2010 CCED Poetry Contest

As part of the 2010 Chemists Celebrate Earth Day (CCED) celebration, the Pittsburgh Section sponsored an illustrated poem contest for students in grades K-12. The topic for the 2010 CCED program was plants, with the theme “Plants - The Green Machines!” First place winners were selected from four grade categories: K-2nd, 3rd-5th, 6th-8th, and 9th-12th. Each winner received a check for $50. First place winners were also entered into the national poetry contest sponsored by the ACS’s Office of Community Activities and Committee on Community Activities. Winners of the national competition were announced on Earth Day, April 22nd. The Pittsburgh Section had no national contest winners in this year’s competition.

For the 2010 contest the Pittsburgh Section received a total 541 entries from 23 schools. The Pittsburgh Section wishes to thank all of the students who submitted entries, as well the teachers who encouraged their student’s participation in the contest.

And the winners of the 2010 Pittsburgh Section illustrated poem contest:

K-2nd Grade
Parv Shrivastava, South Fayette Elementary School

3rd-5th Grade
Emma Wess, Cambria Elementary School

6th-8th Grade
Alec Schoedel, Hopewell Memorial Junior High

9th-12th Grade
Colin Heininger, Hollidaysburg Area High School

Submitted by V. Michael Mautino
CCED Coordinator

The Pittsburgh Section ACS is planning many activities and events for the fall season. Check out the next issue of The Crucible or the Section’s website for details!

http://www.chem.cmu.edu/acs-pgh/

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This year, we had 26 attendees at the Job Searching for Chemical Technician’s workshop and 63 at the Job Searching for Chemical Professional’s workshop. The total of 89 attendees compares favorably with the 73, 68, 67, and 26 that came in 2009, 2008, 2007, and 2006, respectively.

On February 5, 2010, 26 chemical technicians attended the half-day workshop at Bidwell Training Center. During the workshop, Daniel Eustace presented an overview of the job searching process and Joseph Jolson provided information specific to job searching in the Pittsburgh region. Karen Johnson, director of Bidwell’s Chemical Laboratory Technician Program; Iesha Griffin, chemical instructor at Bidwell; and Ellen Woods, VP of development at Manchester Bidwell corporation also attended the workshop.

The attendees showed a high level of interest, liked the mock interview sessions, and asked lots of questions. All had positive comments about the workshop. Several expressed interest in joining the sponsoring societies. Dan said the technician’s workshop is better than anything he is aware of.

The February 6, 2010 Job Searching for Chemical Professionals workshop was postponed after a snowstorm closed the University of Pittsburgh. The rescheduled workshop was held on April 10, 2010. Special thanks go to Don Cescon, Toby Chapman, Gary Hall, Hub MacDonald, Art Probola, Sabina Robinson, and Andy Tkach for arriving just after 8:00 AM to setup and manage the workshop details.

Of the 63 chemical professionals attending the workshop, 52 were students and 11 were mid-career job seekers. Between ¼ and 1/3 of the attendees were chemical engineers. Of the students, half were from the University of Pittsburgh, ¼ were from CMU, and the rest were from nine other colleges and universities in the area. Half were Ph.D. candidates, ¼ were B.S. candidates, and the rest were M.S. candidates and post-docs. Timing of the workshop was ideal for mid-career job seeker and Ph.D. candidates.

During the morning session, Daniel Eustace presented an overview of the job searching process and Joseph Jolson provided information specific to job searching in the Pittsburgh region. Dan was excellent at interacting with the attendees and ran two mock interview sessions. The 1st was with Keith Moquin of the University of Pittsburgh and the 2nd was with Longzhu Shen of Carnegie Mellon University.

After the networking lunch, 55 of the 63 attendees stayed for the afternoon resume review and career counseling session. Don Cescon, Dan Eustace, Richard Dupree, Gary Hall, Hub MacDonald, Joe Jolson, Art Probola, Sabina Robinson, Andy Tkach, and Christine Williamson reviewed resumes and provided career counseling.

All attendees who filled out JSCP evaluation forms had positive comments; however, several indicated that they would like to see more recruiters at the afternoon session. Only Karen Davidson and Brian Hoffman of the FBI staffed a recruitment table.

Despite weather concerns, the committee continues to favor having future workshops in early February. Attendees like getting CD’s with the PowerPoint presentations. Contributions from the ACS, AIChE, SACP, and SSP allow the cost of the 2-day workshop to be managed.

As exemplified by the level of interest shown by the attendees, Dan Eustace is an exceptional speaker who interacts well with attendees. Our workshops are well attended and well received by job seekers in the region.

Submitted by Joseph Jolson
Chair, Professional Relations Committee

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The ACS Local Pittsburgh Section now has its own Facebook and LinkedIn Pages. Be sure to join to stay current with section happenings!

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Pittsburgh Local Section ACS
Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh

September Meeting
Monday, September 13, 2010
8:00 PM
Duquesne University
Laura Falk Hall

Speaker Information:
Joshua J. Coon, Ph.D.
University of Wisconsin

Biography:
Joshua J. Coon, Assistant Professor of Chemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, received the 2010 Pittsburgh Conference Achievement Award. In 1998 Coon completed his B.S. in Chemistry at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant, MI. Coon received his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Florida with Willard Harrison in 2002. At Florida, he developed an ambient ionization technique for peptide analyses that combined laser desorption and atmospheric pressure chemical ionization. Coon then conducted a NIH National Research Service Award Postdoctoral Fellowship in the laboratory of Professor Donald Hunt at the University of Virginia where he and John Syka carried out pioneering work on the development of electron transfer dissociation (ETD). This activation technique is now commonly used for the identification of labile post-translational modifications and for large-scale protein sequencing. In the fall of 2005 he began his current appointment as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Biomolecular Chemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. With emphasis on ion chemistry and instrumentation, his group develops and applies new enabling mass spectrometry-based (MS) proteomic technologies. These cutting-edge tools allow them to examine the molecular events leading to cell differentiation of human embryonic stem cells and the combinatorial combination of histone post-translational modifications in pluripotent stem cells. His research interest also focuses on the development of ETD for intact protein sequencing and on the use and application of algorithms enabling protein/peptide identification from product ion spectra. He holds several patents on MS technologies and has published over 40 peer-reviewed scientific papers. He has been previously recognized with a number of prestigious awards, including the Beckman Young Investigator, the American Society for Mass Spectrometry Research Award, the NSF CAREER Award, the Eli Lilly and Company Young Investigator, and the Ken Standing Award.

Dinner Reservations:
Please email the SACP Administrative Assistant, Valarie Daugherty at daugherty@pittcon.org by Wednesday, September 8, 2010 to make dinner reservations. Should you not have email, please call 412-825-3220, ext 204. Dinner will cost $8 ($4 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. Contact Dr. Mitch Johnson at Duquesne University if any difficulties arise.
The annual Chemistry Olympics were held on Wednesday, May 5, 2010, at the University of Pittsburgh. 25 schools participated in this year’s event.

The event is sponsored by the Department of Chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh and the ACS-Education Group and is supported by grants from the SACP and SSP. Fisher Scientific and V.W.R. donated some of the prizes for the event.

Congratulations to the following winners:

### Category I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Prize</th>
<th>Hampton High School</th>
<th>Teacher: Mr. Ceccarelli</th>
<th>Students: Evan M. Wilson, Connor Disco, Adam J. Van Gorder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second Prize</td>
<td>Mt. Lebanon H.S.</td>
<td>Teacher: Susan G. Meer</td>
<td>Students: Rohan Basu, Stephen Snow, Katelyn Walsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Prize</td>
<td>Penn-Trafford H.S.</td>
<td>Teacher: Helen Loughner</td>
<td>Students: Jordan Ellis, Andrew Ritter, Neal Petro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Prize</td>
<td>Taylor Allderdice H.S.</td>
<td>Teacher: Sally Martin</td>
<td>Students: Mike Durovic, Tess Putinsky, Brian Stack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth Prize</td>
<td>Moon Area H.S.</td>
<td>Teacher: Lana Groer</td>
<td>Students: Sarah Henderson, Jenna Murray, Vidisha Sharma</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Honorable Mention      | Quaker Valley H.S.            | Teacher: Julie Lattanzio| Students: Lauren Newell Ferris, William Newell Ferris, Mericka Brooke McCabe |

### Category II

| First Place            | Mt. Lebanon H.S.              | Teacher: Susan G. Meer  | Students: Nick Brown, Eric Hoffman, Michael Moody          |

### Category III

| First Place            | North Allegheny Senior H.S.   | Teacher: Matt Davis     | Students: Adrianna Jensen, Aidan MacDonagh, Matt Poole     |
| Second Place           | Taylor Allderdice H.S.        | Teacher: Sally Martin   | Students: David Clemens-Sewall, Helen Kim, Eva Petzinger   |
| Third Place            | Gateway H.S.                  | Teacher: Tim Lattanzio  | Students: Melissa Bastacky, James Castiglione, Bharani Rajaram |
| Fourth Place           | Penn Trafford H.S.             | Teacher: Helen Loughner | Students: Devon Albert, Michael Hartz, Michelle Yakubisin  |

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American Chemical Society
Emerges from 2009 Financially Healthy

WASHINGTON, April 26, 2010  The 2009 American Chemical Society Annual Report is now available online at www.acs.org/annualreport. The report stresses that the Society remains financially healthy and committed to providing its more than 161,000 members with the best programs, products and services to further their careers and advance their science.

While acknowledging that 2009 was one of the most economically difficult years in decades, the report emphasizes that ACS successfully rose to this challenge, launching several new initiatives and reinventing or reinvigorating others to help its members and other scientists and engineers continue to improve people’s lives through the transforming power of chemistry.

The 2009 ACS annual report also has all of the traditional features of an ACS annual report including the Society’s financial information, ACS-by-the-Numbers, and the Officers’ Message.

In their Officers’ Message, ACS Board Chair Judith L Benham, ACS President Thomas H. Lane and ACS Executive Director & CEO Madeleine Jacobs concluded, “We will continue to deliver products and services that our current and future members and other stakeholders value. We will continue to provide them with the tools they need to enhance their skills, further their research and advance their careers. That’s been our pledge for more than 130 years. And we remain committed to it.”

ACS Cut and Paste May/June 2010

ACS Members Engage Policy Makers

ACS local section government affairs committees from across the country met with members of Congress this spring, urging them to support basic research and investment in science. In addition, the local section members asked their legislators to keep science bipartisan and support the reauthorization of the America COMPETES Act.

Over 30 ACS members representing more than twenty local sections met with 55 members of Congress. These meetings resulted in a growing support for science and technology issues and a Chemical and Engineering News editorial by Senator Ted Kaufman (D-DE) (http://pubs.acs.org/isubscribe/journals/cen/88/i14/html/8814editor.html).

You can also engage policy makers and explain the nature and value of chemistry to them. Simply go to http://www.acs.org/policy and click on “ACS Member Advocacy.”

ACS Cut and Paste May/June 2010

Need to Practice your Interviewing Skills?
Build Interviewing Skills with InterviewStream

If you’re an ACS member looking for a new job, then ACS Careers has just made a great new tool available to you: Using InterviewStream, you can record a practice interview using a webcam, then get feedback on your interview skills from your friends, your colleagues, and ACS Career Consultants.

InterviewStream’s development module will provide you with the tools to learn about the interview process, conduct practice interviews, and receive feedback from ACS Career Counselors. InterviewStream users report a reduction in interviewing anxiety by an average of 35%. Your interview profile can be recorded from the privacy of your own computer at anytime or at the Career Fair in the Job Seeker Area by logging into your ACS Careers account and clicking View Demonstration on Interview Profile by going to:
http://practice.interviewstream.com/demonstration/acs/InterviewStream%20ACS.htm
Or to www.acs.org/careers under the job seeker section.

ACS Cut and Paste May/June 2010
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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 Jim Manner at manner1@comcast.net!

**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 2010 issue must be to the editor by August 1, 2010.

**The Crucible**
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Pittsburgh Area Calendar

Monday, September 13

Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh
Joshua J. Coon, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin
Duquesne University Ballroom, Laura Falk Hall

Tuesday, September 21

Pittsburgh Section ACS Younger Chemists Committee
2010 Kickoff Bowling Mixer
Arsenal Bowling Lanes, 44 & Butler St., Pittsburgh, PA

Additional chemistry related seminars and events in the Pittsburgh area can be found on the Pittsburgh Section’s website at http://www.chem.cmu.edu/acs-pgh/