the chemistry of sweetness, followed by a live 30-minute Q & A session with two experts in the field. As an extra bonus, one of the nationally recognized experts is a Section member and will be live in the room taking questions from across the country! Attendees will be able to ask professional food chemists about anything, from tips on cooking and baking to insights into food chemistry.

Save Room for Dessert Enjoy a dessert tasting bar including chocolates and candies from different stages of candy making, like those discussed in the webinar.

Try Your Luck Coveted ACS gifts will be raffled to two lucky winners at the event!

Schedule

- 7:30-8:00 PM Registration, Networking Mixer and Taste Testing, Coyne Science Addition (SCA), Room 101
- 8:00-8:30 PM Webinar
- 8:30-9:00 PM Live Q & A Session with Experts
- 9:00-9:15 PM Raffle Drawing

Who Should Attend? The event is hosted by Syracuse Section of the ACS and the Department of Chemistry and Physics at Le Moyne College. Chemists, chemistry students, and young scientists are especially encouraged to attend. This event is free and open to all students and Syracuse ACS members.

Want up-to-the-minute information about the section?
Bookmark <http://syracusesection.sites.acs.org> to get all the latest news and events.

**The Syracuse Section of the ACS and the Department
of Chemistry and Physics at Le Moyne College
presents...**

Fine Food...Creative Chemistry

"A Date with Science: Dinner and Dessert Chemistry"

DATE: Thursday, February 28, 2013

Location: Le Moyne College
Coyne Science Addition (SCA), Room 101

Time: 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

RSVP: Go to syracuseACS.eventbrite.com to register



eventbrite site

What You Will Learn

- The chemical reactions that release robust flavors
- How to boost the flavor in food by altering its preparation
- The chemistry of sugar and how we detect sweetness
- And much more...

Meet Your Experts



Sally Mitchell is a nationally recognized educator and chemist, best known for her presentations on incorporating food

chemistry into the classroom. Sally teaches chemistry at East Syracuse Minoa High School and is a winner of the James Bryant Conant Award in High School Chemistry Teaching.



Guy Crosby is a science adviser for America's Test Kitchen. He worked as a scientist and research director in the agricultural-products and

food-ingredients businesses for more than 30 years. Guy is a professional member of the ACS and a popular speaker on the science of cooking.

Parking is located in Lot C on the Le Moyne campus.



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Syracuse Chemist

Editor

Michelle Boucher
mboucher@utica.edu

Associate Editor

Daniel Barr
dabarr@utica.edu

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 Michelle Boucher mboucher@utica.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

SECTION OFFICERS (2013)

Chair	Neal Abrams nmabrams@esf.edu
Chair-elect	Vacant
Past Chair	Bill Ayling aylingwa@verizon.net
Secretary	Anna O'Brien obrienay@lemoyne.edu
Treasurer	Robert Fleischman Robert.fleishman@millipore.com
Councilors	Alyssa Thomas acthomas@utica.edu Kestutis Bendinskas Kestutis.bendinskas@oswego.edu
Dist Del	Sally Mitchell sbmitchell2@gmail.com
Dist Del	John Fleischman John_fleischman@pall.com
Dist. Del.	Donald Dittmer ddittmer@syr.edu
Dist. Del.	Vacant

Committee Chairs

Awards	Alyssa Thomas acthomas@utica.edu
Career Services	Raymond O'Donnell 343-5783
Education	Joy Logan sjlogan@esf.edu
Nominations and Elections	Sally Mitchell sbmitchell2@gmail.com
Public Relations	Bill Ayling aylingwa@verizon.net
Student Affiliates	Robert Stankavage stanky@twcnv.rr.com