

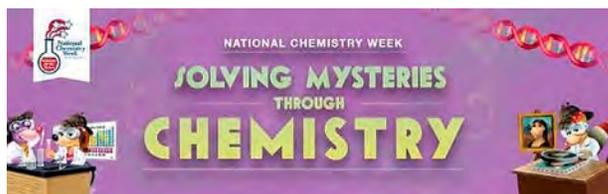


The Crucible

www.pittsburghacs.org

Volume: CII No. 1

September 2016



National Chemistry Week is Coming!!!

Join the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society as we celebrate National Chemistry Week/ChemFest 2016 with the theme

"Solving Mysteries Through Chemistry"

Where: Carnegie Science Center

When: Friday, October 21st (9 AM to 3 PM)

Saturday, October 22nd (10 AM to 4 PM)

What's Happening: Over 20 tables of hands-on experiments, activities, demonstrations, and theater shows.

The Pittsburgh Section ACS could use your help to make this year's NCW celebration a success. Are you interested in volunteering to help with the event? Do you have an organization that would like to sponsor a hands-on activity at the event?

If you, or your organization, are interested in participating in this year's NCW event, please contact:

Michael Mautino

Phone: 412-413-4792

E-mail: michael.mautino@covestro.com

For more information about the NCW celebration in Pittsburgh, visit the Pittsburgh Section's website at <http://www.pittsburghacs.org/outreach/national-chemistry-week/> or look us up Facebook at Pittsburgh ACS NCW. You can also find additional information about NCW on the ACS's website at <http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/outreach/ncw.html>

The Pittsburgh Section's 2016 NCW activities are sponsored in part by The Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh, The Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh, PPG Science Education Council, PPG Industries Foundation, Covestro LLC, and the Carnegie Science Center.

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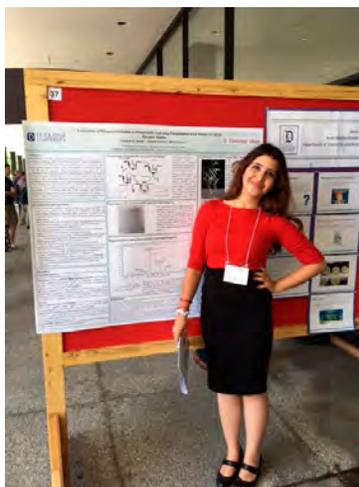
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Another Successful Year of Project SEED at Duquesne University

This summer, Duquesne University welcomed six 1st year students and four 2nd year students to participate in the Project SEED program. The Project SEED program is designed to help economically disadvantaged students gain summer laboratory experience in a chemistry related field. As the 13th summer of Project SEED comes to a close, the participants have each taken the steps needed to complete their final task of the program, which is writing a research paper that outlines the background, goals, experimental methods, results, and future work of their research topic. During their eight weeks, the SEED students participated in two major presentation opportunities: the Covestro field trip and the annual URP Symposium held at Duquesne. At both locations, the students were able to confidently and professionally showcase their college-level research.

“[Project SEED] helped me to see if I would want to study Chemistry or Biochemistry in the future,” says Israa Abdulmottaleb, a 1st year SEED participant and rising junior at Taylor Allderdice High School. Israa’s confidence, focus, and overall eagerness helped her to thrive during her eight weeks of research. She frequently emphasized the importance of thoroughly understanding her topic, so that she would be able to eloquently present her project to others. This was demonstrated at both the Covestro field trip and the annual URP Symposium, where Israa presented her research to an array of scientists and undergraduate students, gaining valuable presentation skills that she can utilize outside of the scientific field. She’s proud of what she has accomplished during her summer at Duquesne University, and she recognizes that through her participation in Project SEED, not only has her English improved significantly, but

her knowledge surrounding science, and her topic in general, has expanded greatly. Israa’s focus was placed particularly on the structure of the serotonin transporter and finding a way to generate better anti-depressants with fewer side-effects. Israa found



Israa Abdulmottaleb presents her research on the serotonin transporter at the annual research symposium at Duquesne University.

this topic particularly intriguing, and is greatly interested in helping others, which has in turn helped her to consider studying pharmaceuticals in the future, though she is interested in dentistry above all. By the end of her eight weeks, Israa has discovered that she enjoys working in an enriching, hands-on environment, and is eager to return next summer.

“Project SEED helped to prepare me for college by requiring me to write papers and simply placing me in a higher education setting,” says Jeramiah Jones, an upcoming freshman at Duquesne University and a 2nd year participant in the Project SEED program. By working in his lab under the supervision of Dr. Partha Basu and graduate student Sara Dille, Jeramiah learned scientific methods and received experience that will

propel him forward during his freshman year. In addition, by conducting his research at both school and Project SEED, Jeramiah was capable of discovering his likes and dislikes in the chemistry field. Jeramiah’s grandfather and siblings inspired him to further his education, and by pursuing a career in chemistry, Jeramiah is certain that he will be able to create a better life not only for himself, but for his family as well.

Continued on Page 8

Call for Nominations 2017 ACS Executive Board-

Positions to be filled

Chair-Elect

Secretary – Elect

Director

Councilor/Alternate
Councilor (2)

Nominees must be members of ACS in good standing. **Nominations due by September 16, 2016.** 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 Mackenzie Speer at mackenzie.speer@gmail.com or (814) 316-5757 (call or text).



Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh



**September Meeting
Monday, September 12, 2016
Duquesne University**

8:00 PM - Duquesne University

“Directing Charge Transfer in Nanoparticle Assemblies”

David H. Waldeck, Ph.D.

**Professor of Chemistry and Director of the Petersen Institute of NanoScience and Engineering
University of Pittsburgh**

Abstract:

We are exploring nanoparticle-based materials for solar to electrical energy transduction. Nanoparticle devices promise to provide a systematic and modular approach to creating supramolecular assemblies of linked nanoparticles that function as charge transfer elements. Our goal is to identify properties of the charge transfer elements and their assemblies that will allow such a device to capture the entire available range of solar irradiance and to efficiently transduce the absorbed energy to separated charges. I will report on recent work in which we explore how to engineer nanoparticle/nanoparticle interfaces and nanoparticle/conjugated polymer interfaces to enhance charge separation and inhibit charge recombination. Particular foci of our effort are aimed at understanding the importance of energy-level gradients, built-in electrostatic potentials, and symmetry/chirality properties to improve the charge-separation efficiency in inorganic-organic hybrid structures.

Biography:

David H. Waldeck obtained a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Chicago in 1983 and was an IBM Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley from 1983 to 1985. In 1985 he began his independent career as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh, where he now serves as Professor of Chemistry and Director of the Petersen Institute of NanoScience and Engineering. David’s research program uses methods of spectroscopy, electrochemistry, and microscopy to investigate primary processes in liquids, solids, and liquid/solid interfaces. In recent years his group has focused their efforts toward understanding the optoelectronic properties of nanoscale assemblies.

Dinner Reservations:

Please email the SACP Administrative Assistant, Valarie Daugherty at daugherty@pittcon.org by Wednesday, September 5, 2016 to make dinner reservations. Should you not have email, please call 412-825-3220, ext 204. Dinner will cost \$10 (\$5 for students) and checks are to be made out to the SACP. If you have any dietary restrictions, please let Valarie know when you leave message.

Parking:

Duquesne University Parking Garage entrance is on Forbes Avenue. Upon entering the garage, you will need to get a parking ticket and drive to upper floors. Bring your parking ticket to the dinner or meeting for a validation sticker. Please contact Duquesne University, if any difficulties should arise.



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, David H. Waldeck, dave@pitt.edu, by Tuesday, September 12, 2016. For more information about the nomination process, contact David at 412-624-8430.

Pittsburgh Section ACS Member Kay Brummond Honored for Diversity Efforts

C&EN ACS News
August 2016

Kay Brummond, chair of the department of chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh, is the recipient of the 2016 Diversity Catalyst Lecturer award, presented by the Open Chemistry Collaborative in Diversity Equity (OXIDE) initiative.

Brummond has revamped the diversity climate within her department by spearheading the introduction of inclusive policies, procedures, and actions.

OXIDE aims to change the academic chemistry infrastructure from the top down by working with the chairs of leading research-active chemistry departments to reduce inequitable policies and practices that have historically led to disproportionate representation on academic faculties with respect to gender, race and ethnicity, disabilities, and sexual orientation.

Pittsburgh Section ACS Energy Technology Group

Tuesday, September 13, 2016

“An Overview of Shell’s Pennsylvania Chemicals Project – Focus on the Environmental & Regulatory Aspects”

H. James Sewell
Environmental Manager, Shell Chemicals

Social Hour 6:00 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM, Talk 7:30 PM

Location TBA

The purpose of this talk is to provide a historical overview of the planned ethane cracker plant to be built in Monaca, PA, our site selection criteria, the proposed facility, key regulatory activities, early works construction activities, and the planned main works construction activities. My talk will describe the process of realizing this project from the initial commissioning phase and to the start-up phase. A perspective on the challenges associated with the regulatory permitting process and lessons learned thus far will be presented in detail. Several of the related environmental aspects of the project will be discussed during the talk as well as the ongoing/planned mitigation efforts that are currently being undertaken by Shell.

Jim has 28 years of professional experience with Shell, including assignments with Shell Chemical Company (current), Shell Exploration and Production Company (Oil & Gas) and Shell Oil Products Company (Pipeline and Distribution). He has supported Shell’s Pennsylvania Chemicals Project since 2015 and has worked in the Commonwealth since 2010. Past assignments include as an environmental regulatory team leader for world-class natural gas fields in the Marcellus region, Pinedale Anticline, Wyoming and environmental project work in Alaska, California, Colorado, Texas, Montana, Louisiana and Oklahoma. Jim’s experience includes dealing with diverse challenges within the industry, such as environmental program development, oil field restoration, habitat revegetation, soil and groundwater monitoring, assessment and remediation, NEPA compliance, operations support (onshore and offshore), and air quality issues.

For reservations, please contact Elliott Bergman at elliott.acstechnology@gmail.com by 5:00 on Sept. 9, 2016. Participants must R.S.V.P and no walk-ins will be accepted. Our meetings are open to all.

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. Awards will be made based on the scientific merit of the paper/poster to be presented, financial need, and preference will be given to ACS members.

To apply for the funds, applicants should complete the attached application and return it by the relevant deadline. The deadlines for receipt of applications are: 06/01 (for travel to be completed by 12/31) and 12/01 (for travel to be completed by 06/30). As noted on the application, students should include an abstract and confirmation (if received) of the paper/poster being accepted for the Meeting. In addition to the application form, applicants should include two recommendation letters (one must be from the PI of the project being presented) and a personal statement as to the anticipated benefits of meeting attendance.

Applications can be made electronically (preferred) by emailing the application to Dr. Michelle Ward (michelle.ward@pitt.edu) or by mailing a hard-copy application (Pittsburgh Section ACS TravelGrants / Attn: Dr. Michelle Ward / Room 107 / Chevron Science Center / 219 Parkman Avenue / Pittsburgh, PA 15260).

This is an ongoing program in our Section, and details will be updated on our web site (www.pittsburghACS.org) as necessary.



50/60 Year ACS Member Dinner

Join members of the ACS Pittsburgh Section as we
honor those members celebrating
50 and 60 Years of ACS Membership

Thursday, September 22nd

5:30 pm Social Hour/ 6 pm Dinner/ 7 pm Presentation
Old Town Buffet (860 Saw Mill Run Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15226)

*Our YCC and student members are welcome and encouraged to attend to
network with our most experienced members.*

Metabolism of the Industrial City: Air, Land and Water

Joel Tarr, Ph.D. Carnegie Mellon University Richard S. Caliguiri University Professor of History and Policy

Reservations must be received by Tuesday, September 20th

The cost of dinner is \$22 and will include full buffet, soft drink, tax, and gratuity. (Dinner is complimentary for each 50/60 Year Member and a guest.) Checks can be made to ACS Pittsburgh Section.

Please complete the form below and return it to Heather Juzwa
(321 Winners Circle, Canonsburg, PA 15317).

Any questions should be directed to Heather at hljuzwa@shimadzu.com or 724-745-2662.

Name: _____

Guest: _____



The Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh



September Meeting
Tuesday, September 27, 2016
Duquesne University

5:30 PM Technology Forum Speaker's Presentation
Power Center Ballroom Section C

5:30 PM Social Hour – Power Center Fides Shepperson Suite

6:45 PM Dinner – Power Center Ballroom Section C

8:00 PM Business Meeting – Power Center Ballroom Section C

8:15 PM Technical Program Speaker's Presentation –
Power Center Ballroom Section C

TECHNOLOGY FORUM

Dr. John Viator,
Chief Scientific Officer, Acousys Biodevices
Program Director and Professor of Biomedical Engineering
Duquesne University

Dr. Viator is the inaugural director of the biomedical engineering program. Most recently, Dr. Viator was an associate professor in both the bioengineering and dermatology departments at the University of Missouri (MU), where he also was a faculty investigator for the Christopher S. Bond Life Sciences Center. In his research lab, Viator and a team of students have been researching better ways to detect melanoma and early detection of additional types of cancer that have metastasized, such as breast cancer.

TECHNICAL PROGRAM - 8:15 PM

"TBA"

Dinner Reservations: Please register on-line at <http://www.ssp-pgh.org> to make dinner reservations NO LATER THAN Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at noon. Dinner will cost \$10 (\$5 for students) and checks must be made payable to the SSP. This month's Main Entrée: Meatloaf (will not contain pork). Vegetarian Entrée: Stuffed Peppers. If you have any dietary restrictions, please indicate them when you RSVP. **Parking Instructions:** The Duquesne University Parking Garage is located on Forbes Avenue. Upon entering the garage, receive parking ticket and drive to upper floors. Pick up a parking chit at the registration desk upon entering the Power Center.



Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh

October Meeting

Monday
October 3, 2016

8:00 PM
Duquesne University

Milan Mrksich, Ph.D.
Northwestern University

Dinner Reservations:

Please email the SACP Administrative Assistant, Valarie Daugherty at daugherty@pittcon.org by Monday, September 26, 2016 to make dinner reservations. Should you not have email, please call 412-825-3220, ext 204. Dinner will cost \$10 (\$5 for students) and checks are to be made out to the SACP. If you have any dietary restrictions, please let Valarie know when you leave message.

Parking:

Duquesne University Parking Garage entrance is on Forbes Avenue. Upon entering the garage, you will need to get a parking ticket and drive to upper floors. Bring your parking ticket to the dinner or meeting for a validation sticker. Please contact Duquesne University, if any difficulties should arise.

Project SEED

Continued from Page 2

“Though this summer’s URP Symposium was bigger and had more presenters, I felt comfortable, and I was able to open up more [to others] as I was presenting my work,” says Angel Williamson-Wheat, who is a 2nd year SEED student, and will be attending



Angel Williamson-Wheat presents her research on the transfer of gunshot residue to the Assistant Dean of the Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences, Dr. Philip Palmer.

Duquesne University as a freshman in the fall. Angel appreciated being able to research something she’s already interested in, and by being a 2nd year student, she was capable of furthering her research in forensic science. Since she’ll be studying forensic science in college as well, Angel will be a step ahead of her classmates when it comes to understanding equipment, such as the SEM (Scanning Electron Microscope), and conducting research in a laboratory setting. Angel enjoyed her final summer in the Project SEED program, and she felt that she was able to bond well with the other SEED students during her eight weeks. Though Angel is moving on into a new chapter of her life by entering college, she admits that Project SEED has helped her prepare for [college], and if given

the opportunity, would recommend Project SEED to other high school students interested in science.

Project SEED has once again succeeded in providing a group of high school students with skills and lab experience



Jeremiah Jones presents his work on using activated carbon to treat arsenic-contaminated water.

that will follow them throughout their lives, regardless of what passion they pursue in the future. Each of the ten SEED participants were presented with a complex, college-level research project at the beginning of their eight weeks, and every participant succeeded in converting their findings into a professional poster, which was then presented at both the Covestro field trip and the annual URP Symposium. Following their presentations, the students individually wrote a research paper, which summarized their findings. During their eight weeks, the SEED participants conveyed versatility and determination when they each adapted to working in their labs and were introduced to difficult material that they were required to learn. By the completion of this summer’s program, each student can leave with the knowledge that though they are high school students, they already have college lab experience due to their participation in Project SEED.

2016 ACS Project SEED Students: First year students- Destiny Lawrence-Brown from Urban Pathways Charter School, Israa Abdulmottaleb from Taylor Alderdice High School, David Donehue and Zachary Opalko from Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy, Asia Parker from Carrick High School, and Gildas Kodjo from Sto-Rox High School. They are all rising juniors. Second year students- Angel Williamson-Wheat and Jeremiah Jones from Taylor Alderdice High School, Jordan Pestok from Sto-Rox High School, and Sarine McKenzie, who is a rising senior from Pittsburgh CAPA. Angel, Jeremiah, and Jordan will all be attending Duquesne University in the fall. They will be majoring in forensic science and law, biochemistry, and pharmacy, respectively.

Article Written by Project SEED Student Sarine McKenzie

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Stay up-to-date on all the happenings of the Pittsburgh Section ACS

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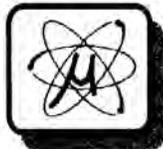
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PITTSBURGH SECTION OFFICERS

Chair

Evonne Baldauff
51 W. College St.
Waynesburg University
Waynesburg, PA 15370
Office: 724-852-7627
Cell: 7654914425
ebaldauf@waynesburg.edu

Chair-Elect

Dave Waldeck
University of Pittsburgh
Room G-10
219 Parkman Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
412-624-8430
dave@pitt.edu

Secretary

Matthew Price
250 University Ave.
California, PA 15419
price@calu.edu
724-938-4153

Treasurer

Kelley Colopietro
2220 Eagles Nest Lane
Monroeville PA 15146
443-617-6792
kelley.colopietro@gmail.com

Services

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 hljuzwa@shimadzu.com!

Crucible Deadline

The deadline for items submitted to The Crucible is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

For example, all items for the October 2016 issue must be to the editor by September 15, 2016.

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.

Design Editor: Traci Johnsen
124 Moffett Run Rd.
Aliquippa, PA 15001
Phone: 724-378-9334
tracijohnsen@comcast.net

Advertising Editor: Vince Gale
MBO Services
P.O. Box 1150
Marshfield, MA 02050
Phone: 781-837-0424
cust-svc@mboservices.net

Career Opportunities

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The Crucible

A newsletter of the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society

124 Moffett Run Rd.
Aliquippa, PA 15001

Change of Address

If you move, notify the American Chemical Society, 1155 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

To avoid interruption in delivery of your CRUCIBLE, please send your new address to Traci Johnsen, 124 Moffett Run Rd., Aliquippa, PA 15001. Allow two months for the change to become effective.

Pittsburgh Area Calendar

Monday, September 12

Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh

“Directing Charge Transfer in Nanoparticle Assemblies”

David H. Waldeck, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry and Director of the Petersen Institute of NanoScience and Engineering, University of Pittsburgh
Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

Tuesday, September 13

Pittsburgh Section ACS Energy Technology Group

“An Overview of Shell’s Pennsylvania Chemicals Project-Focus on the Environmental & Regulatory Aspects”

H. James Sewell, Environmental Manager, Shell
Chemicals
Location TBD

Thursday, September 22

50/60 Year ACS Member Dinner

Old Town Buffet, 860 Sawmill Run Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA

Tuesday, September 27

Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh

Technology Forum

Dr. John Viator, , Chief Scientific Officer of Acousys Biodevices and Program Director and Professor of Biomedical Engineering at Duquesne University

Technical Program

TBA

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

Monday, October 3

Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh

Milan Mrksich, Ph.D., Northwestern University

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

October 21 & 22

National Chemistry Week

“Solving Mysteries Through Chemistry”

Carnegie Science Center, Pittsburgh, PA