



Green Mountain Local Section of the American Chemical Society

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Green Mountain Section website:
<http://membership.acs.org/g/greenmt>

Officers 2012

Chair..... Heather Bean
Chair-Elect..... open
Secretary..... Jody Chamberlain
Treasurer..... Beth Medeiros
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Alternate Councilor Jeffrey Byers

Committee Chairs

PR/Web Master..... Fiona Case
Awards Michele Johnson
Gov't Affairs Sarah Locknar
Newsletter Editor... Willem Leenstra



Upcoming Events

Summer 2012 – We are trying to plan a fun outing on a Vermont summer day. Send suggestions.



ACS website: www.Chemistry.org

GMLS May Newsletter

“Sports Doping”

Date: Thursday, May 10, 2012

Time: Talk at 6:00 PM -- Dinner to follow



Speaker: **Thomas C. Werner, Emeritus Professor
Union College
Schenectady, NY**
[biography can be found on the next page]

Title: **“Doping in Sports: How Chemists Catch
the Cheaters (Sometimes)”**
[abstract can be found on the next page]

Location: **Jeffords Center, Room 122
Castleton State College
Castleton, Vermont**

For directions to the college, use the Castleton State College link:
www.castleton.edu/mapfolder/directions.htm. Once on the campus, the talk's venue, the Jeffords Center, can be found at
http://www.castleton.edu/mapfolder/CSC_Map_2010_web150.pdf

Dinner: **Blue Cat Bistro
575 Main Street
Castleton, Vermont**

If you wish to join us for dinner after the talk, please RSVP Jody Chamberlain via e-mail to Jody.Chamberlain@omya.com as soon as possible for an approximate headcount, but by the end of the business day, **Tuesday, May 11** if possible. For directions, join the caravan, or use maps.google.com.

Biography for Dr. Thomas Werner



This month's invited speaker, Tom Werner, received a B.S. in Chemistry from Juniata College and a Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from MIT. After postdocs at Harvard and Tufts Medical Schools, he taught for 36 years at Union College (Schenectady, NY), retiring as Florence B. Sherwood Professor of Physical Sciences Emeritus in December, 2007. Werner has served as Principal Investigator on several external grants awarded for the support of undergraduate research including funding from Petroleum Research Fund, Research Corporation, NSF-ILI, NSF-AIRE, and the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation. Werner served as Chair of the Board of Governors of the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR), as Director of the NCUR/LANCY Initiative and as a NCUR Board Member. In 2002, he received the American Chemical Society Award for Research at an Undergraduate Institution.

Abstract of This Month's Talk



The alleged use of performance-enhancing drugs has tainted athletic accomplishments since the beginning of sporting competition. Contemporary examples of this sports "doping" problem appear almost daily in the news: pro cycling is brought to its knees by doping allegations, resulting in the loss of sponsorship, the BALCO case and the Mitchell Report pummel Major League Baseball with evidence of steroid use and drug-testing concerns becomes a higher profile issue at the Olympics. The talk will focus on the methods that chemists use to detect sports doping with substances such as amphetamine, steroids, human growth hormone and EPO. Limitations of these methods will be discussed, along with a listing

of some of the enormous challenges facing chemists as newer doping substances and methods become available. The talk is based on a Union College course entitled *Chemistry and Athletic Performance*, which was developed by the speaker with the collaboration of Dr. Don Catlin and staff at the UCLA Olympic Analytical Laboratory, and at Anti-Doping Research, Inc., an independent research company.

Report of the GMLS Visit to the State House

On Friday, April 13, the ACS Green Mountain Local Section held a legislative action committee event at the Vermont State House in Montpelier. The event was held in the Card Room, an area set aside for organizations and lobbyists. A wealth of information via brochures, posters, and personal interaction introduced interested legislators to the ACS and our local section. Highlighted were the current chemistry activities within the state, and specifically the importance of STEM (science technology engineering and mathematics) education.



The GMLS legislative action committee, Deb Gaynor, Sarah Locknar, and Fiona Case, were joined by the organizers of the Vermont Math and Science Fair, Trish Finkle and Carl Pinkham. Also invited were the students who won the 2012 ACS Chemistry Awards at the Fair to present their posters, along with their parents and Mary Varhue, chemistry teacher at St. Francis in Winooski who mentored one of the winners. This display of young-scientist acumen attracted much interest!

The day started early at 7:00 a.m. The Card Room is strategically positioned near the cafeteria, so many early visitors stopped by, including legislators, lobbyists, state house staff and visitors who were on their way to pick up their morning coffee before the legislative session began. At the start of business the GMLS-sponsored Science Fair winners Jenna Keith (Rutland High School), Marlynn Serwili (St Francis Xavier School) were officially recognized by the house speaker and received a round of applause in the house chamber. Not able to be present was the third winner, Samuel Hall (Weathersfield School). [See April's newsletter for more on the winners.]

In the Card Room, the students were able to present their posters to their own representatives. Joining the forum was Gunther Schule (South Burlington High School) whose chemistry-related poster also won a Science Fair prize. A number of school groups were visiting the State House, allowing the opportunity to speak to them about chemistry. Many folks were surprised to learn that there are over 250 chemists living in the state!



The hot topic of the day was legislation on labeling for genetically modified foods. Although ACS does not have an official stance on the topic, the chemists present were able to explain to several legislators the science behind the issues, and participate in the discussion on the pros and cons of this approach to food production. All in all it the event can be characterized as a resounding success in that the awareness of chemistry in the state was increased, many important contacts were made.

Thank You & Farewell to Fiona and Martin Case

Martin, Fiona and Ben Case will be leaving Vermont to make the San Diego area their next home, as Martin embarks on a research career with Janssen Pharmaceuticals (a division of Johnson & Johnson). Please join the Executive Committee of the GMLS in extending Fiona, Martin and Ben our best wishes in their next life adventure in California.



Martin and Fiona joined our local section in 2004. Both have been active and enthusiastic members. Martin has served as our Alternate Councilor for two terms (2005-2010). Most significant was his role as Program Chair of the Northeast Regional Meeting which our section hosted in 2008 (NERM2008), and whose success was due in large part to the interesting, current, and diverse program Martin developed.



Martin at the 2006 NCW chemical demo mall event

Fiona also put in a tremendous effort as Marketing Chair for NERM2008. In addition to that, she has served as the section's Webmaster and Public Relations Chair for the past 7 years. Most notably, after becoming Chair-Elect in 2005, Fiona served five successive terms as GMLS Chair, 2006-2010. Her remarkable service was recognized in 2010 when she was awarded the GMLS "Emerald Award" for service to the section.



Fiona at the 2008 NCW chemical demo mall event

Both Martin and Fiona have been regulars as judges representing our GMLS at the Vermont State Science Fairs. Both have participated in, and organized National Chemistry Week events: demonstrations at local malls.

We will truly miss their enthusiasm, cheerfulness, and dedication. Thank you, and bon voyage!

GMLS Positions Open

We are still looking for an interested people to fill two positions in our local section volunteer structure. If you have some experience in maintaining web sites, the GMLS would very much appreciate a few hours per month of your free labor updating our web site. Check it out at: <http://membership.acs.org/g/greenmt>.

Also, we need some new blood in the leadership of the section. The Chair-Elect position is currently not occupied. Experience is not necessary, only your willingness to volunteer in your professional organization is needed.

If interested in either position, please contact Chair Heather Bean at: beanchemist@gmail.com.