

CVS-ACS Goes Electronic (Finally!)

As of February 2008, CVS-ACS finally has a fully functioning listserver to communicate with our membership. Central Connecticut State University will allow CVS-ACS server space for sending messages to our members. CCSU Chief Information Officer Robert Cernock worked with Chair-Elect Barry Westcott and our new listserve manager, Thomas Burkholder, to develop rules of use for the new listserve. CVS-ACS must follow all the CCSU rules of etiquette and decorum outlined by the extensive listserve policy. Since the CCSU policy requires use only by CCSU personnel, our listserve will be send only, meaning that we will send messages and announcements to our members, but member responses will be returned directly to the listserve manager. This will limit the number of e-mails that our members receive from the listserve.

To further limit the amount of e-mail our members receive from CVS-ACS, we will limit announcements to no more than two per month. Messages will provide a synopsis of upcoming events within the section, providing contact information for event coordinators and directing members to our website for additional information. Since the listserve will fall under the purview of the *ValChemist*, any announcements for events pertinent to our section should be sent to Barry Westcott, *ValChemist* editor (westcottb@ccsu.edu).

The listserve will help the section to save money by limiting the number of direct mailings to members and will allow us to keep our membership apprised of events in the section. There are numerous chemistry-related events throughout the year, and the executive board will be planning several social events that will

be more family oriented (with little to no chemistry talk) to allow our younger members an opportunity to meet other professional families in our section. To do this we need your help! There are more than 2100 members in the section, but only 1700 of you have provided ACS with e-mail addresses, many of which are dead addresses. Please update your personal information at <http://www.chemistry.org> by logging into your ACS account and using the "edit your profile" link. This will provide ACS with your most current contact information. CVS-ACS will receive that information within 1-2 months after you make that change.

If you wish to receive listserve announcements, and your information is correct, make sure your company listserve manager (or e-mail service provider) knows to allow e-mails from listserves.ccsu.edu. If you do not wish to receive listserve e-mails, simply follow the instructions given in the first listserve message, and we will remove you from our list.

What should you do?

- Update your contact info at [chemistry.org](http://www.chemistry.org)
- Make sure your server allows messages from listserves.ccsu.edu
- Unsubscribe if you do not want messages
- Send potential items of interest to *ValChemist*

What will we do?

- Provide short messages with items of potential interest
- Limit messages to no more than two per month

From the Chair



I would like to thank the membership for electing me to this position. With the help of the chair-elect, Barry Westcott, and past chair, Jeffrey Corbett, we can develop programs of interest to all our members, whether from academia, industry, or retired. Together, we want to make our section (YOUR section) a vibrant one.

A section cannot run without the involvement of its committees, and I wish to thank those members who have consented to serve.

I have two major goals for this year: embracing electronic communications and increasing the participation of members from Western Mass. We are among the larger sections (in terms of membership), and we should use technology to improve communications. Starting next month our members will receive information through our listserve (see story page 1). I hope each of you will consent to receive messages via the listserve, thus receiving timely notices of sectional activities.

There are myriad opportunities to serve the section, many of which do not require a huge time investment, but which are still important and could bring large benefits to the section. I urge you to look at the sections website (<http://membership.acs.org/c/connval/>) to learn more. If you are interested in serving our community, please contact me.

I look forward to a productive year. With your help, I know we can have one.

David Myers
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Focus on Education CHEM-DEM

In late May and early June of 2007, the CVS-ACS Education Committee sponsored two workshops on chemical demonstrations (Chem-Dem) for area high school teachers. These events, held at UConn and UMass, were led by master demonstrators Art Dimock (UConn), Everett Turner (UMass), and Jim Cherry (Enfield High School and ECSU). In addition to learning good techniques, participants received packets of directions for the demos, including specific information on materials, equipment, and safety. The 48 teachers representing 38 area high schools also discussed the illustrated principles with the workshop leaders and, most importantly, went into the laboratory to practice the demos. These workshops bring high school and college-level instructors together to explore different pedagogical methods, and to provide an opportunity for the section to build ties with high school teachers.

The workshops were supported by an ACS Local Section Innovative Project Grant spearheaded by Jane Knox (UConn). Education Committee members involved in the project include: Edward Fitzgerald (Trinity), Susanne Swanker (American International College), Ellen Anderson (St. Joseph), Leslie Craine (CCSU), and Julie Smist (Springfield College). Demonstration items for teachers to take home were provided by Ron Perkins of Educational Innovations (Norwalk, CT).

About the *ValChemist*

The *ValChemist* is published twice a year by the Connecticut Valley Section of the ACS and forms a record of the activities of the section. Additional news and notes will also be available on the Section website (<http://membership.acs.org/c/connval>).

For information on submitting articles, or for advertising information, contact the editor, Barry Westcott (westcottb@ccsu.edu, 860.832.2677).

ValChemist Editorial Board

Barry L. Westcott, Editor

Angelina Kendra, Layout Editor

Executive Meetings

CVS-ACS Executive Board Meetings are open to all members. The next Board meeting will be held in the fall of 2008. Specifics regarding this meeting may be found on the CVS-ACS website (<http://membership.acs.org/c/connval>).

If you would like to receive a hard copy of the minutes of the executive board meetings or CVS-ACS financial reports, you may contact the Secretary, Ralph Moyer. Be sure to include your name, address, and request. Ralph will plop the information in the nearest snail mailbox.

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We need the info

Have you or your organization done something noteworthy? We want to know. Upcoming events will be announced on our listserver; interesting accomplishments will be published in a future edition of the *ValChemist*.

Olympiad Awards

In 2007, fourteen high school students from our section took the National Olympiad exam based on their performance in the CVS High School Olympiad:

Evan Fredericks (Conard High School, CT)
Atif Rakin (EOSmith High School, CT)
Kedron Slisbee (EOSmith High School, CT)
John Ellis (Glastonbury High School, CT)
Ryan Sullivan (Glastonbury High School, CT)
Dana Schmitt (Hall High School, CT)
Aaron Steinfeld (Hall High School, CT)
Matthew Hibert (Longmeadow High School, MA)
Sara Rome (Longmeadow High School, MA)
Justin Pombrio (Manchester High School, CT)
John Hawley (Middletown High School, CT)
Anthony Chang (Waterford High School, CT)
Jonathan Erdman (The Williams School, CT)
Zebulon Levine (Woodstock Academy, CT)

The top scoring Olympiad student from each state received a scholarship to UConn or UMass. The scholarship winners were John Hawley of Middletown High School (UConn), and Matthew Hibert of Longmeadow High School (UMass).

Team awards were given to the high schools whose students collectively scored the highest on the ACS Olympiad multiple-choice exam.

High School Chemistry:

Middletown High School (CT)
Monument Mountain Regional HS (MA)

Advanced Placement Chemistry

Hall High School (CT)
Longmeadow High School (MA)

Olympiad 2008

The 2008 Olympiad dates are: Connecticut, March 13 (snow date March 14) in the UConn Chemistry building; Massachusetts, March 18 in Marcus 131 at UMass (snow date March 19). Contact Ed Fitzgerald (edward.fitzgerald@trincoll.edu), Chair of the Education Committee for more information, or to volunteer to help.

Undergraduate Research Symposium

The annual CVS-ACS Undergraduate Research Symposium will be held Saturday, April 26, 2008, at Smith College in Northampton, MA. The symposium showcases the wonderful research that undergraduates perform at colleges and universities in our section.

In addition to the talks and posters from undergrads, the event will feature a keynote address from Dr. Catherine Drennan, Associate Professor of Chemistry at MIT. Dr. Drennan's research focuses on investigating structure and function of enzymes that are medically important or valuable in environmental remediation. More information about this event will be available on the section website (<http://membership.acs.org/c/connval>).

At the 2007 symposium--held April 28, 2007 at Simons Rock College--25 students, representing 6 different institutions, presented talks and posters. An afternoon luncheon featured Professor Emmanuel Dongala of Simons Rock speaking about "Cyanide Toxicity in Congolese Cassava Cultivars." The luncheon also featured presentations of the Anna J. Harrison Awards, which honor the memory of the first female president of the ACS, and long-time professor of chemistry at Mount Holyoke College. Two Harrison awards are presented annually: one to the highest scoring female student on the three Olympiad exams, and one to the best female presenter the best talk at the undergraduate research symposium, as judged by a panel of three. The 2007 high-school awardee was Dana Schmitt of Hall High School in West Hartford, CT; the presentation awardee was Fadzai Chinyengetere of Smith College for her talk entitled *Thermodynamic Studies of Spiroiminodihydroantoin and 8-oxo-7,8-dihydroguanine DNA Lesions*.

Harrison Award

The Connecticut Valley Section welcomes contributions for the Anna J. Harrison Award Fund. The fund honors Professor Harrison, a professor of chemistry at Mount Holyoke College and the first female president of the American Chemical Society.

Dr. Harrison received her BA, MA, and PhD degrees from the University of Missouri. She began her career at Sophie Newcomb College, Tulane University in 1940, joining the faculty at Mt. Holyoke College in 1945 where she became a full professor in 1950 and served as chair of the Department of Chemistry from 1960 to 1966. She served as President of the ACS in 1976; she retired in 1979 as professor emeritus of Chemistry. Dr. Harrison died in 1998 at the age of 85.

Dr. Harrison received 20 honorary degrees in addition to numerous awards and honors including: the Citation of Merit of the University of Missouri College of Arts and Sciences (1960), the Manufacturing Chemists Association Award in College Chemistry Teaching (1969), and the Chemical Education Award from the American Chemical Society (1982).

Through the generous contributions of former students of Professor Harrison, CVS-ACS is able to grant two \$1000 awards annually in honor of Dr. Harrison. CVS-ACS wishes to sustain these important awards; therefore, we are seeking contributions from those who would like to honor Professor Harrison. For more information, contact Jane Knox (jane.knox@uconn.edu or 860-486-6646), or send your contribution directly to our treasurer:

Arthur Dimock
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Storrs, CT 06269-3060

NERM 2008

The 2008 ACS Northeast Regional Meeting (NERM) will take place at the Sheraton Conference Center in beautiful Burlington, Vermont, June 29 to July 2. The technical program covers all areas of chemistry including topical symposia on environmental chemistry, green chemistry, particles and composites, synthetic organic chemistry, medicinal chemistry, peptides and proteins, 21st century energy, analytical interfacial science, chemistry education, computers in chemistry, responsive polymers and self assembly, organometallic chemistry of the group 15 elements, the history of chemistry, scanning probe microscopy, chemical biology, and industrial innovation. The chemistry and policy forum, legislative action, and health and safety events provide the opportunity for lively discussion.

NERM2008 includes an innovative "chemistry enthusiasts" program of fun and informative lectures on topics of general interest aimed at

2008 Harrington Lecture

The 25th annual Nora Harrington Lecture will be held at Elms College in Chicopee, Massachusetts on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Alumnae Library Theatre. Garth Klimchuk, Manager and CEO of Berkshire Biodiesel, LLC, will discuss *The Ins and Outs of Biodiesel Fuel*. A social hour, featuring wine and appetizers is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. in the Dining Room Annex of Mary Dooley College Center. The social hour is free to CVS members and invited guests. A reception will immediately follow the lecture. The Nora Harrington Lectures, co-sponsored by CVS-ACS and the Elms College Chemistry Department, began in 1983 to honor the 32 years of teaching of Sr. Nora Harrington at Elms College. Additional information for the event, including the synopsis of the talk and speaker bio, may be found at the CVS-ACS website.

DIRECTIONS TO ELMS COLLEGE at <http://www.elms.edu/about/directions.htm>

chemistry educators, retired chemists, and those who are enthusiastic about chemistry but not necessarily working in chemical research.

ACS regional meetings provide excellent opportunities for networking and developing regional collaborations. Our social and networking events include poster sessions, receptions, and tours to places of regional and chemical significance (such as Ben and Jerry, who support thermoacoustic refrigeration research).

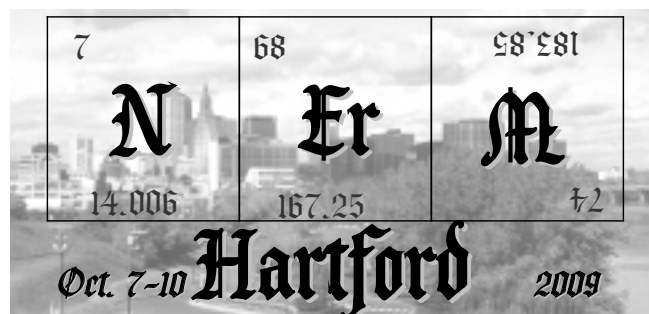
NERM2008 also provides opportunities for professional development with career-development workshops and workshops for chemistry educators at K-12 and college level.

The deadline for abstracts is May 11. Further information is available at www.nerm2008.org. We hope you can join us at NERM2008!

NERM 2008 contacts

Fiona Case, Marketing Chair
(greenmtacs@yahoo.com)
Martin Case, Programming Chair
(martin.case@uvm.edu)
Willem Leenstra, General Chair
(willem.leenstra@uvm.edu)

NERM 2009 Update



As we mentioned last issue, CVS-ACS will host the 2009 Northeast Regional Meeting (NERM). We've designed a logo, and our website will be up and running soon. The event will be held in October 2009 at the Hartford Hilton. Executive Board member Julie Smist of Springfield College is the General Chair, and she is still looking for volunteers. If you are interested in helping, contact Julie (jsmist@spfldcol.edu).

NCW Poster Contest

In October, CVS-ACS received entries for the National Chemistry Week poster contest from students at 3 high schools, 2 middle schools, and one elementary school. The first-place winners in the grade 5-8 and 9-12 levels were sent on to the national contest.

Grades 9-12

1st Andrew Gregor
East Catholic High School
Manchester CT
Teacher: Amy Coan

2nd Jimmy Donohue
East Catholic High School
Manchester CT
Teacher: Amy Coan

Grades 5-8

1st Lauren Gulden
Woodbury Middle School
Woodbury CT
Teacher: Mary Louise Barta

2nd Abby Caselli
Woodbury Middle School
Woodbury CT
Teacher: Nancy Schoeck

Grades K-2

1st Stephanie Coan
Greene-Hills School
Bristol CT
Teacher: Elizabeth Girard

Obituaries

Theresa N. Rada, 90

Theresa (d. Feb. 2, 2008) was a chemist by adoption and the most successful secretary and office manager for the Chemistry Department at the University of Connecticut until she retired in 1980. Theresa was *manager deluxe*, and nothing escaped her watchful eye--dress, habits, composure--or playful wit. All students and faculty who were at UConn from the late 1950s to 1980 knew Theresa as a hard-working, observant, helpful, and concerned department member who wanted the very best for all her people. She will be greatly missed by a huge number of alumni, faculty, and former students.

William Kelleher, 78

William (d. Nov. 10, 2007) of Storrs was a professor of pharmacognosy at the UConn School of Pharmacy for 28 years, later serving as Assistant Dean for Graduate Education & Research. A 1951 graduate of the UConn Pharmacy School (BS, MS), he received a PhD in biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin. After retirement, Dr. Kelleher served as a consultant to Procter & Gamble/Vicks.

The *ValChemist* prints obituaries for all CVS-ACS members, or any other individuals from our section who were involved with the chemistry community during their lives and careers. Please send all information to Barry Westcott, *ValChemist* editor (westcottb@ccsu.edu).

Award Nominees Sought

CVS-ACS is seeking nominations for our High School Teacher Award. Help us honor an outstanding teacher (grades 9-12) from our area. To submit a nomination, send a statement (no more than one page) addressing quality of teaching, ability to engage students, willingness to keep up to date in the field, and leadership in the profession. Include name, professional position, and contact information for yourself and for the nominee. Send questions and nominations by e-mail (preferably) or snail mail to:

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Executive Board Members
welcome questions and
comments from members.
Pester us wth e-mails, please!

Members-at-Large

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Everett Turner, UMass (2009)
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Education

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Student Affairs

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UConn Students to Host Symposium

The Graduate Student Symposium Planning Committee (GSSPC) is an ACS initiative with the laudable goal of getting graduate students to design, organize, and run symposia at ACS National Meetings. At each national meeting since Spring 2006, one school is selected for this program. Chemistry graduate students from the University of Connecticut were selected to join this collective of pioneers for the 236th ACS National Meeting from August 17-21, 2008 in Philadelphia, PA. The symposium--Transitioning into Green Chemistry--will consist of two sessions of invited speakers and a combined poster session and exposition, all on the exclusive topic of green chemistry. The two keynote speakers are Dr. Berkeley "Buzz" Cue (Pfizer) and Dr. Mary Kirchhoff (Director, ACS Education Division), and both will provide an excellent highlight to each of the two invited speaker sessions. In addition, the ACS President-Elect Dr. Thomas Lane will open the poster session.

The symposium is sponsored by the ACS Connecticut Valley Section, ACS President-Elect Thomas Lane, ACS Chemical Education Division, ACS Environmental Chemistry Division, Pfizer, Allergan, Hamford Research Inc., CEM Corp., and the Chemistry Department and Graduate School at the University of Connecticut. These sponsorships represent one-fifth of the \$35,000 target needed to run the symposium. Anyone interested in sponsoring the GSSPC should contact the committee chairman Justin Fair (justin.fair@uconn.edu or 860.486.6488). The committee members (Besnik Bajrami, Ashley Bartelson, Christine Cardillo, Michelle Dean, Justin Fair (Chairman), Krishnan Sadagopan, Naimish Sardesai) look forward to seeing you at the ACS meeting in Philadelphia this August. The most up-to-date information--speaker list, symposium schedule, abstract submission guidelines--is available at <http://chemistry.uconn.edu/gsspc/>.

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