

## Green Mountain Local Section of the American Chemical Society

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<http://membership.acs.org/g/greenmt>

### Officers 2007

Chair..... Fiona Case  
Chair-Elect..... Timothy Deschaines  
Secretary..... Michele Johnson  
Treasurer..... Beth Medeiros  
Councilor..... Willem Leenstra  
Alternate Councilor..... Martin Case

### Committee Chairs

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

### Upcoming Events

**March 31, 2007** – Vermont State Science and Math Fair to be held at Norwich University, Northfield

**April 13, 2007** – Glenn Crosby at St. Michael's College on the connection between research and teaching

**April 26, 2007** – ACS Tour Speaker Michael Tunick on the Chemistry of Cheese in Rutland



ACS website: [www.Chemistry.org](http://www.Chemistry.org)

# GMLS February Newsletter

## "Focus on Legislative Action"



**Activity:** Meetings with the Vermont congressional delegation

**Who:** GMLS Government Affairs Committee

**Sought:** Your participation/input

*A message from Committee Chair, Sarah Locknar:*

As you may know, Ralph Stewart and I are co-chairs of the NEW local Government Affairs committee, along with member Chris Allen. We act as a "local voice" for issues important to the American Chemical Society, which are outlined in their policy statements (found through [www.acs.org](http://www.acs.org) and the Legislative Action Website – see our section website for active links). An easy way to get involved is to join the Legislative Action Network. They send out e-mail updates on what is going on in Congress and often have links to petitions to forward on to your representatives. One thing I learned at training in Washington is that e-mail is one of the better ways to contact congress. Ever since the anthrax scare, US mail destined for congress takes a long time.

The members of the Green Mountain Local Section Government Affairs Committee will be speaking with the congressional delegation on behalf of all Vermont ACS members, so if you disagree with the policy statements, let us know right away.

The week of February 20 is called "Contact Congress" week and we will be meeting with staff from each of our US Congressmen while they are in Burlington. We have two meetings set: the meeting with Senator Leahy will be Wednesday, **Feb. 21**, 10:30-11 AM, and Representative Welch's meeting will be at 11:30-12 on Thursday, **Feb. 22**. Senator Sanders's meeting has not yet been scheduled.

The focus of the meetings will be on science funding, and more specifically on implementing the "competitiveness initiative" outlined by President Bush in his State of the Union Address last year (2006). This calls for a substantial increase in the levels of funding for NSF, NIST, and DOE's Office of Science. If you'd like to join us, please e-mail or call me – we would be delighted if we could get someone from industry to join us, and have a goal of 3-4 chemists per meeting if possible. See our section website for active links. My contact information is 656-0413 by phone, or e-mail at [sarah.locknar@uvm.edu](mailto:sarah.locknar@uvm.edu).

## Message from Our Section Chair



Happy New Year!

Welcome to the first ACS Green Mountain Local Section Newsletter of 2007. As is our custom, we have not arranged any meetings for January or February, but we are making up for that with a number of activities at the end of March and in April. On March 31 we will be involved in judging for the Vermont Science and Math Fair (details below – you are all invited to participate!). On April 12 we are invited to join the faculty staff and students at St. Michael's to hear a presentation by Glenn Crosby on the role that research plays in the effective teaching of chemistry. And on April 26 we will learn all about the chemistry of cheese – ACS Tour Speaker Mike Tunick will give us a unique insight into this famous Vermont product (GMLS meeting in Rutland).

Continuing into the year we plan a repeat of the extremely popular Chemistry Cruise on Lake Champlain in May, and hope to visit a brewery, and to learn about the chemistry of the Turin Shroud later in the year. Also during the next 12 months we will be planning for NERM 2008 – which will be the largest chemistry event ever to hit this state! We will be calling for volunteers and I hope you will consider getting involved.

## Vermont State Science and Mathematics Fair

Once again the Vermont State Mathematics and Science Fair will be held at Norwich University. Our state fair continues to be an exciting opportunity for aspiring scientists and their teachers to showcase the results of their scientific inquiry.

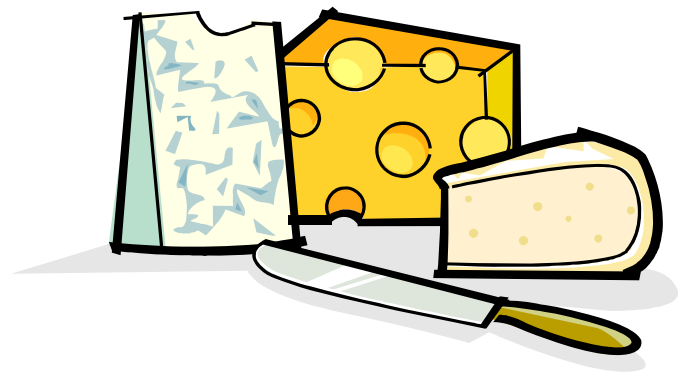


Student projects (grades 7-12) address all possible areas of science and math, and come in varying degrees of sophistication. To find the projects worthy of awarding the “superior” and “excellent” awards, judges are needed. Because of the background and interests of GMLS members, the organizers are asking you to help judge the science fair. It would entail about 4 hours of time (8:30 am till 12:30 pm) on the morning of Saturday, March 31, 2007. Not only do the judges get a free lunch at the Norwich Food Court, they also have a good time talking to the future scientists and mathematicians of Vermont!

If you are interested in judging this year, please respond by March 1 via e-mail to [scifair@norwich.edu](mailto:scifair@norwich.edu), or by contacting the co-directors Carlos Pinkham (802-485-2319) or Trisha Finkle (802-372-5181) directly. You will receive a judging package that contains your exact judging schedule, your meal ticket and other important information at least two weeks prior to the fair.

## April Meetings

Although we will feature the April ACS local section talk in our next newsletter, we are so excited about the topic that we wanted to give you a heads-up on this event.



Dr. Michael Tunick will give a talk on the subject of “Molecules to Mozzarella: The Chemistry of Cheese”. He will explain why the coagulation of milk, removal of whey, and ripening are all required when making cheese, and how chemistry is involved every step of the way. This talk will describe the procedure from raw milk to final product, and illustrate the differences between cheese types, including the development of the many flavors in cheese.

Also in April, on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> at noon, Dr. Glenn Crosby will be giving a special talk on the connection between chemical research and the teaching of chemistry. It will be presented in Cheray Hall. More details will be published in next month's newsletter.

## The 2006 Emerald Award

*by Michele Johnson, Awards Committee Chair*

The Emerald Award was instituted in 2004 to recognize someone in the Green Mountain Section for extraordinary service to the profession of chemistry at the local, regional, and/or national level. The first recipient of this biannual award was Martha McBride of Norwich University.

The 2006 Emerald Award winner is Willem Leenstra of the University of Vermont who has had a distinguished record of service to the Green Mountain Section locally, as well as at the ACS national scene. Willem has served as our section's Secretary, 1982-84; Chair, 1984-85 and 1994-96; Councilor 1985-90 and 1996-present.

While in the Councilor position, he has served on the Local Section Activities Committee for 7 years, and he is currently in his fourth year on the Meetings and Expositions Committee, where he just embarked on a three-year term as Chair of that committee. M&E is one of the six standing committees of the Council. It is charged with oversight of the Society's two national meetings and (up to) ten regional meetings.

Prior to this new assignment, he served as Chair of M&E's Subcommittee on Regional Meetings. That position was appropriate, considering that Willem served as General Chair of the 1994 Northeast Regional Meeting, held in Burlington, and will do so again in the upcoming NERM 2008. More recently, he was a symposium organizer at NERM 2006, held in Binghamton.

Congratulations and thanks, Willem!

## New Chair-Elect for 2007

We are happy to announce that Timothy Deschaines of Middlebury College has accepted the position of Chair-Elect for 2007. Tim recently attended the ACS Leaders Conference in Baltimore. While many valuable pointers were provided in workshop format, and preserved in a thick three-ring binder, Tim will be keenly observing Fiona's leadership as she guides the section through another fabulous year of activities.



*Michele Johnson extending congratulations to Willem Leenstra at the Holiday Party last December in Middlebury*