



Green Mountain Local Section of the American Chemical Society

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

Officers 2010

Chair..... Fiona Case
Chair-Elect..... Open
Secretary..... Jody Chamberlain
Treasurer..... Beth Medeiros
Councilor..... Willem Leenstra
Alternate Councilor..... Martin Case

Committee Chairs

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



Upcoming Events

October 16 – OMYA Open House

October 17-23 – National Chemistry Week



ACS website: www.Chemistry.org

GMLS September 2010 Newsletter

“Cruising on Lake Champlain”



Date: Wednesday, September 22, 2010
5:30 p.m.

Event: Captain's Dinner Cruise



**on the Spirit of Ethan Allen III
by the Burlington Boat House
bottom of College Street, Burlington**

The ship sails promptly at 5:30, so you must be at the boarding site by 5:20 p.m. There will be a plated dinner served, at a cost of \$30 to our section members and guests, which is a substantially subsidized discount from the standard price of \$44. Entertainment will be provided on board. We are scheduled to be back by 8:00 p.m. Please RSVP via email by Friday, September 17 to greenmntacs@yahoo.com

Project SEED Students

The ACS Project SEED summer research program opens new doors for economically disadvantaged students to experience what it's like to be a chemist. Students entering their junior or senior year in high school are given a rare chance to work alongside scientist-mentors on research projects in industrial, academic, and federal laboratories, discovering new career paths as they approach critical turning points in their lives. This year the ACS Green Mountain Local Section provided partial support for students in the laboratories of Martin Case and Rory Waterman at UVM.

Sierra Costanza of South Burlington returned for her second summer experience and continued with Prof. Waterman. This summer, Sierra prepared complexes of platinum and iridium as potential catalysts for the dehydrocoupling of phosphines. Though her platinum complex was not a catalyst, it did display interesting equilibrium binding of the formally Pt(0) complex to primary phosphines. The iridium complex that she prepared is new, and Sierra's efforts will bring the Waterman group an inroad into looking at iridium chemistry.

Two new students joined the program. Logan Corbiere from Milton worked in the laboratories of Prof. Case. Logan's efforts involved the application of the ubiquitous "click" reaction ([3+2] cycloaddition of organic azides and alkynes) to capture stable protein-like structures. Aya Al-Namee from South Burlington worked in the laboratories of Prof. Rory Waterman on the synthesis of group 4 metal complexes with nitrogen-based ligands for application in dehydrocoupling catalysis. Both students made progress in their respective projects, and we look forward to having both Logan and Aya back next year as Summer II students.

Of note is that one of our returning students, Blake Ingram of Burlington, did not make the financial cut-off established nationally by Project SEED. Section member Prof. William Geiger understood the importance of this experience for Blake and hired him directly for the summer, which allowed Blake to continue his studies of electrochemical catalysis. Blake has started as a matriculating student at UVM this fall.

Former Project SEED students Stephanie Chan and Amsal Karic report excellent first and second years in college, at Dartmouth College and the University of Rochester, respectively.



Report from our Councilor, Willem Leenstra

I attended the Council meeting at the Fall National Meeting, held in Boston, Massachusetts, August 22-26, 2010. Attendance was good at over 14,059 registrants. Totals in select categories were as follows: regular attendees 8,211; students 3,230; guests 393; exhibit-only 733; and exhibitors 1,492. What follows are the highlights and more interesting announcements from that meeting.

2011 President-Elect Candidates

By electronic ballot, the Council selected Luis A. Echegoyen from the University of Texas, El Paso and Bassam Z. Shakhashiri from the University of Wisconsin, Madison as candidates for 2011 President-Elect. These two candidates will be voted on by the entire ACS membership in the fall national election. As you probably know, this slate alternates between candidates from academia, and non-academic candidates.



Special Discussion Item

A special discussion item was put on the Council agenda for this meeting. ACS President Joseph Francisco invited the Council Policy Committee Vice Chair to present a proposal to move Council meetings from Wednesdays to Tuesdays. The proposal included survey results from Councilors and other stakeholders followed by a robust discussion on the pros and cons of a move. Councilors concluded their discussion with a straw poll that showed 128 are supportive of the proposed move of Council to Tuesdays, 225 oppose the move, and 56 are undecided. The Council Policy Committee and the Board of Directors will decide by spring 2011 whether the Council should move from Wednesday to Tuesday.

As your Councilor, my current activity is to serve on the Council Policy Committee (CPC) to which I was elected by fellow Councilors one year ago. At CPC meetings, the predominant concern was that the "center of gravity" of the meeting might move to an earlier time than it already is, thereby further reducing attendance at Thursday presentations. One potentially positive outcome would be to encourage moving some of the more highly visible presentations to later days in the meeting. Clearly much input still needs to be sought from the technical divisions. If you have an opinion, I welcome your suggestions, and will bring them forward to CPC as we discuss this issue further at the Spring National Meeting. Contact me at Willem.Leenstra@UVM.edu.

Report from the Government Affairs Committee

by Sarah Locknar

The Government Affairs committee (Sarah Locknar, Ralph Stuart and Deb Gaynor) met with Peter Welch's office in July about the America COMPETES Act which ensures funding for chemical education, DOE Office of Science, NSF and NIH. During our discussion, we focused mainly on the K-12 science education funding aspect of the bill. Although Vermont's schools test very well in science compared to the rest of the US, there is always room for improvement.



As we all know, doing science often requires the use of specialized equipment, which makes funding science education even more important. As the name of the act suggests, a scientifically literate workforce leads to greater competitiveness of our nation as a whole. Representative Welch ended up voting to reauthorize the America COMPETES Act, helping it pass through the House. We are planning on meetings with Senator Leahy's and Senator Sanders's offices in the near future to stress the importance of this piece of legislation. If you'd like to become involved with the Government Affairs committee, please send an email to Sarah at slocknar@greentechvt.com.

Annual Open House at Omya's Marble Quarry



The 10th annual Middlebury Marble Quarry Open House will be held on Saturday October 13, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., rain or shine! Guided bus tours into the quarry will visit areas for rock and mineral collecting, drilling and blasting, and the history and operation of the quarry.

Kids will especially enjoy the huge trucks and loaders, and the opportunity to win a prize in a scavenger hunt. Refreshments will be offered. More information and directions can be found at omyainvermont.org, or contact Alice Blount at 802-770-7267.

Coffee and Beer at the May Meeting

On Wednesday, May 26 the GMLS met for a tour of Green Mountain Coffee Roasters in Waterbury, Vermont. The company has seen a meteoric rise to national prominence, which was shown through a multi-screen video presentation. We then headed to the nearby Alchemists brew pub for a short brewery tour and dinner.



National Chemistry Week

National Chemistry Week (NCW) is a community-based annual event that unites ACS local sections, businesses, schools, and individuals in communicating the importance of chemistry to our quality of life. In the past the Green Mountain Local Section has marked the occasion with a chemistry show at ECHO, with a chemistry quiz in local newspapers, and with hands-on chemistry events for children at local malls. This year we hope to once more offer hands-on chemistry for children, in the Rutland and/or Burlington area, on Saturday October 23. If you are interested in participating and sharing your love of science with the next generation please let Fiona know via greenmntacs@yahoo.com. It is great fun, and no experience is needed!

