Green Mountain Local Section of the American Chemical Society

e-mail: GreenMntACS@yahoo.com

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

Officers 2009

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Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 17 – OMYA Open House in Proctor

Tuesday, November 10 – Jeff Byers will present a talk on nanotechnology in Middlebury

December – Holiday Party at the Swift House Inn in Middlebury

ACS website: www.Chemistry.org

GMLS October Newsletter

"Green Chemistry"

Date: **Tuesday, October 13, 2009**
Time: **Talk at 5:30 PM -- Dinner to follow**

Speaker: **Michael C. Cann**
Department of Chemistry
University of Scranton

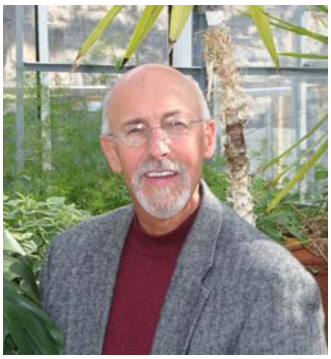
[biography and abstract can be found on the next page]

Title: **"Greening the Chemistry Curriculum"**

Location: **Lecture Theater**
Cabot Science Building
Norwich University
Northfield, Vermont

Directions to the Norwich University venue: From Interstate 89, take exit 5 (Northfield/Williamstown). Go west on Route 64 for 2.7 miles. Turn right onto Route 12, and continue for approximately 2.4 miles. Turn left into the campus. The Cabot Science Building is just northeast of the very distinctive Kreitzberg Library.

Dinner will follow the talk, at approximately 7:00 PM, at a Montpelier restaurant. You are cordially invited to join us for dinner; please RSVP Fiona Case by Monday, 10/12 at 802-879-3684, or via e-mail to greenmntacs@yahoo.com.



Dr. Michael Cann is a Professor of Chemistry at the University of Scranton. Michael Cann was born and raised in the Saratoga region of upstate NY and attended Marist College where he earned his B.A. in chemistry in 1969. Mike received his M.A. and Ph.D. in organic chemistry from SUNY Stony Brook in 1972 and 1973. After that, he was a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Utah (1973-74), and a lecturer at the University of Colorado-Denver (1974-75). Since 1975 he has been a faculty member at the University of Scranton. He is also the co-director of the environmental science program and the director of medical technology. His areas of interest encompass nitrenium ions, nitrogen heterocycles and green chemistry. His interests in green chemistry consist of microwave assisted organic reactions, room-temperature ionic liquids, and green chemistry education. He has taught a number of courses including general chemistry, organic chemistry, environmental chemistry, chemical literature and writing, chemistry seminar, topics in environmental science, internship in environmental science, and graduate courses in mechanistic and structural organic chemistry.

ACS Green Chemistry Institute

Abstract: Green chemistry in the US can trace its major roots back to the early 1990s with the passage of the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 and the subsequent formal focus on green chemistry by the EPA in 1991. Since this time research and development in green chemistry/technology has gained considerable momentum. Many companies and academic research faculty now recognize the environmental and economic benefits that environmentally benign chemistry has to offer. If we are to broaden the base of those that view chemistry with a "green tint," then green chemistry must be infused into conventional chemistry courses that are offered in the traditional college chemistry curriculum. It should be "second nature" for our students of today and the chemists of tomorrow, to view all chemistry with pollution prevention in mind. Ways in which we have infused green chemistry into the curriculum will be addressed. This discussion will include the green chemistry web based modules that have been developed with the aid of a Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation grant, and the book "Real-World Cases in Green Chemistry" funded by the ACS/EPA. In addition we will focus on the ACS/EPA Green Chemistry Educational Materials Development Project.

Report from our September Meeting

Last month, Prof. John Fortman, Professor Emeritus at Wright State University provided an entertaining and informative talk on the subject of chemistry in the movies. Besides the obvious reference to “plastics …….”

in The Graduate, Dr. Fortman played clips of films from the 30’s to very recent ones. His cinematic references was liberally sprinkled with chemical demonstrations, for which he is renowned.

This is Dr. Fortman’s third visit to our local section, and he has also been a featured speaker at the 1994 and 2008 NERMs held in Burlington. Thank you for making the trek once more, and providing us with great entertainment and education.

Project SEED Students at UVM

Sierra Costanza and Blake Ingram, seniors at South Burlington and Burlington High Schools, respectively, undertook research projects in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Vermont this summer as ACS Project SEED Students, sponsored in part by the Green Mountain Local Section. Sierra worked under the direction of Prof. Rory Waterman investigating new, efficient ways to form chemical bonds to the element phosphorus, and Blake worked with Prof. William Geiger investigating electro-catalysis. Amsal Karic, a Project SEED student from 2008, returned to Waterman’s laboratory for a second summer of research before beginning studies at the University of Rochester this fall.

We received good feed back from all of them about their summer experience. Blake and Sierra are in the process

of applying to colleges and looking forward to coming back as Summer II students next year.

Beyond the paid summer internship, the Project SEED program also encourages students through competitive college scholarships for former participants, one of which was won by UVM/Green Mountain LS Project SEED alumna Stephanie Chan of South Burlington earlier this year.

OMYA Open House

As a part of national Earth Science Week activities, Omya will host an open house at its marble quarry in Middlebury, Vermont, on Saturday, October 18. Tours and family activities begin at 10:00 AM, and the last tours into the quarry will happen at 3:00 PM.

Activities include: exploring large trucks, loaders, and other equipment; learning about rocks and minerals; and adding your artwork to a 24-foot mural. For more information visit Omya's website. NNNNN

Cancer Research Seminars in Plattsburgh

Northern New York Local Section member Vinay Likhite is organizing a series of seminars and discussions on cancer research at the Clinton Community College in Plattsburgh, New York. The group meets every third Wednesday of the month from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm to discuss the fascinating story of how the sciences of chemistry, biochemistry, and biology are being used to diagnose, treat, and even now prevent cancer. Coffee will be available and the group will adjourn to a local restaurant for dinner after the meeting. We are warmly invited to participate.

If you are interested, please write Vinay Likhite at: caresctr@northnet.org.

Reminder to Vote in ACS Elections

The candidates for the fall 2009 ACS national election for President-Elect are:

Nancy B. Jackson, Sandia National Laboratories
Cheryl A. Martin, Rohm and Haas Company
Mary Virginia Orna, College of New Rochelle

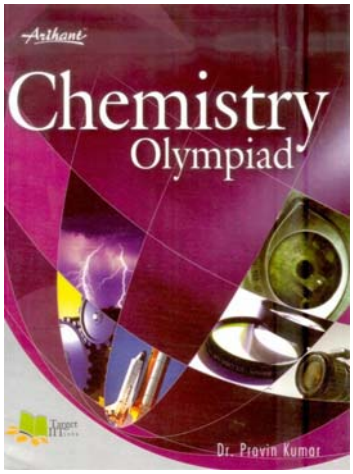
Running for the position of our District I Director (to the ACS Board are:

D. Richard Cobb, Kodak
Neil D. Jespersen, St. John's University

Your vote will make a difference. Considering the percentage of the total that your vote represents, voting in an ACS election has much, much more impact than voting in even state-wide political elections. This is even more true of the District I election which only the New England and Upstate New York local sections participate. Please reward the candidates for their willingness to stand for election by casting your vote.

Chemistry Olympiad Coordinator Sought

The U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad and the International Chemistry Olympiad are multi-tiered competitions that bring together the world's most talented high school students to test their knowledge and skills in chemistry. Nations around the world conduct examinations to nominate the most high-performing students for the International Chemistry Olympiad. But it all starts at the local level. Approximately 10,000 U.S. students between the ages of 13 and 18 enter local



Chemistry Olympiad competitions each March vying for a chance to compete in the National or International events. For a number of years now, high school students in Vermont have not had the opportunity to participate in a local contest because the ACS Green Mountain Local Section has not had a coordinator. Although we are a small local section, there must be someone out there who might be willing to take on this task? This is a moderately demanding, but very rewarding, job which requires interaction with local high schools and keeping to strict deadlines to ensure that our students are correctly entered in the contest. However, the ACS in Washington D.C. provides a tremendous amount of support. There is more information here, and in addition, coordinators in neighboring states can be contacted for advice.

Please let Fiona Case know if you might be interested in this position.