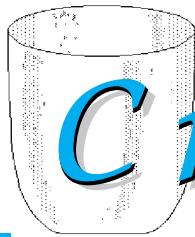




Pittsburgh Section



The Crucible

www.pittsburghacs.org

Volume: C No.10

August 2015

Project SEED 2015 at Duquesne University

Every summer at Duquesne University, eight to ten high school students are chosen to participate in the opportunity of a lifetime. This opportunity is known as the Project SEED program, and it has been in place at Duquesne for over ten years.

Established in 1968, ACS's Project SEED has been providing economically-challenged high school students with a chance to work alongside a mentor who specializes in a particular field of chemistry.

This summer of 2015 marks the 12th year that Duquesne has participated in the American Chemical Society's Project SEED program. This year, nine students will work one-on-one with a professor, graduate student or undergraduate student for eight weeks. Together, they will conduct experiments, record data and results, and work in a college-level laboratory, where they will be able to further study their topic. New, or 1st year students will be under their mentor's direct supervision, and receive a \$2,500 fellowship by the end of the summer. Returning, or 2nd year students, will either continue their research from last year, or begin a new topic, and will

receive a \$3,000 fellowship. By the end of the summer, the participants will not only have expanded their education about a possible career choice, but they will also have made new friends and memories that will last a lifetime.



Cheyeanne Perez prepares a maxi-prep to purify the mutated DNA that she is working with in her project.

Angel Williamson-Wheat, a 1st year SEED participant. Angel's project consists of looking at the properties and transfer of GSR (gunshot residue). She has adapted to working in her lab with her mentor Dr. Wetzel in the few short weeks that she's been here. Angel is an upcom-

ing senior at Taylor Allderdice High School.

Most high school students look forward to their summer vacation—who wouldn't? It's a time to kick back and relax after a possibly stressful and tiring school year. Cheyeanne Perez feels the same. Cheyeanne is a 2nd year SEED student who knows that

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Call for Nominations 2016 ACS Executive Board Pittsburgh Section ACS



Positions to be filled:

Chair-Elect

Secretary

Secretary – Elect

Treasurer – Elect

Director (2)

Councilor/Alternate Councilor

- Nominees must be members of ACS in good standing.
- Nominations are due by September 1, 2015.
- You may self-nominate or nominate any other person you feel would be a good candidate.
- Nominations or any questions regarding positions can be directed to Dr. Amy Rupert at amyerupert@me.com or 610-349-3849 (call or text).

List of Hiring Organizations Updated!

Pittsburgh Section ACS member, Joe Jolson, recently updated the list of Pittsburgh area organizations that hire chemists, chemical engineers and chemical technicians. To view this list [click here](#) or visit the Pittsburgh Section website at www.pittsburghacs.org, click on about us and then click Pittsburgh Section Employment.

Congratulations to Jill E. Millstone 2015 Cottrell Scholar



University of Pittsburgh Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Dr. Jill E. Millstone, was named a 2015 Cottrell Scholar for her work Using Metal-Ligand Chemistry to Understand, Form, and Tailor Nanoscale Alloys. The Cottrell Scholar Award develops outstanding teacher-scholars who are recognized by their scientific communities for the quality and innovation of their research programs and their academic leadership skills. The Cottrell Scholar Award provides entry into a national community of outstanding scholar-educators who produce significant research and educational outcomes.

ACS National Meeting Report by Pittsburgh ACS Travel Grant Award Recipient Paul Jackson

I would like to thank the Pittsburgh section of the ACS for providing funding for me to attend the 249th ACS National Meeting in Denver because it was a great experience. I arrived in Denver the afternoon before the conference started, and my friends who live in Denver drove me to the mountains where we could see Denver in the distance.

Sunday morning the conference began, and I learned my way around the conference center. I attended some interesting presentations on small molecule immune modulation and hydrogen bonding organocatalysts in the medicinal and organic chemistry sessions. I spent Sunday evening at the exposition opening where new technologies were on display. Bench top NMR was one of the most exciting new developments that I learned about.

I spent most of my time in the organic, medicinal, and biological chemistry sessions, but the SciMix poster session on Monday night gave me a chance to see posters from all the divisions. Some of the prominent lectures were Dr. P. Andrew Evans, who talked about new allylic alkylations and methods to generate acyclic quaternary stereocenters. Dr. Sarah Reisman presented her work on the synthesis of pyrroloindoline alkaloid natural products and acyl cross-coupling. Dr. Richmond Sarpong presented strategies for natural product synthesis, and described using the most bridged ring as a key disconnection in retrosynthetic analysis. Dr. Abigail Doyle presented new developments in C-H activation with nickel catalysts. One of the most interesting presentations was Dr. Thomas Hoye's

trapping of benzene intermediates with complex molecules which reacted surprisingly selectively. I also attended the Kavli lecture by Dr. Laura Kiessling about distinguishing mammalian and microbial cells using carbohydrates.

I enjoyed exploring downtown Denver in my free time and visited a variety

of restaurants near the conference center for lunch and dinner throughout the week, although there were many more I would have liked to try.



Tuesday night I presented my poster on the synthesis of guaianolide analogs in the organic poster session. I enjoyed talking about my current research. I stayed in Denver an extra day after the conference ended, and I was able to visit Boulder and Red Rocks Park and Ampitheatre before returning home. Overall, I had a great time at the conference and in Denver. I would encourage everyone to go to an ACS meeting, and I want to thank the Pittsburgh ACS section again for giving me the chance to attend.

Submitted by: Paul Jackson



Blue Bear outside of the Convention Center

In Memory

Pittsburgh Section ACS member, William P. O'Connor, Jr. passed away on March 29, 2015 from complications following a stroke. He was retired as a Chemist with Neville Chemical Company in Pittsburgh, PA and received his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh and later a Masters in Chemistry from Duquesne University. He is survived by fiancee Joyce Bevc.

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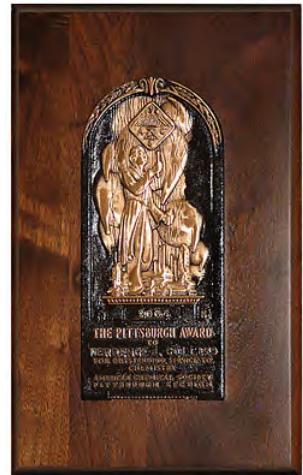
Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society



Call for Nominations

Pittsburgh Section of the ACS Pittsburgh Award

The Pittsburgh Award was established in 1932 by the Pittsburgh Section of ACS to recognize outstanding leadership in chemical affairs in the local and larger professional community. This Award symbolizes the honor and appreciation accorded to those who have rendered distinguished service to the field of chemistry. The Award consists of a plaque presented annually at a section dinner. Members of the Pittsburgh Section, or in exceptional cases, nonmembers, who have done work worthy of recognition toward increasing chemical knowledge, promoting the chemical industry, benefiting humanity, or advancing the Pittsburgh Section, are eligible for consideration.



The Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award was established in 2007 by the Pittsburgh Section of the ACS to expand and replace the predecessor Chairman's Award of the section. Both recognize outstanding volunteer service to the Section. The Award, consisting of a plaque, is presented annually at a Section dinner, which is open to the public. Members of the Pittsburgh Section, past or present, who have provided outstanding service in advancing the Pittsburgh Section, are eligible for consideration.

*

Nominations for both awards are solicited from the membership of the Pittsburgh Section. Please include your contact information, the nominee's contact information, any supporting letters, and the nominee's CV. More information about the awards, including information on past winners can be found on the ACS website:

<http://www.pittsburghacs.org/awards/pittsburgh-award/>

*

DEADLINE EXTENDED!

Please send all nominations to Pittsburgh Section Chair-Elect, Dr. Evonne Baldauff, ebaldauf@waynesburg.edu, by **Tuesday, September 15, 2015**. For more information about the nomination process, contact Evonne at 724-852-7617.

ACS National Meeting Report by Pittsburgh ACS Travel Grant Award Recipient Kaye A. Archer

This past spring I attended the ACS national meeting held in Denver, CO under the auspices of the Pittsburgh ACS Chapter. ACS Denver is the first meeting of this scale that I have attended. At first blush, the size of the ACS meeting can be quite intimidating, but that quickly morphed into excitement. Participants and presenters span the spectrum from industry to academia.

I especially enjoyed the talks in the computational division dedicated to electronic structure methods for polarizable materials, the poster sessions and literature (textbook) displays.



Picture taken at the ACS 2015 Award Ceremony. From left to right: Prof. Richard Wallace (Armstrong Atlantic State University), George C. Shields (Dean of Arts and Sciences Bucknell University and recipient of the ACS 2015 award for research at an undergraduate university, creator and director of Molecular Education and Research Consortium in Undergraduate computational chemistry), Kaye Archer, Prof. William Lynch (Armstrong Atlantic State University, Head of Department of Chemistry and Physics).

The highlight of the conference for me though, was the symposium in honor of Dr. George C. Shields, at which I gave a talk. Dr. Shields received the ACS Award for Research at an Undergraduate Institution. Speakers at this symposium were past students and colleagues of Dr. Shields. The most poignant impression I left this symposium with was that engaging undergraduate students in scientific research is paramount. Scientific research spurred their endeavors regardless of the career to which they eventually gravitated.

As a past student of Dr. Shields I spoke on "Mapping the Potential Energy Surface of H+(H₂O)₂₁". This work was presented on behalf of myself, Tuguldur T. Odbadtakh, Joseph A. Fournier

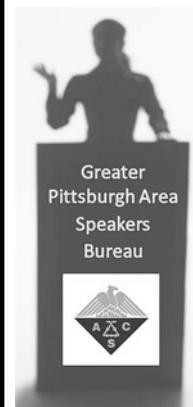
(Yale University), Prof. Kenneth D. Jordan (my current Principal Investigator) and Prof. Mark Johnson (Yale University). This area represents one of the many research interests that is pursued at the Jordan Lab at the University of Pittsburgh. Because of the application to solvation chemistry, atmospheric sciences, etc. this topic garners much interest.

Potential energy surfaces relate energy to structural geometry and offers information about chemical pathways and transition states. Searcy and Fenn (1974) in

a gas phase study of protonated water clusters discovered that H+(H₂O)₂₁ is a "magic number" cluster. Due to an interior bound molecule, H+(H₂O)₂₁ is a distorted dodecahedron. The H₃O⁺ moiety of the H+(H₂O)₂₁ cluster is now known to be located on the surface of the cluster, this was previously a subject of controversy (Castleman and coworkers 1979). Infrared spectroscopy of the H+(H₂O)₂₁ minima reveal a large redshift of ~500 cm⁻¹ of the OH stretch and a blue shift of ~200 cm⁻¹ of the umbrella mode associated with H₃O⁺ (Johnson and coworkers 2014). Decoding these shifts is a current area of interest in our lab.

I would like to thank Pittsburgh ACS for the opportunity to attend ACS Denver.

Attention: Speakers Wanted



The Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society is establishing a local speakers bureau and we would like for you to consider joining.

The speakers bureau will be available on our web site and will facilitate the connection between those organizing symposia and speakers from our area.

If you would like to be listed in the Bureau, please provide the following information:

- Name
- Affiliation
- Contact Information:

Mailing Address
Website (if applicable)
Email address
Phone

- Keywords/categories related to expertise (up to 5)
- Current CV/Resume (in pdf format)

Any questions should be directed to Michelle Ward (muscat@pitt.edu or 412-624-8064)

Peppermint Oil and Cinnamon Could Help Treat and Heal Chronic Wounds

"Nanoparticle-Stabilized Capsules for the Treatment of Bacterial Biofilms"

ACS Nano

Infectious colonies of bacteria called biofilms that develop on chronic wounds and medical devices can cause serious health problems and are tough to treat. But now scientists have found a way to package antimicrobial compounds from peppermint and cinnamon in tiny capsules that can both kill biofilms and actively promote healing. The researchers say the new material, reported in the journal ACS Nano, could be used as a topical antibacterial treatment and disinfectant.



Peppermint oil (above) and cinnamon are key ingredients in a new wound treatment under development.

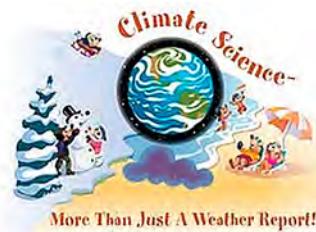
Credit: matka_Wariatka/iStock/Thinkstock

Many bacteria clump together in sticky plaques in a way that makes them difficult to eliminate with traditional antibiotics. Doctors sometimes recommend cutting out infected tissues. This approach is costly, however, and because it's invasive, many patients opt out of treatment altogether. Essential oils and other natural compounds have emerged recently as alternative substances that can get rid of pathogenic bacteria, but researchers have had a hard time

Continued on Page 9



Chemists Celebrate Earth Day 2015 Illustrated Poem Contest



2015 Earth Day Poetry Contest Winners

As part of the American Chemical Society's (ACS) 2015 Chemists Celebrate Earth Day (CCED) celebration, the Pittsburgh Section ACS sponsored a poetry contest for students in grades K-12. Students could pick topics related to the 2015 CCED theme "Climate Science - More Than Just A Weather Report". First place winners were selected in three age categories. Poems could be any style (free verse, limerick, haiku, etc.). Entries were judged based upon relevance to and incorporation of the theme, word choice and imagery, colorful artwork, adherence to poem style, originality and creativity, and overall presentation.

Winning entries received a check for \$50 and the poems were entered into the national ACS CCED poetry contest sponsored by the ACS's Office of Volunteer Support and the Committee on Community Activities. National ACS CCED poetry contest winners were announced in May 2015.

And the winners of the 2015 Pittsburgh Section ACS's CCED poetry contest:

3rd-5th Grade

Carmella McNally (5th Grade), Boyce Middle School (Teacher: Ms. Fleckenstein)

6th-8th Grade

Chloe Kuminkoski (7th Grade), Moon Area Middle School (Teacher: Mrs. Zajicek)

9th-12th Grade

Douglas Gudenburr (11th Grade), Ringgold High School (Teacher: Mrs. Leisure)



Project SEED

Continued from Page 1

the Project SEED program could take up a lot of her summer, but decided to participate nevertheless. She wanted to take advantage of this amazing opportunity, and further her knowledge about her topic. Last year, she focused on certain mutations in DNA.

This year, she has chosen to continue studying her topic, and is looking even deeper into the structure of the serotonin transporters in the brain. Cheyenne, who will be a senior this fall at McKeesport Area High School, feels like she definitely knows more, and is grateful to be a part of this program. "I've gained confidence for presenting my work the more that I do it."

"This is an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," says Jeremiah Jones, a 1st year SEED student and an upcoming senior at Taylor Allderdice High School. Although this is his first year, Jeremiah is continuing his research from a school project, which was studying the adsorption of arsenic by using activated carbon. So far, he says that his time here has been fun, and the people he has met have been very friendly. Jeremiah looks forward to the remainder of his summer here at Duquesne.

In addition to Angel, Cheyenne, and Jeremiah, there are six other students in the program. Amber Latona, a senior from West Mifflin High School, Sarine McKenzie, a sophomore from Carrick High School, Amadou Diallo, a sophomore from Taylor Allderdice High School, Stephen Lau, a junior from Chartiers Valley High School, Jordan Pestok, and Nadeja Kodijo, both juniors from Sto-Rox High School, are also participants in this years' Project SEED program. All of the students are diligent and willingly arrive early and stay late in order to complete their

day's work. Throughout their summer, the Project SEED students will have to write a research paper and construct a poster about their project that will be presented in the upcoming URP Summer Symposium on July 31st at Duquesne University.

This year, Project SEED is made up of nine students: five of which are new to the program and are excited about the opportunity that is before them, and four returning students who appreciated last years' experience so much that they decided to come back. The participants often spend their free time together, and offer support and encouragement to their peers. The Project SEED program is a life changing opportunity, and Duquesne will participate for many years to come.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous financial support from the following organizations: Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh (SSP), Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh (SACP), the Local Pittsburgh Section ACS and the National ACS.

Submitted by: Sarine A. McKenzie,
Project SEED student

Crucible Deadline

The deadline for items submitted to The Crucible is the 1st of the month prior to publication.

For example, all items for the September 2015 issue must be to the editor by August 1, 2015.

S U R | R I S E

our editor by calling and saying you appreciate the quality and content of our newsletter. Our editor works hard to maintain a publication of interest to our membership. Oh, and by the way you could also give credit to our advertisers who financially support us.

Applications for Student Travel Awards Now Being Accepted

The Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society has budgeted funds to help encourage undergraduate/graduate student participation in national and regional ACS meetings. The awards are intended to help defray meeting registration and travel-related expenses (lodging, transportation, per diem) for eligible students. To apply for the funds, one should simply complete the application (available on our web site at www.pittsburghACS.org) and return it by the relevant deadline to:

Pittsburgh Section ACS
Travel Grants
Attn: Dr. Michelle Ward
Room 107 / Chevron Science
Center
219 Parkman Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Each year, the Pittsburgh Section of the ACS will award up to four \$500 grants to aid our undergraduate/graduate student members in presenting papers or posters at ACS Meetings. Awards will be made based on the scientific merit of the paper/poster to be presented and financial need. The deadlines for receipt of applications are 12/01/2015 (for travel to be completed by 06/30/2016) and 06/01/2016 (for travel to be completed by 12/31/2016.)

Our Section is looking forward to helping increase the participation of local students in ACS conferences. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Michelle Ward, muscat@pitt.edu or 412-624-8064.

Pittsburgh Section Recognizes 50 and 60 Year ACS Members

The Pittsburgh Section honored those in the section who have been members of the ACS for 50 and 60 years. Members were recognized at the joint ACS SACP Awards dinner in May.

Congratulations to our 2015 50 Year Members!

Mr. Robert J. Pirkle, Jr.
Dr. James Allen Barter
Dr. Richard Stephen Danchik
Mr. A. Frederick Goellner
Mr. Nickolas Charles Kotow
Dr. Donald H. Lemmon
Mr. Thomas H. Madden
Dr. Howard George McIlvried
Mr. John Edward Petrosky
Dr. Betty Sue Schaughency

Congratulations to our 2015 60 Year Members!

Mrs. Lydia G. Daugherty
Dr. Adolph Vincent Di Giulio
Dr. Chester A. Giza
Dr. Armand J. Panson
Dr. Mordecai D. Treblow
Mr. John J. Tress
Dr. George Leo Vassilaros
Mr. William Michalowicz

Keeping The Smells of Onions, Garlic and Other Stinky Foods Under Wraps

"Nanocellulose-Zeolite Composite Films for Odor Elimination"

ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces

Some of the world's most popular foods and seasonings can also be the smelliest — think garlic, onions, certain cheeses and the notoriously stinky Asian durian fruit. No amount of plastic wrap seems to contain their stench, but now scientists have developed a new film that could finally neutralize the odors of even the most pungent fare. They report their progress in the journal ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces.



A new packaging material could neutralize the smell of onions, garlic and other popular but stinky foods.

Credit: ChamilleWhite/iStock/Thinkstock

The fetid smell of some foods makes it difficult to take them anywhere without offending others such as fellow train or bus riders. But tastes are growing more global, so scientists are looking for ways to transport and store reeking edibles without overpowering the senses of people nearby. They've tested some materials, but their success has been limited so far. Lennart Bergström and colleagues wanted to come up with a better packaging solution.

The researchers developed a film out of zeolites, which are microporous solids containing aluminum and silicon, and cellulose from wood.

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Peppermint Oil and Cinnamon Continued from Page 6

translating their antibacterial activity into treatments. Vincent M. Rotello and colleagues wanted to address this challenge.

The researchers packaged peppermint oil and cinnamaldehyde, the compound in cinnamon responsible for its flavor and aroma, into silica nanoparticles. The microcapsule treatment was effective against four different types of bacteria, including one antibiotic-resistant strain. It also promoted the growth of fibroblasts, a cell type that is important in wound healing.

The authors acknowledge funding from Firmenich, the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

Keeping Smells Under Wraps Continued from Page 8

Testing the material showed that it could trap the sulfur-containing compounds often responsible for bad food smells. This adsorption reduced odors to levels below what humans can sniff out.

Volunteers Needed!

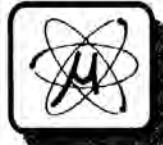
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Volunteers Needed!

There are a number of volunteer opportunities in the Pittsburgh ACS section! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Heather Juzwa at hruzwa@shimadzu.com!

Crucible Deadline

The deadline for items submitted to The Crucible is the 1st of the month prior to publication.

For example, all items for the September 2015 issue must be to the editor by August 1, 2015.

The Crucible

The Crucible is published monthly, August through May. Circulation, 2,500 copies per month. Subscription price, six dollars per year. All statements and opinions expressed herein are those of the editors or contributors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Pittsburgh Section.

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The Crucible

A newsletter of the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society

124 Moffett Run Rd.
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Pittsburgh Area Calendar

University of Pittsburgh, Department of Chemistry, Fall Seminars

Friday, August 21, 2015

Time TBA

Dr. Martin Oestreich

Technische Universitat Berlin

Title: TBA

Thursday, August 27, 2015

Time TBA

Dr. David Masiello

University of Washington

Title: A Taxonomy of the Magneto-Optical Responses of Cyclic Plasmon-Supporting Metal Oligomers

Changes in seminar dates, times and location are not unusual. Before visiting the University of Pittsburgh Department of Chemistry for a seminar, please call 412-624-8200 or check www.chem.pitt.edu for up-to-date information.