“SLiThEr – Supporting Learning with Interactive Teaching: a Hosted, Engaging Roundtable”

Speaker: Chip Nataro, Lafayette College

Thursday, November 18th / 7:00 pm

Online Zoom [Link] Meeting ID: 865 9674 1438 Password: 068522

The Interactive Online Network of Inorganic Chemists (IONiC) is a community of transformation dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of inorganic chemistry. When the pandemic reached the US, the community responded in a variety of ways to help each other make the adjustments we all faced in our classes. From how to Zoom to developing remote laboratory experiences, IONiC helped countless members get through the spring semester of 2020 offering students the best experience possible given the circumstances. As the summer continued and the shutdowns remained, the leadership of IONiC sought out new ways to keep the community engaged. This was the origin of what has become a biweekly series of presentations/discussions on any topic that might be of interest to the community. The first step was creating a name for this series. The chosen name was Supporting Learning with Interactive Teaching: A Hosted, Engaging Roundtable or SLiThEr, keeping with our snake motif and being able to spell things out with element symbols. Once that was decided upon, the format for the first SLiThEr was developed. These would be 20-30 presentations with time for Q&A after. We would have people sign up to prevent Zoom-bombing and we would record these to post on our YouTube channel. The first SLiThEr happened on July 7th, 2020. It was by Kyle Grice at DePaul and focused on materials he created having to move his inorganic lab online. Since that time, we have hosted 26 additional SLiThErs with topics including alternative assessment, mental health, flipping the classroom, scaffolding oral exams and searching for a job at a PUI. The leadership of ‘Team SLiThEr’ now consists of 6 people, half of which are members of the IONiC leadership team. This presentation will cover background on the IONiC community, the development of the SLiThEr series and will provide a sneak peek into some of the interesting things we have learned along the way.

CONTACT: Lindsey Welch lawelch@cedarcrest.edu
LVACS Events Calendar

**November 2021**

Monthly Section Meeting (Virtual Format)
“SLiThErs - Supporting Learning with Interactive Teaching: a Hosted, Engaging Roundtable”
Speaker: Chip Nataro, Lafayette College
Thursday, November 18th / 7:00 pm
Online Zoom [Link](#)
Meeting ID: 865 9674 1438  Password: 068522
CONTACT: Lindsey Welch [lawelch@cedarcrest.edu](mailto:lawelch@cedarcrest.edu)

**January 2022**

Networking Event
“Creating a Community of Practice for Faculty Mentoring Undergraduate Research in the Lehigh Valley”
Part I: Why Don't We Collaborate?
  - Identifying overlaps with research areas among LVACS faculty & speed networking event for faculty to meet others and share ideas.
Facilitators: Lindsey Welch, Cedar Crest College
  Fran Mayville, DeSales University
Date/Time/Format TBA
CONTACT: Lindsey Welch, [lawelch@cedarcrest.edu](mailto:lawelch@cedarcrest.edu)

**Also In This Issue...**

3. LVACS Elections 2021:
   Nomination Deadline Extended!

4-7. National Chemistry Week event reports: Mole Day at Da Vinci Science Center and Illustrated Poem Contest Entries.

8. LVACS Career Page: Local Opportunities.


10-11. LVACS in the news: Lee Silverberg of PSU/Berks creates novel compounds shown to manage parasites.

12. 2022 Chemistry Olympiad kicks off with call for students/mentors.

13. 2021 Executive Committee.

>>>ADVERTISEMENT: LOCAL RESEARCHER SEEKS COLLABORATION AND LAB SPACE<<<

Dr. Hoon Kim has been working in lubricants for 20 years. He wants to improve lubricant for hair care clipper product lines and seeks a chemistry student or faculty member to partner with him. [https://nisusacorp.com/meet-niss-team-dr-hoon-kim-director-of-technology/](https://nisusacorp.com/meet-niss-team-dr-hoon-kim-director-of-technology/)

Dr. Kim would like to work with someone and acquire the use of lab space to:
1. mix component chemicals to create 1-5 drums of nontoxic synthetic anti-infective hair clipper oil for customer trials
2. need analytical support - chemical analysis (control viscosity measurement)
3. willing to pay $2000-$2500 per month for lab space

CONTACT: coboshin@yahoo.com

CONTACT: Nigel Sanders, LVACS secretary and newsletter editor, [nigel53.sanders@gmail.com](mailto:nigel53.sanders@gmail.com)
LEHIGH VALLEY ACS ELECTIONS 2021

NOMINATIONS DEADLINE EXTENDED TO NOVEMBER 15TH

Mike Bertucci, bertuccm@lafayette.edu, Nominations Committee Chair for 2021, continues to accept nominations for the offices of Chair-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Councilor/Alternate. The responsibilities of these offices are described below. Contact Mike to nominate a colleague for one or more of these offices (including yourself).

CHAIR-ELECT. Presides in the absence of the Chair and acts as chair of the Program Committee which plans and arranges the section's meeting programs for the academic year commencing in the fall. In addition, the chair-elect serves as the primary speaker planner for the section and has access to the ACS Online Speaker Directory (www.speakers.acs.org). The Chair-elect will succeed to the position of Chair in 2023 and to the position of Immediate Past Chair in 2024.

SECRETARY. Maintains the membership list and other section records including the section’s membership roster, downloadable monthly from the ACS website. Each year, the section secretary must certify to the ACS Executive Director the names and terms of office of all section councilors and alternate councilors. The secretary is depended upon for section administration, including recording and maintaining a complete file of minutes of all general membership and executive committee meetings, retaining documents of importance and writing regular section correspondence. The secretary also publishes meeting notices, newsletters and distributes election ballots.

TREASURER. Receives and disburses the section’s operating funds and is responsible for accounting for all section moneys, including annual ACS allotments, local membership dues, program revenues, investments and expenses. The treasurer is expected to maintain accurate financial records for the section and prepare budgets and periodic reports on the section's fiscal condition. The treasurer is also responsible for filing Internal Revenue Service Forms and for preparing the annual section financial report for ACS.

ACS COUNCILOR and ALTERNATE COUNCILOR. Serve 3-year terms. There are presently two councilors and two alternates serving overlapping terms with one year in every three having no council election. Councilors (and Alternates, if so appointed) represent the section at ACS Council meetings and report actions of Council to the section at meetings and in section newsletters and other media. They attend the National ACS meetings and may serve on National Committees as appointed. Customarily, the candidate receiving the second-highest number of votes is Alternate.

The Chair-elect, Secretary and Treasurer are officers of the Section and members of the Executive Committee, the Governing body of the Section. Together with the Chair, the Immediate Past Chair, the ACS Councilors/Alternate Councilors and up to 2 at-large members appointed by the Chair each year, the EC conducts, manages, and directs the business and affairs of the Section in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of ACS and the Section. All members in good standing are eligible to serve in these positions with the exception that Student Members may not serve as treasurer or ACS Councilor/Alternate.
Volunteers from the Lehigh Valley Section celebrated Mole Day with visitors to the Da Vinci Science Center on October 23rd (when else?) with exhibits and demonstrations illustrating this year’s National Chemistry Week theme, “FAST/OR SLOW...Chemistry Makes It GO!” The group, consisting of representatives from across the section area, presented the importance of chemical kinetics and catalysis to approximately 100 parents and kids by showing how heat, concentration and catalysts/inhibitors affect chemical reaction rates. They explained the science involved by analogy with macroscopic collisions and by citing examples of important catalysts such as enzymes and industrial catalysts. Hands-on demonstrations of the effect of temperature on rate with ‘Pop Rocks’ and light sticks as well as the effect on apple browning rate of additives (vinegar, lemon juice, salt, sugar) motivated young visitors to learn by doing experiments. The Great Reaction Race Game further cemented the key concepts of managing reaction conditions and catalysts in ‘Making the Chemistry Go.’ Once an hour, the ‘inflationary’ chemistry of airbags was demonstrated (very carefully!) with decomposition of sodium azide, NaN₃, and then NaN₃/KNO₃ mixtures. LVACS thanks Jennifer Pors and the Education staff of DSC for generous support of this event. Download the event’s poster slide show here.

Volunteers (L-R) Bridget Corpus and Samantha Greenberg (Lafayette College), Jane Bedell (Parkland High School, retired), Philip Elias (Muhlenberg College), Christopher Neff, Steve Boyer and Nigel Sanders (East Stroudsburg University) wave the ACS NCW banner in front of Da Vinci Science Center’s Inquiry Island teaching space. [not pictured: Cherryann Joseph (Liberty University)]

LEHIGH VALLEY ACS SECTION CELEBRATES MOLE DAY 2021 AT DA VINCI SCIENCE CENTER
LEHIGH VALLEY ACS SECTION CELEBRATES MOLE DAY 2021 AT DA VINCI SCIENCE CENTER

Steve Boyer explains inhibition of apple browning.

Samantha Greenberg (L) and Bridget Corpus welcome visitors to the LVACS exhibit.

Jane Bedell officiates the Great Reaction Race Game.

Chris Neff helps give light sticks a bath (hot vs. cold).

My very first mole and periodic table!

Cherryann Joseph and Philip Elias help a young experimenter measure out some Pop Rocks®: can we speed that taste explosion up?
LEHIGH VALLEY ACS SECTION CELEBRATES MOLE DAY 2021 AT DA VINCI SCIENCE CENTER

We just love chemistry!

Jennifer Pors, Da Vinci Science Center education staff, printed a special blown-up version of the Great Reaction Race.

Are we going to put candy into water or water into candy?

While humans discuss self-inflating balloons, Moles discuss tunneling rates...
LVACS CELEBRATES ART AND SCIENCE: NCW ANNUAL ILLUSTRATED POEM CONTEST

Four students submitted original poetry paired with illustrations to the annual National Chemistry Week Illustrated Poem Contest local section competition. Lindsey Welch (LVACS Chair-elect and NCW Coordinator) and Nigel Sanders (LVACS Secretary) were pleased to review their work and congratulate them on their efforts! Winners in each grade group (K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12) have been submitted to the National ACS competition – good luck to the winners! TAKE A LOOK...

Tucker Bellanca, Muhlenberg HS

Ridhwan Sackoor, Muhlenberg HS

Avery Langston, Grade 2, Greenwich-Lenhartsville Elementary

Douaa Abdeljabbar, Muhlenberg HS
LEHIGH VALLEY ACS CAREER PAGE

Career Guidance

Check out the Career page on our website lvacs.org/careers for a wealth of information on the services provided by LVACS to chemists at all stages of their careers. Online courses, 1-on-1 consulting, professional development grants and the ACS Career Navigator™ package are some of the benefits offered to ACS members to assist in planning and executing your career. Greglynn Gibbs, Research Support Technician & Lab Manager in the PSU/Berks Chemistry Department and ACS Career Consultant, would be happy to assist any member seeking more information. Gdw104@psu.edu

Chemistry Job Listings

The Lehigh Valley Section of the American Chemical Society posts specific job opportunities as they become known to us. These listings are posted to aid LVACS members in their career development and do not reflect a recommendation of these institutions by LVACS.

Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Moravian University

MORAVIAN UNIVERSITY, a comprehensive liberal-arts university that grants BS and ACS-certified degrees in Chemistry, located in Bethlehem, PA, invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professor position in chemistry beginning Fall 2022. A PhD in organic or a related area of chemistry is required. The major teaching responsibilities will be organic chemistry courses. We seek candidates motivated to contribute to other parts of the major and/or liberal arts curriculum based on interest and needs of the department. Peer-reviewed research that engages undergraduates is expected. Full consideration is guaranteed for all complete applications received by November 13, 2021. The university values equality and diversity, and strongly encourages women and historically underrepresented minority applicants to apply for this position. For more information about the position and details on submitting an application visit the Moravian University job opportunities site: https://www.moravian.edu/hr/employment/job-opportunities

Biochemistry Assistant Professor, West Chester University

West Chester University of Pennsylvania’s Department of Chemistry invites applicants for the position of a Biochemist at the tenure-track Assistant Professor level beginning Fall of 2022. Join a vibrant campus community whose excellence is reflected in its diversity and student success. The Department of Chemistry is ACS-approved and has an excellent reputation of providing the highest quality of chemical education to undergraduate students at a State-school price. We seek others who share our commitment and mission. A Ph.D. in Biochemistry or Chemistry is required (must successfully defend by June 1, 2022). Applicants must demonstrate a strong background in Biochemistry through academic training and productive active research. Preferred qualifications include undergraduate or graduate level teaching experience, curricular development experience, and grant writing experience. Applicants will submit a letter of interest, CV, undergraduate and graduate transcripts, a statement of teaching philosophy, and a statement of research interests to the WCU NeoGov system by November 15, 2021 http://agency.governmentjobs.com/wcupa/default.cfm For questions, contact Monica Joshi, Professor of Chemistry, at mjoshi@wcupa.edu

Senior Polymer Chemist, Cytosorbents

CytoSorbents, a critical care immunotherapy leader, specializes in blood purification technologies which are based on advanced, biocompatible, highly porous polymer beads that can actively remove toxic substances from blood and other bodily fluids by pore capture and surface adsorption. Leading the way is its flagship product, CytoSorb®, an EU approved extracorporeal cytokine adsorber used to reduce the “cytokine storm” that could otherwise lead to inflammation and organ failure. CytoSorbents has an immediate need for a PhD to join their R&D team as a Senior Polymer Scientist in Princeton, NJ. The candidate fulfilling this role will act as a lead for the development and characterization of porous polymer systems used in biological fluid treatment applications. Fantastic opportunity to innovate and be at the forefront of developing new life saving medical devices! https://chemistryjobs.acs.org/job/35849/senior-polymer-chemist/?LinkSource=PremiumListing#application-form
Don’t Retire From Life!

Sunny C. Tang, ACS Fellow, says you’ll likely have lots of time... so plan to take advantage of it!

Sunny received a BS in Chemistry from UCLA, a PhD in Inorganic Chemistry from MIT, and was recruited to join Shell in 1975. For 27 years, he operated in various capacities for Shell Chemical Company, primarily in the areas of analytical chemistry and catalysis. Initially engaged in research in homogeneous and heterogeneous catalysis, analytical science, and molecular modeling, he completed his career supervising analytical laboratories in providing thermal analysis, X-ray diffraction, X-ray spectrometry, particle sizing, and structural properties services. He published 8 technical journal papers and obtained 11 patents. After retiring from Shell in 2002, Sunny entered the financial world, working for AXA Advisors, LLC and SilverOak Financial Group, Ltd. in providing financial services (financial planning, brokerage services, and portfolio management) to clients. He held the Group 1, Series 7, Series 66 licenses, and received the CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ (CFP®) designation in 2006. After attaining the age of 70, Sunny retired a second time in 2018. Sunny co-founded with his wife Barbara Tang the AllPeopleBeHappy foundation, a non-profit foundation dedicated to ending extreme poverty and Building a World Where All People Can Be Happy. Currently, the Foundation makes annual grants totally $0.25 million to organizations working in the areas of education and training, healthcare, and sustainable agriculture in the developing world.

Did you choose retirement? Or was it chosen for you?
I had two retirements: 1. Retired from Shell Oil after 27 years; I chose to retire because I wanted a second career. 2. Retired from financial world (2 companies) after 17 years; I chose to retire because I reached age 70.

How was the transition from the working world to retirement?
Very easy. My wife and I started a non-profit organization (AllPeopleBeHappy foundation) after several years in the financial world, so my second retirement meant that I have more free time to work on the Foundation’s business.

Looking back, what do you wish you knew about retirement before you retired?
That I have more free time in retirement than I anticipated. To elaborate, during my working days, every hour of the day was planned, now in retirement, I find there may be hours in which I have nothing to do, so I just watch TV. If I had known this earlier, I might have been more ambitious in my planning, perhaps take on-line courses, or in-depth study of a technology topic, or write a novel...

George Bernard Shaw said, “Youth is wasted on the young.” Assuming they would listen, what’s your best advice for someone in their 20s/30s?

Life is short. You should accomplish as much as possible, even in retirement. Very few people can accomplish a great deal after they reach age 80.

What do you enjoy most about being retired?
The freedom to do what I want to do, rather than what someone else wants me to do.

What’s the biggest challenge you have confronted to this point in your retirement?
Mostly physical: I can’t run as fast, I can’t ski so well, I can’t see so far, I can’t think so quick...

How do you stay connected to the chemistry enterprise as a retiree?
I continue to be active in the ACS, both at the local and national level.

Do you keep current with chemistry literature? If so, how?
No, not anymore.

What do you like most about where you are living, in retirement? What’s one thing you wish you could change about where you live?
I maintain three residences (Houston, TX, Portland, OR, Angel Fire, NM). No place is perfect all the time, so I travel a lot, both in the US and abroad. The general intent is to spend one quarter of the year on-the-road, summer in Portland, hiking and skiing at Angel Fire.

What guidance do you have for people who are getting ready to retire?
Retire from Work, but don’t retire from Life. You are not going to be able to just sit around for the next 20 years.

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Lee Silverberg, LVACS Member and PSU/Schuylkill chemistry professor, creates novel compounds shown to manage parasites

OCTOBER 25, 2021
By Samantha L. Bower, PSU News

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, Pa. — Lee Silverberg, associate professor of chemistry at Penn State Schuylkill, has recently published a peer-reviewed paper on a novel method he has devised to create organic compounds that have demonstrated antiparasitic properties. Until this research was conducted, the structure of the starting material used to synthesize the chemical compounds was unknown.

Collaborating across the sciences
Collaboration is critical to Silverberg’s research, and this project presented ample opportunity for it. For starters, creating these organic compounds allowed Silverberg to involve undergraduate students in his classroom. “My students were involved in creating the compounds that we made and shared with biological scientist partners,” said Silverberg. “The students are credited as collaborators in the new article published in ‘Molecules (1)’ This chemical research has biological implications and collaborating across the sciences helped the chemical and biological scientists reach new informational heights.

To expand upon the practical applications of these new compounds, Silverberg shared them with Megan Povelones, assistant professor of biology at Villanova University, who specializes in parasites. Silverberg met Povelones when she worked at Penn State Brandywine, and the two have maintained contact since. “I met Megan at one of our University College Science Division meetings when she was still at Penn State,” said Silverberg. “One of my end goals is that we make these compounds and get them to people who can test them for useful biological activity.” His collaboration with Povelones has been fruitful, and her work is a perfect complement to Silverberg’s chemistry. “We make all these compounds, and then we get these compounds to other people, like Dr. Povelones, to see what they can do with them,” said Silverberg.

Silverberg’s curiosity has also expanded the existing body of knowledge regarding the materials with which he has been working. The compounds Silverberg has been creating, known broadly as 1,3-thiaza-4-one heterocycles, are cyclic ones with sulfur and nitrogen in the ring. Through his literature review, Silverberg discovered that there was uncertainty as to what the structure of starting material thionicotinic acid looked like. With help from Hemant Yennawar, research professor of biochemistry and molecular biology and director of the X-Ray Crystallography Facility at Penn State University Park, he determined some crystal structures of this starting material.
“We nailed it down; we know the structure now,” said Silverberg.

(1) https://www.mdpi.com/1420-3049/26/20/6099
Silverberg creates novel compounds shown to manage parasites (continued)

Practical applications in health care
The method Silverberg and his undergraduate students employ to synthesize these compounds is novel. “I’m inspired to make new compounds and make them in new ways,” said Silverberg, “and we’ve been doing just that.” Once the compounds are created, Silverberg sends them off to his peers. Because she specializes in parasite biology, Povelones applied Silverberg’s compounds to Crithidia fasciculata, a parasite that does not in itself cause disease but is similar to others that do, and Trypanosoma brucei, another parasite that causes African sleeping sickness. This disease causes headaches, weakness, fatigue, and more, and can be fatal if left untreated.

To apply these compounds to the parasites, the biologists begin by dissolving the compounds in a solvent and then exposing parasites to the resulting solution. Povelones wanted to know what the best compound, a diphenyl pyridothiazinone, might do to the parasite, and discovered that it interrupted the parasite’s cell cycle and made them grow more slowly. Silverberg synthesized 14 pyridothiazinone compounds for the “Molecules” paper, and five of the compounds have shown promise in managing the parasites. “Some of the compounds killed the parasites and killed them fast, but now we have to investigate how it works,” Silverberg said. “Our results are too preliminary to make any definitive determinations right now.”

Continuing the collaboration and further research opportunities
While Silverberg said he enjoys the fruits of his newly published paper, he sees ample opportunity for future research projects. “One thing this project means to future research is that I have prioritized making these compounds. I am, at the moment, prioritizing it above everything else,” said Silverberg. “We had just so happened to finish creating a bunch of the compounds that showed the most activity here,” he added, commenting that he and his undergraduates will continue on this trajectory.

The next step in this research is determining how the compounds kill the parasites. Silverberg’s biological sciences collaborators will work on ranking the compounds in order of their efficacy against the parasites and identify which one is the most potent. From there, they will work to discover the mechanism by which the compound is killing parasites. “Is the mechanism the same in that it inhibits cell growth, or is it something else?” Silverberg queried. For the foreseeable future, Silverberg will keep trying to make these compounds and get them tested. “I have 10 different projects going in various stages, and they’re all related, but they’re also all somewhat different in some way,” he commented.

Fascinating findings
As he completed this project, Silverberg was excited by some of what he believes to be the more mundane aspects of the chemistry. “I thought it was interesting that these specific compounds were really easy to crystallize out. It makes purification easy,” he said. And there are several reasons to be excited about this work. “I’m thrilled about what the compounds do to the parasites. We were able to make all of the compounds we tried to make, and they came out in pretty good yields. I’m happy and fascinated by this X-ray structure we got because it’s unique. Even though it wasn’t a goal of this research, it’s just one of those things that has been enjoyable to see. But I’m a chemist, so the chemistry interests me,” he concluded.
Prof. Gail Marsella is again coordinating the High School Chemistry Olympiad for the Lehigh Valley section next spring (2022). As usual, there are three tiers: local exam, national exam, and study camp. The exams are held in March and April, (specific dates to be announced), and this year the national exam will have a lab practical associated with it. Details are still being worked out, but Gail would like to give everyone a heads up and to begin encouraging students to participate. **Teachers must recommend promising students** (they cannot apply on their own). There is no charge to participate. Students must be younger than 20 years of age as of July 1, 2022 and must graduate high school no earlier than May 1, 2022. It's helpful if they are at least enrolled in a chemistry class this year, best if they already have at least one chemistry class completed.

*This year the Section is also pleased to announce that we have a graduate student mentor for the Lehigh Valley students: Aarshi Singh is a Chemistry PhD candidate at Lehigh University.*

All students will be recognized and presented with a certificate and approximately 150 top scoring students receive recognition for outstanding performance at the national level. We hope this recognition will serve to stimulate interest and promote a positive attitude toward chemistry.

The full ACS Olympiad website may be found here: [https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/students/highschool/olympiad.html](https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/students/highschool/olympiad.html).

If you know teachers who wish to recommend students or may not be aware of the Olympiad, please share this information and have them contact Gail to recruit/sign-up students.

Prof. Gail Marsella, Chemistry Lecturer, ret., [gailmarsella@muhlenberg.edu](mailto:gailmarsella@muhlenberg.edu) or [gbcmars@gmail.com](mailto:gBCMars@gmail.com)

**DACA students may take the local section exam and will get a certificate, but only citizens and green card holders may sit for the national exam.**

### Exam Organization
Multiple choice USNCO (both local and national) exams cover the following topics:

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The Octagon Newsletter is published by the Lehigh Valley Section of the American Chemical Society to provide information to section members and the public about activities and programs which support the section mission “To promote the chemical sciences in the Lehigh Valley section for the benefit of our members and our community.” Send all queries to the editor at: nigel53.sanders@gmail.com