



## Green Mountain Local Section of the American Chemical Society

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Green Mountain Section website:  
<http://greenmntacs.sites.acs.org/>

### Officers 2015

Chair.....Richard Milius  
Chair-Elect.....David Heroux  
Secretary.....Senthil Natesan  
Treasurer.....Beth Medeiros  
Councilor.....Willem Leenstra  
Alternate Councilor.....Jeff Byers

### Committee Chairs

PR/Web Master.....Senthil Natesan  
Gov't Affairs.....Sarah Locknar  
Awards.....Sandra Lynch  
Newsletter Editor...Willem Leenstra



### Upcoming Events

**October 22** – Joint meeting with adjoining local sections

**October 18-24** – National Chemistry Week



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

# GMLS Newsletter

## September 2015

### *“Lake Champlain Dinner Cruise”*



**Date:** **Wednesday, September 30, 2015**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**Event:** **Harvest Moon Dinner on the Lake**



**on the Spirit of Ethan Allen III  
docked at the Burlington Boat House  
western end of College Street, Burlington**

The ship sails promptly at 6:00, so you should be at the boarding site by 5:30 p.m. Dinner is served in seated/plated style, at an all-inclusive cost of \$20 to our section members and guests. This is a substantially subsidized discount from the standard, individual cost of \$52 (plus tax and gratuity). For specifics of the menu, please go to [www.soea.com](http://www.soea.com). Entertainment will also be provided on board. We are scheduled to be back by 8:00 p.m. Please RSVP via email by Monday, September 28 (preferably earlier) to [willem.leenstra@uvm.edu](mailto:willem.leenstra@uvm.edu).

## Joint Meeting with Neighbor Local Sections

On Thursday, October 22 between 5-7 pm, our Green Mountain Section will be hosting a joint meeting with the New Hampshire Area of the Northeastern Section (NESACS), the Central Massachusetts Section (CMS), and the Connecticut Valley Section (CVS).



We will gather in the Porter Community Room of the Montshire Museum (Norwich, Vermont) to listen to a presentation by Prof. Jimmy Wu of Dartmouth College. He will speak on the topic of "Taking Aim at Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus: Identification of GLP-1 Secretagogues and the TRPA1 Receptor as Their Biological Target".

Everyone is invited, but a registration fee of \$15 will be collected for which you will enjoy a substantial offering of hors d'oeuvres created by Maple Street Caterers, after the talk. You can call Dick Milius to let him know you're coming ([rmilius@norwich.edu](mailto:rmilius@norwich.edu)). Alternatively, you may also register online and pay via PayPal at: <http://acssymposium.com/paypal-gms.html> by Friday, October 15, 2015.

## Report from the 250<sup>th</sup> ACS National Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts

Willem Leenstra attended the Council meeting at the Fall National Meeting, held in Boston, Mass., August 16-20, 2015. This venue continues to be popular with ACS members, and had an attendance of just under 14,000 registrants. The number of papers presented was 9,271. The Exposition was very active with 475 booths representing 325 exhibiting companies.

What follows are some highlights and more interesting announcements from Council committees. For a full report from the committees and the officers, visit [acs.org](http://acs.org), and search their website for "boston council 2015".

### 2016 President-Elect Candidates

The two candidates that were Council-selected at the prior National Meeting continued their campaigns visibly. Members of ACS will soon (early October) be sent an electronic ballot, and can vote for their ranked choice for about a month. The candidates' statements will appear in the September 14 issue of C&EN. They are:

- Bryan Balazs (Associate Program Leader, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, California)
- Allison Campbell (Associate Laboratory Director, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, Washington)

### Bylaw Amendments

Council voted to approve the Petition on Preferential Voting, contingent upon confirmation by the ACS Board of Directors in December, 2015. This procedure is being established to avoid a second, run-off election if no candidate (out of a field of three or more) receives a majority of the votes. When voters express their next choices, the run-off election is contained in their designations.

### Budget and Finance

B&F reviewed the Society's 2015 probable year-end financial projection which expects a Net Contribution from Operations of \$15.5 million, or \$2.1 million higher than the Approved Budget. Total revenues are projected at \$512.1 million, which at \$481,000 favorable is essentially on Budget. Total expenses are projected at \$496.6 million, which is \$1.6 million or 0.3% favorable to the Approved. This variance is the result of lower-than-budgeted expenses across almost all major expense categories.

### Membership Numbers

MAC reported that as of July 31, the ACS membership was 156,561; 2,055 fewer than on the same date in 2014. The number of new members who have joined this year is 14,457; 147 fewer than this time last year. The Society's overall retention rate is 84%. The number of international members has increased to 25,989; 1,014 higher than in July, 2014. The international retention rate is 85%.

The committee intends to submit a petition for consideration in San Diego to permanently extend the Unemployed Member Dues Waiver Benefit period from two years to three years.



### Third Annual Chemistry Camp

Chemistry graduate students at UVM have, on the initiative of two recent Ph.D.s Natalie Machamer and Karla Erickson, organized Chemistry Camp for local K-5<sup>th</sup> graders on Saturdays in 2013 and 2014. A total of 150 youngsters enrolled. This year their one-day camp program expanded to serve 152 students on Saturday as well as the following Sunday, April 11-12.



*Making play dough*

This year the Green Mountain Local Section of the ACS was one of the major sponsors of this event exploring the theme of "The Chemistry of Art". Students took a journey through the Cook Physical Science Building where they participated in six different experiments from creating playdough to fashioning chromatography butterflies. The young scientists were able to get messy and have some fun understanding how wet and dry media are created. Students generated particular noises, learning about wavelength and frequency when playing the straw kazoo and xylophone. They finished with making a tasty ice-cream treat with some help from freezing point depression.



*Creating a rainbow crayon*

Leading the effort this year were Michelle DiPinto and Joel Walker. This well-structured, graduate student event encourages inquiry and enthusiasm in the kids, while reinforcing the fundamentals of observing and puzzling scientific changes. Very gratifying was the large percentage of grade-school girl participants, that along with the considerable presence of female graduate students helps negate the perception that the STEM subjects are a male domain. The chemical-demo finale left parents and young scientists excited, and more educated from these highlights of fun science.



### Vermont State Science and Mathematics Fair

On Saturday, March 28, 2015, the Vermont State Science and Mathematics Fair was once again held at Norwich University. Heather Bean, Senthil Natesan, Richard Milius, and David Heroux represented our Green Mountain Section by reviewing numerous projects, and selecting the following three winners of an ACS award.

We heartily congratulate this year's winners on their accomplishments as young chemists! The winners and their project titles were:

First Place: \$100 Prize

Ryan Croxford, Grade 10

South Burlington High School

Teacher: Curtis Belton

**Effects of Anti-gelling Agents on the Caloric Efficiency of Biodiesel** (*a study of the caloric efficiency of biodiesel after an anti-gelling agent is introduced*)

Second Place: \$50 Prize

Amber DeBartolo and Peter Jaarsma, Grade 11

Windsor High School

Teacher: Catharine Engwall

**Effects of Natural vs. Chemical Coagulants** (*the pH effects of coagulants used in water treatment*)

Honorable Mention: \$50 Prize.

Abigail Monahan, Grade 8

St. Francis Xavier Middle School

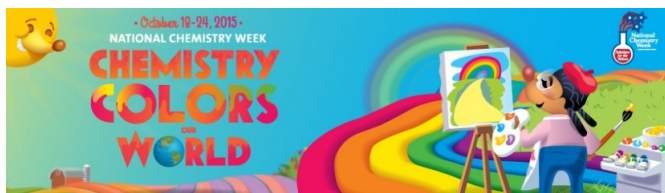
Teacher: Mary Ellen Varhue

**Too Hot To Handle** (*a study of handwarmer efficiency*)



Many thanks to our GMLS members who devoted a morning to judging projects at the fair. It was a great opportunity to interact with young scientists.

## National Chemistry Week



Once again the GMLS will hold a National Chemistry Week event in downtown Burlington, planned for October 24. This year's theme is Chemistry Colors Our World. We will have tables set up where kids can do some hands on activities designed around this year's theme and performing some chemical magic. If you would like to volunteer or get more information please contact Prof. Dave Heroux at [dheroux@smcvt.edu](mailto:dheroux@smcvt.edu). If you are planning your own NCW event, even if it is just in the classroom or office, please let us know and we will add your activity to our NCW report. For more details and information on NCW go to

<http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/outreach/ncw.html>

The Saint Michael's College Student Affiliates Chapter of the ACS was recently recognized as an 'outstanding' chapter for the 2014-15 academic year. The Society Committee on Education (SOCED) selects Student chapters to receive special recognition on the basis of their programs and activities, as described in their chapter reports. Awards are classified as outstanding, commendable, and honorable mention. Congratulations!

## Get Involved with the GMLS

The Green Mountain Local Section is seeking some fresh, new, enthusiastic leadership! If you are interested in serving as the 2016 Chair-elect, please let us know! This position comes with an all-expense paid trip to the ACS Leadership Institute, held in Dallas, January 22-24, 2016 (i.e., free registration, travel, food, and lodging). You will be taking several of the ACS Leadership Development System Facilitated Courses (valued at \$150 each). This is a wonderful opportunity to receive free professional development training and to fulfill professional service requirements at your college or company!

If you are interested, or want to just explore possibilities, please contact David Heroux (current Chair-elect) at [dheroux@smcvt.edu](mailto:dheroux@smcvt.edu); Dick Milius (current Chair) at [rmilius@norwich.edu](mailto:rmilius@norwich.edu); or Willem Leenstra (Councilor) at [willem.leenstra@uvm.edu](mailto:willem.leenstra@uvm.edu). The primary duty of the Chair-elect is to help plan interesting events for the local section. We would love to hear from you, even if you're just curious!

## Willem Leenstra Named a 2015 American Chemical Society Fellow

The American Chemical Society's ACS Fellows Program was created by the ACS Board of Directors in December 2008 to recognize members of the ACS for outstanding achievements in and contributions to science, the profession, and the Society. Prof. Willem Leenstra was one of 78 newly elected members for 2015.



The ACS Fellow distinction is somewhat unusual compared to the fellow status in other scientific societies in that particular attention is paid to service to the ACS. At the Boston National Meeting, a reception in honor of the 2015 inductees, each Fellow was recognized with a brief description of contributions. Prof. Leenstra's entry highlighted the following:

**Contribution to the science/profession:** Pioneered research to understand the structural details and photophysics of mixed-pendant, layered materials. Specifically, arene-derivatized zirconium phosphonates have shown promise as nanoparticulate pressure sensors.

**Contribution to the ACS community:** Completed 25 years as a Councilor after being Green Mountain Local Section Chair and Secretary. Served as General Chair of the Northeast Regional Meeting twice. National-level Committee appointments have included Local Section Activities, Meetings & Expositions (Chair), and currently, Budget and Finance.

