



New Haven Section American Chemical Society Bulletin

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 1, February 2010
New Haven Section Chartered in 1912

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Last Call! (for snail mail)

The effort to print and distribute the paper copy of the general meeting announcements and newsletters is overwhelming. We will phase out paper copies by the end of the year. We are encouraging all those who still get the print copies to please update National ACS with an email address. In addition, please let us know so that we can you to our directory (newhavenacs09@gmail.com)

Message from the Past Chair

Dennis Jakiela

2010 marks my sixth year serving as an Officer of the New Haven Section. With the conclusion of my term as Chair in 2009, I want to take this opportunity to reflect back on my volunteer experiences and the continuation of the New Haven Section as an active and vibrant professional organization in 2010 and beyond. In the spring of 2004, I was in the midst of a job search after a successful 13-year career at American Cyanamid/Cytec Industries. Yes,

unemployment is not the unique experience of chemists falling victim to the most recent economic downturn, which has now morphed into a prolonged period of high unemployment. I regret that far too many of us can relate to this unwanted experience.

That spring, I started attending the local section meetings in earnest with the idea of professional networking with my peers in the chemical industry. With more time on my hands, I was also interested in volunteering. At that time the section was not in immediate need of volunteers! That year, Chair-Elect Susan Tomlinson left Bayer (then in West Haven) and moved out of the area. Fortunately a successor was available, another Bayer employee, Ning Su, however by the end of the year, Ning had also moved on with his career. Suddenly the opportunity to become Chair Elect in 2005 presented itself. Although I was by then employed, I took the position that I would hold for the next four years.

I enjoyed the position of Chair-Elect, whose major function is to organize six general membership meetings each year. As Chair-Elect, you get to choose the topics, speakers, restaurants, and even the menus! Although I was slated to become Chair in 2006, and despite extensive recruiting efforts, a new candidate for the Chair-Elect position could not be found. I was content with my role as Chair-Elect, and Dr. Dave Smudin agreed to serve as Chairman in 2006, 2007, and 2008 when no-one could be found to fill the Chair-Elect position. Dave played a central role in keeping the section going during this time, when it was so difficult to attract volunteers, and when the option of disbanding the New Haven Section was seriously considered. I want to thank Dave not only for his long-standing and steady contributions to the New Haven Section over the years, but for his guidance and friendship as well.

Dr. Jerry Putterman has served as Councilor for many years, and along with Dave, brings experience to the board. In addition to representing the New Haven Section at National ACS meetings, Jerry provides insightful comments on new proposals at our board meetings and serves as one of our judges at the New Haven Science Fair.

During this time Dave, Jerry, and I have witnessed a nearly complete rebirth of the Executive Board. These new volunteers have breathed new life into

our organization, and their combined efforts have put us on a solid foundation for 2010 and beyond. In 2006 we welcomed Dr. Walter Krol as Secretary and organizer of our National Chemistry Week activities, and Dr. Olivier Nicaise as organizer of our participation in the National Chemistry Olympiad. Walter has recently been elected for another two-year term. In addition to taking minutes at our board meetings, Walter organizes our annual poster contests in conjunction with National Chemistry Week. He has also secured the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station auditorium as our now regular venue for our annual student awards ceremonies, and has even served as a speaker at one of our General Membership Meetings.

Dr. Olivier Nicaise resurrected our Chemistry Olympiad program which had briefly lied dormant, and has now enlisted the help of the Yale University Chemistry Dept. in providing laboratory space for the local competition. Highlights of the program under Olivier's leadership have been Jenny Lu of Pomperaug High School winning a Bronze medal in the 2008 International Chemistry Olympiad competition in Budapest, Hungary, and Alexander Siegenfeld of Hopkins School attending the study camp at the Air Force Academy in Colorado and being named as an alternate to the 2009 U.S. National Team. In addition to this responsibility, Olivier has been recently elected to serve as Councilor, and has been appointed our liaison with Yale University for the selection of the 2010 Kirkwood Award winner.

In 2009 I was very excited to welcome no less than four new members to the board, John Bayusik, Jennifer Larese, Dr. Maxwell Reeve, and Jeff Chin, in part due to determined recruiting efforts by Dave. John, a frequent attendee at our general membership meetings over the years, was invited to join as an Alternate Counselor, whose main role is to represent us at National meetings when the Councilors cannot attend. John is a welcome addition to the Board and provides input at our meetings on all section activities from his perspective as a long-time New Haven section member.

Jennifer was appointed Councilor in 2009 and was recently elected to serve a two-year term. Jennifer has been very active in her short time with the section. She has already represented us at two

National meetings, the Spring 2009 meeting in Salt Lake City and the Fall 2009 meeting in Washington, D.C., and attended the 2010 ACS Leadership Conference in Austin, Texas. She has recently been named to the national Younger Chemists Committee. She chaired a symposium entitled "Science Outreach: What are People Doing?" at the 2009 NERM meeting in Hartford. Jennifer has also been active in promoting chemistry in local schools through our Suitcase Science program, an educational outreach program that provides pre-made science kits for giving chemistry demonstrations to students.

Dr. Maxwell Reeve has very ably stepped into the role of Treasurer this year. He has prepared periodic financial reports for review by the Board, our annual report for submission to ACS, and annual budgets. Max manages our section bank accounts, disbursements and receipts. Max is the person normally collecting the money when you sign in at our general membership meetings.

Jefferson Chin has proven to be another valuable addition to the board. As program chair in 2009, Jeff has organized very interesting general membership meetings and livened them up a bit with door prizes; has completely revamped our long-dormant web site, brought it up to date, and serves as webmaster; chaired two symposia at the 2009 NERM Meeting in Hartford, "Biotech in the Northeast" and "Topics in Analytical Research"; has, with Jen Larese, obtained an Innovative Projects grant from ACS to purchase science kits for our "Suitcase Science" program; and now serves as the newsletter editor.

Jeff also instituted paperless communications with our membership. He now sends out meeting announcement fliers by e-mail, independent of the newsletters. The newsletters are sent out by e-mail as well. By going paperless, our printing and mailing costs were reduced from a budgeted \$3000 to only \$170 in 2009. In addition to the tremendous cost savings, Dave was relieved to have the onerous burden of printing, folding, stamping, addressing, and mailing the bulletins lifted from his shoulders. The money saved will be dedicated to other activities for the benefit of our membership.

In reflecting on my experiences, I recently realized that the past and present board members have provided me with steady, long-term professional relationships that were missing during my long

period of career transition from bench chemist to chemical patent agent. I want to thank all past and present board members, and all the individuals who have attended the general membership meetings, for your support of our organization and for your friendship. My participation has unexpectedly reunited me with a close friend from my past, Blake Lewis, and has also helped me grow closer to my close friend Janet Eagan through her steady support of all my endeavors. Thank you all for help in filling a gap in my life.

With starting a new career path in 2008 requiring long hours at work, I reluctantly have had to reduce my participation with the section, including handing over newsletter editing responsibilities to Jeff in 2010. However, Jeff has picked up the slack and enthusiastically addressed everything that needed to be done. With Jeff's able leadership, the proven ability of our new board members Walt, Olivier, John, Jennifer, and Max, and the continued participation and leadership of Dave and Jerry, I am very excited about the future of the New Haven Section, more so than I have ever been before. I encourage anyone interested to attend one of our board meetings. In this way you can get to know us better, and learn about our goals for 2010, in which there will be increased emphasis on outreach to teachers and students, and in rewarding outstanding teachers and students. I can promise you that you will not meet a finer group of people to be associated with, and your life will be enriched by the experience.

Message from the Chair

Jefferson Chin

Happy New Year! As we enter a new decade there are many things to look forward to, but first I should recognize where the section has come from. Throughout the past two years of my active participation, it has been both Drs. David Smudin and Dennis Jakiela that have been at each of the meetings welcoming everyone. The New Haven Section continues on due to their dedication. I am not going to say that their presence will be missed as that would be an admission that they will no longer be a part of the section operations. Au Contraire! I am only going to say **Thank You!** Their experience and knowledge of the section

have made an easy transition for us rookies, and I will see you at the next meeting.

Looking towards the rest of the year, the New Haven section will continue the mission of science outreach. The Science kits have been kid tested and teacher approved. We plan to further the outreach efforts by visiting more schools and recruiting more local ACS members to show kids that scientists can have fun!

Awards are another goal for this year. We will continue to recognize the participants in our National Chemistry Week poster contest as well as the participants in the Chemistry Olympiad. It is also time for the Kirkwood Award (awarded jointly with Yale University) and the winner will be announced later this year. We will again participate in the New Haven Science Fair (May 11-13) sponsoring two Excellence in Chemistry Awards, grades K-8 and 9-12. This year we plan to present an award that recognize excellence in high school teaching and science outreach.

Local Section Executive committee

The results are in! Thanks to all those who took the time to vote. Walter Krol and Jennifer Larese continue on as Secretary and Councilor, respectively. This will be Walt's second term as Secretary as his devotion to note taking and dedication to paying attention has served us well. Jennifer's first year as Councilor was made by appointment so keeping in line with the by-laws, she has been officially elected to fulfill the remaining two years. Our newest Councilor is Dr. Olivier Nicaise. Olivier is not new to the section though, as he has been actively managing the Chemistry Olympiad and will continue to do so while carrying out his duties as Councilor.

Councilor's Corner

Jennifer Larese

Here are some announcements from the August 2009 National Meeting that are worth sharing:

- In a report on Chemical Education, Richard Zare talked about approaching the ACS Board to support Science Coaches. The Science Coaches would be volunteers from local section to partner with a local science

teacher. They are hoping to make a small starter grant available to help with the program.

- ACS National sponsored a Science Cafe and we heard from two speakers about a collaboration between chemical elements and haiku. The artwork was on display for viewing.
- ACS is debuting their new program: Chemistry Ambassadors. Chemistry Ambassadors are encouraged to promote chemistry in every day life, using existing resources through ACS. For more info: [here](#).
- **ACS PressPac** – A weekly science news subscription! (email: newsroom@acs.org, "subscribe presspac")
- 2011 is the International Year of Chemistry. As an ACS local section, we hope to partner with National ACS to promote these quarterly themes: environmental, health, materials, and energy. If you have ideas or would like to be interested, please contact me (jennifer.larese@gmail.com).

We received a mini-grant to welcome the student affiliates into the local section as student members. If you are a student affiliate, you are now considered a student member! As a section, we are hoping to plan a small reception for the new student members to introduce the section's activities and invite their participation at the general meetings.

Spring General Meetings

The line up for the general meeting is nearly complete. This spring there will be four (4) meetings. Hopefully the topics will interest you enough to attend.

Feb 18th – *Cathy Van Dyke & Jay Kerwin: The New Haven Science Fair Program: How You Can Help*

March 17th or 18th – TBD

April 22 – *Maria Parr, Trinity College*

May/June – Student/Teacher Awards

2010 U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad

Happy New Year to you, Chemistry Olympians, Coaches, and Supporters of the Chemistry Olympiad!

It is 2010, and the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO) is naturally back! There is excitement in the air, I can feel it: 2010 will be indeed a very special and successful year for the ACS New Haven Local Section and its Chemistry Olympiad competitors! Following the remarkable accomplishments of Ms. Jenny Lu, a 2008 Bronze Medalist at the 40th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO), in Budapest, Hungary, and presently a Senior at Pomperaug High School, and also those of Mr. Alexander Siegenfeld, the first alternate of the Alpha Beta team that represented the United States at the 41st IChO competition this past summer, in Cambridge, England, and presently a Junior at the Hopkins School, 2010 promises indeed to be quite a unique vintage!

The U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad and the International Chemistry Olympiad are multi-tiered competitions that are designed to stimulate interest and promote achievement in high school chemistry, and bring together the world's most talented high school students to test their knowledge and skills in chemistry. These programs also provide recognition of outstanding young chemistry students, teachers, and schools. Nations around the world conduct examinations to nominate the most high-performing students for the International Chemistry Olympiad.

The Local and U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad competitions are sponsored by the American Chemical Society, and administered by its local sections. Each year, four students are chosen to represent the United States team at the International Chemistry Olympiad competition. Overall, the Chemistry Olympiad consists of the following four stages:

1. Local Chemistry Olympiad Competitions
2. U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad Competition
3. Study Camp
4. International Chemistry Olympiad

For the past 23 years, the United States has sent a team of four students to compete with nations

around the world at the IChO. The students participate in both theoretical and laboratory examinations over several days. Gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded to the best performers, and the IChO provides students the opportunity to interact with their peers from other countries. The 2010 international event, in its 42nd edition, will be held in Tokyo, Japan, July 19-28, 2010.

This year's host of the USNCO Program offered by the New Haven Section will be again the Department of Chemistry at Yale University, and on this occasion, the Section would like to thank again Professor Scott Miller, Irénée du Pont Professor of Chemistry and Chair of the Yale U. Chemistry Department, for accepting to host this competition. On the same occasion, the Section would also like to thank in advance the contribution of Dr. Jonathan Parr, a Lecturer in the Yale U. Chemistry Department, to hosting the USNCO Program. Well, it is clear that the Games of the 42nd Chemistry Olympiad will take place, so, may the preparation for the Games begin!

As the New Haven Section USNCO coordinator, my immediate task is to encourage as many teachers and their students as possible to participate in this program. The identification of the four-member U.S. team begins at the local system level. It is the responsibility of the New Haven Section to nominate students from the New Haven County to participate in the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad Competition, aka the National Exam, by first conducting the Local Chemistry Olympiad Competition, aka the Local Exam. The Local Exam and the National Exam will be hosted by the Department of Chemistry at Yale University (*vide supra*). The Local Exam is a competition with the purpose of encouraging widespread participation, and it will consist of a multiple-choice questions examination (60 questions, 1h50min). The National Exam is a three-part exam, and it will consist of: a multiple-choice questions section (1h30min), a free-response section (1h45min), and a laboratory practical (1h30min).

I encourage as many schools as possible to participate in this academic Olympiad. All students who participate will be recognized and presented with a certificate. Some students will also receive recognition for outstanding performance in certain categories. I hope that this

recognition will serve to stimulate interest in chemistry and to promote a positive attitude toward chemistry.

I encourage as many teachers as possible to enter students –“chemical athletes”!– from their school in this Chemistry Olympiad competition, and I would like to thank you so very much in advance for helping us promote chemical education in this country.

ACS New Haven Local Section

May the preparation for the Games of the 42nd Chemistry Olympiad begin!

Sincerely,

Dr. Olivier Nicaise

Trinity College, Hartford, CT

Olivier.Nicaise@trincoll.edu

Tel.: (860) 297-5275

Important Dates – Mark Your Calendars!

Monday, March 15, 2010 Deadline for High School Chemistry Teachers to Register

Saturday, March 27, 2010 Local Exam

Saturday, April 24, 2010 National Exam.

New Haven Science Fair 2010

The New Haven Science Fair is scheduled for May 11-13, 2010 at University Commons, Yale University. Last year, we decided to sponsor this event with an *Award for Excellence in Chemistry*. This year the New Haven ACS will be awarding two *Excellence in Chemistry Awards*, one for grades K-8 and one for grades 9-12. Because our judges (David Smudin and Jerry Putterman) had difficulty deciding between a team of enthusiastic, interested and bright elementary school students and a bright, talented high school student, this year we have approved two awards: (\$100 each) for grades K-8 and 9-12, respectively.

The Science Fair is always in need of science Mentors as well as judges. You can represent the New Haven ACS, just sign up at the New Haven Science Fair [website](#). Don't forget to let us know as well! That way we can acknowledge your effort and say Thanks.

Suitcase Science!

Jennifer Larese & Jeff Chin

Last year we received an Innovative Project grant from National ACS. We used these funds to assemble four Suitcase Science kits. These kits are portable, hands-on science experiments. Each kit has a step-by-step lab manual for the volunteer and supplies for up to 25 students. These kits are great for parents (but not limited to them) that would like to go into their child's classroom.

A gigantic thanks goes out to Furahi Achebe, Blake Lewis and Mahendra Chordia for their effort in December. With the science kit, *Phases of Matter*, they went into the 7th and 8th grade classrooms of Joan Thomas at Bishop Woods Middle School. More recently, the three went out again to demonstrate the fun of chemistry to a class of 3rd graders at the Barnard Environmental Studies Magnet School. Thanks Marjorie Drucker (teacher) for allowing them into the classroom.

Would you like to volunteer but do not have kids? Or your kids are too grown-up? No problem! We can locate a school or organization that would happily let you give a demonstration. If you would like to use the science kits please contact Jennifer Larese or Jeff Chin.



Mahendra Chordia, Blake Lewis, Majorie Drucker (teacher) and Furahi Achebe at the Barnard school on Feb 2, 2010.

Local Section Member in the news for 350.org rally on the New Haven Green

Jennifer Larese, an American Chemical Society (ACS) member and Councilor for the New Haven section, participated in a rally on Saturday, October 24, 2009 on the New Haven Green. Jennifer, as well as 300+ other community

members, braved the wind and rain to raise awareness about the Copenhagen Conference that took place in December 2009. The rally was to promote awareness about the current carbon dioxide level and that it should be reduced to levels closer to 350 parts per million (ppm). Scientists believe that 350ppm is a sustainable concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Currently, we have about 380 ppm of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. And that number is rising.



Diane Lentakis, Sierra Club South Central Group, left, Jim, Newberry, rally organizer, Paul Brunner, Sierra Club South Central Group, Jennifer Larese, New Haven American Chemical Society, and Chris Schweitzer, New Haven Leon Sister City Project. *Image from Living Green and New Haven Register Sunday, October 18, 2009*

As part of the rally, Jennifer distributed copies of a carbon dioxide experiment to parents and children. This experiment is from the ACS website (<http://www.acs.org/>) and is readily available for personal use to ACS members as well as the public. The experiment is called "Pour CO₂" and uses common household items, such as a candle, vinegar, baking soda, and an empty 1 L soda bottle. Jennifer also handed out copies of the 2009 National Chemistry Week flyer which included additional chemistry experiments and puzzles for children.

For the full article from the New Haven Register, click [here](#).

Interested in Volunteering?

Anything within the pages of this newsletter sound interesting? Thinking you need some good karma? Or perhaps you disagree with the direction (or focus) of the New Haven ACS section? Attend a general meeting or executive meeting and voice your opinion.

Seek out anyone of us on the exec committee. There are plenty of opportunities to help out

Transform Your Classroom with an ACS-Hach High School Chemistry Grant

The ACS-Hach High School Chemistry Grant is awarded to chemistry teachers with innovative ideas that transform classroom learning, foster student development, and reveal the wonders of chemistry. Applicants can request up to \$1,500 to support their ideas. Applications are due on April 1, 2010. Apply for the ACS-Hach High School Chemistry Grant today at www.acs.org/hach!

President Obama Announces National Lab Day

On November 23, President Barack Obama announced the establishment of National Lab Day, an effort supported by ACS and 190 other organizations representing more than 6.5 million science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) professionals. The first National Lab Day is tentatively set for early May 2010 and will be part of a large, ongoing STEM initiative called "Educate to Innovate." ACS and other organizers hope National Lab Day will help stimulate more hands-on science learning by fostering enduring collaborations between individual STEM professionals, teachers, and students. ACS [Chemistry Ambassadors](#) are already making these connections. To join the effort or learn more, visit www.nationallabday.org

It'd be great if our New Haven ACS members would sign up to visit classrooms and share their love of chemistry with students and teachers! Check out the requests: a lot of teachers have already submitted their students' interest and just need a chemist to stop by! If you do participate, please let me know (Jennifer.larese@gmail.com)



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(newhavenacs09@gmail.com)

Website Revamped

As we transition away from our paper mailings, everyone can look for the updates in our emails or at our revamped website, [New Haven ACS](http://www.newhaven.sites.acs.org/) local section (<http://www.newhaven.sites.acs.org/>).

Message from the Chair

Jefferson Chin

Summer is here! Hard to believe that 2010 is half through, but it is. Summer is a wonderful time where many people take some time to relax and perhaps go on a vacation. I am sure that there are many of you that will agree with me in saying that the summer is just too short. The school year has ended, my children have just finished cleaning out their backpacks and then it seems like the beginning of the school year sales have started. Where does the time go?

Summer is also the time for mid-year reviews (for those working in industry). I am sure that there are many of you that have just finished the process or are in the midst of working on the evaluations. So how are we doing? This spring we held four general meetings instead of our usual three, our average attendance for the general meetings is 30 (an increase of 25%), and at every meeting there is at least one new person in attendance. We have created, approved and awarded our new *Innovative Science Outreach Award*. We have increased our participation at the New Haven Science Fair by adding an additional award to recognize *Excellence in Chemistry* for grades K-8 and 9-12. We have recognized a High School teacher this year with our *ACS Teacher* award and provided a scholarship for the Science camp at the University of New Haven.

We've been busy and the things that we have accomplished so far have had some impact throughout the New Haven County. However, the one thing that has plagued the New Haven section has been the lack of interest of volunteers to be part of the local section leadership. Volunteering to be a part of the local section has been a great experience for me. Through my interactions, I have been able to meet many people outside my normal industrial interactions. It has been great to be able to talk to these people and learn about their field and more importantly just to get to know them. However being a part of the New Haven section is not all about networking, it is also about being part of a group that is dedicated to fostering science and chemistry throughout the New Haven county. Enthusiasm and ideas are the only requirements to be a part of the local section leadership. Interested? Attend a general meeting or email one of the executive board members.

General Meeting Update

Jefferson Chin

Summer is here so our general meeting schedule takes a break. This past spring we held 4 general meetings so we would like to thank our speakers once again. **Cathy**

Van Dyke and **Jay Kerwin** gave a motivational talk about the Greater New Haven Science Fair Mentoring program and rewarding it would be for ACS members to volunteer to be mentors. In March, **Chef Paul**, owner of Madison Chocolates, discussed the different types of chocolates and the chemistry behind the delicacy.

Maria Parr presented an overview on analytical techniques for archeology at our April meeting. Finally, **Sherry Mitchell** inspired the students to enjoy science through an interactive presentation that included using a pickle as a light source. *Thank you* to all our speakers.

Our general meetings have as always, been a time to casually learn about a new chemistry topic and meet some new people (networking) that are outside your field. I have met many new people over the past 2 years and it always amazes me, first that I can remember their name the next time they show up, and second there is at least one new person in attendance at every meeting.

Regarding our menus, I have had some feedback about the lack of menu information on the flyers that get sent out. I hesitate to put the menu on the flyers, simply due to the lack of space and in general it has been a buffet dinner. I try to select a menu that consists of at least a vegetarian entrée, a chicken and a fish. I do understand that people would like to know their dinner choices prior to attendance so I will put the menu on the website when the announcements go out. Of course, if anyone has concerns or questions, you can always email!

Our general meeting will start up in September and our schedule is shaping up nicely. Our first meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 15; author and chemist; **Jack Li** will discuss the *History of Statins*.

Innovative Science Outreach Award (ISO)

This newly created award for the local section is to honor people within the New Haven County for creating innovative ways to emphasize Science to the general public. This year **Deepti Pradhan**, was awarded the ISO award for her efforts in creating the [*Tilde Café*](#). The Tilde Café was founded in 2008 and is currently the only science café in Connecticut. Deepti created the Tilde Café with the vision: “*to demystify science and to make it more accessible to all.*”

High School Teacher Award

The high school teacher award is to recognize teachers that promote and encourage their students to enjoy science. This year **David Tremblay** from West Haven High school was honored with this award. David has

been a teacher for over 30 years and has been an active participant within the New Haven ACS. He has always encouraged his students to participate in the local section activities

Merck Index' Distribution

Through the generous donation of Merck, the ACS received Merck Indexes for distribution to the local section. The New Haven Section, throughout the past year, has been able to distribute their copies to teachers that have participated in the poster contest and Chemistry Olympiad. We still have a few extra copies. If you are a teacher and are interested in a copy for your classroom, please contact us.

A Salute to Longevity - Recognition of 50- & 60- Year Members

David Smudin

The Officers of the Section are pleased to announce that the following Section members will reach the milestone of 50 or 60 years of membership in the American Chemical Society in 2010.

50- Year Honorees

Dr. Larry Bausher

Mr. Donald Sumner Buell

Dr. Peter J. Desio

Dr. Walter A. Gay

60- Year Honorees

Mr. Joseph J. Levitzky

Dr. Douglas I. Relyea

Mr. Edward D. Walen

It is truly a pleasure to recognize these individuals and to congratulate them on their long record of ACS Membership, which has contributed to the success of the Society and the Local Section.

These members have been invited to be the guests of the Section at a meeting of the General Membership, so that we can honor them more appropriately.

Our formal recognition of these milestones was at the April 22, 2010 General Membership meeting. The following members of the Section were able to attend and we had the pleasure to personally present them with certificates commemorating their many years of affiliation with the American Chemical Society and the New Haven Section.

Dr. Peter J. Desio received his Certificate for 50 years of membership in the ACS. Dr. Desio is a native of Boston, Mass. He received his undergraduate degree from Boston College, and a Ph.D. degree from the University of New Hampshire where his research advisor was Prof. Paul Jones. After a period of Post Doctoral work at M.I.T., he joined the Faculty of Science and Engineering at the University of New

Haven, where he taught for 37 years until retiring in 2003. Dr. Desio is currently Emeritus Professor in the University of New Haven Department of Engineering.

Dr. Douglas Relyea received his Certificate for 60 years of membership in the ACS. Dr. Relyea is a native of Western New York State. He received his B.S. from Clarkson University, and M.S. from Cornell University, and a Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina under Prof. DeLos DeTar. After receiving his Ph.D., Dr. Relyea relocated to the University of Wisconsin for a year of Post Doctoral Studies after which he joined the U.S. Rubber Company (later Uniroyal, Inc.), which at that time was located in Passaic, N.J. Doug remained with that company, which underwent numerous name and location changes during his tenure, for 40 years, until his retirement in 1996. A greater part of Doug's career at Uniroyal has centered around the synthesis of heterocyclic sulfur and nitrogen compounds for evaluation as crop protection chemicals. He has authored or co-authored many scientific papers and has been the recipient of many patents for his work at Uniroyal. In retirement he has pursued and received a Masters Degree in Biology at Southern Connecticut State University. His research for that accomplishment was concerned with the Taxonomy of the May Fly. Dr. Relyea served as Chairman of the Local Section in 1987.

2010 New Haven Science Fair Program

David Smudin

The 16th Annual New Haven Science Fair was held at Commons Hall, Yale University on May 11 to 13, 2010. This year there were 269 projects entered in the Science Fair by students in grades PreK through 12, from schools in New Haven.

Last year the Officers of the Section agreed that a worthwhile endeavor was Section involvement in the New Haven Science Fair Program. At that time it was agreed that the Section would provide a monetary award for the entry which demonstrated; *Excellence in a Chemistry Related Science Fair Project*. The Section also provided two judges from the membership, to select the winner of the award. Although there were approximately 50 projects out of the 230 entered that were chemistry related, the judges found it very difficult to select the best one from the three or four that were exceptional. The problem that the judges were confronted with, was that there were equally outstanding projects from the PreK through 8th grade submissions, and from the 9th through 12th grade submissions.

Based on the recommendation of last year's judges, this year the Officers of the Section agreed to sponsor two awards; one for the PreK through 8th grade submissions, and one for 9th through 12th grade submissions. Members of the Section who volunteered to judge at the 2010 competition were, **Maria Parr** and **Walter Krol** (PreK – 8), and **Jerry Putterman** and **David Smudin** (9 – 12).

The award for *Excellence in a Chemistry Related Science Fair Project* from grades PreK through grade 8, was given to a team of kindergarten students from Mauro-Sheridan Inter-district Magnet School. The Project, entitled “**Orange Power to the Rescue**”, was conducted by students **Jayden Morehead**, **Elsa Aronsen**, **Piper Forbush**, and **Jimmy Jeffrey**, under the direction of teachers **Eiko Hosozawa-Feldenzer**, and **Darla Martinez**. In this project, limonene (a biodegradable substance obtained from orange peels) was used to soften and release air entrapped in Styrofoam (polystyrene), products such as coffee cups, foam food trays, packaging “peanuts”, etc. Over the several week period during which the project was conducted, the students learned about the environment, and how and why we should recycle things that we use. Styrofoam was an example of a material that doesn't break down in landfills, and is difficult and costly to collect and ship for recycling because of its bulk. The students demonstrated that they could reduce the volume of Styrofoam to approximately 23% of its original volume by treatment with limonene. The project was well organized and the students involved were knowledgeable and very enthusiastic. The project's take-home message focused on the development of more environmentally-friendly methods of waste disposal/reduction, and recycling.



“**Orange Power to the Rescue**” winners

The award for *Excellence in a Chemistry Related Science Fair Project* submitted by students in grades 9 through 12 went to **Adam Taylor**, a senior at Wilbur Cross High School, for his project entitled, “**Synthesis of Microporous Carbon Cryogel for use in Microbial Fuel Cells**”. Adam's project involved the preparation

of a microbial fuel cell or device that converts chemical energy to electrical energy by the catalytic reaction of microorganisms. In carrying out his project, Adam studied the electrical output from microorganisms deposited on various microporous carbon cryogel substrates made from resorcinol formaldehyde polymers. Adam constructed his microbial fuel cells from materials he researched and obtained via the internet. Among the techniques Adam became familiar with in the conduct of his project were the safe handling of chemicals, lyophilization, high temperature sintering, and precise electrical current measurement. Adam's results showed a 4 fold increase in current flow using his substrate when compared with a control. In carrying out the project Adam received support and direction from his teacher at Wilbur Cross H.S., Mr. **Chris Willems**, and his mentor, **Mary DeRome**, a Senior Scientist at Artificial Cell Technologies in New Haven.



Adam Taylor

The 2010 U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad: A Hopkins School student selected to represent the U.S. at the 42nd International Chemistry Olympiad!

Olivier Nicaise

“Happy Summer” to you, supporters of the Chemistry Olympiad, and welcome to the 2010 U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad update!

I am sure that you all remember my predictions earlier this year: “It is 2010, and the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad is naturally back! There is excitement in the air, I can feel it: 2010 will be indeed a very special and successful year for the ACS New Haven Local Section and its Chemistry Olympiad competitors!” As a matter of fact, 2010 is indeed very well on its way to be a very special and memorable year for our Section and its U.S.

National Chemistry Olympiad program, thanks to its brilliant competitors!

The Chemistry Olympiad is a multi-tiered competition designed to stimulate interest and promote achievement in high school chemistry, and it brings together the world's most talented high school students to test their knowledge and skills in chemistry. This program also provides recognition of outstanding young chemistry students, teachers, and schools. Nations around the world conduct examinations to nominate the most high-performing students for the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO). The local and U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO) competitions are sponsored by the American Chemical Society (ACS), and administered by its local sections. Each year, four students are chosen to represent the [United States team](#) at the International Chemistry Olympiad competition. The New Haven Section once again participated this year in the USNCO program, and Dr. Olivier Nicaise (Trinity College) coordinated the first two installments of this competition that was hosted by the Department of Chemistry at Yale University, and consisting of the Local Exam and the National Exam.

A record number of 84 students, representing 11 high schools, first participated in the Local Exam that was administered on March 27 and April 1, 2010. A group of 11 students (the nominee allotment is dictated by the number of Section members), representing 6 high schools, then qualified for the National Exam that was given on April 24, 2010. As a virtue of having attended the 2009 two-week intensive study camp (*vide infra*) held at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO, **Alexander Siegenfeld** (Hopkins School, New Haven) systematically qualified for the National Exam, and therefore joined his fellow competitors on April 24, 2010. Following his performance at the study camp, it should be noted that Alexander was also selected to serve last year as the first alternate of the Alpha Beta Team that represented the United States at the 41st International Chemistry Olympiad competition held in Cambridge, England.

These 12 students were honored for their outstanding achievements in high school chemistry on May 25, 2010, at an award ceremony organized by the New Haven Section, and held at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, in New Haven. Each of them received a USNCO recognition pin, and also a National Exam Participation Certificate. Some of the students who participated in the Local Exam also attended the event, and were presented with a USNCO recognition pin along with their Local Exam Participation Certificate.

The students who competed at the National Exam this year were:

Name	School	Teacher
Alexander Siegenfeld	Hopkins School, New Haven Class of 2011	Mrs. Sarah Leite
Jonathan Chien	Hopkins School, New Haven Class of 2010	Mrs. Sarah Leite
Leland Pung	Hopkins School, New Haven Class of 2010	Mrs. Sarah Leite
Andras Sagi	Cheshire High School, Cheshire Class of 2010	Dr. Stephen Bertenshaw
Colin Horgan	Cheshire High School, Cheshire Class of 2011	Dr. Stephen Bertenshaw
Jamie Schwartz	Choate Rosemary Hall, Wallingford Class of 2011	Mr. William Morris
Jeremy Kalas	Choate Rosemary Hall, Wallingford Class of 2012	Mr. William Morris
Alan Zhao	Daniel Hand High School, Madison Class of 2011	Mr. Stephen Sekula
Kathleen Wu	Daniel Hand High School, Madison Class of 2011	Mr. Stephen Sekula
Brian Westerman	Pomperaug High School, Southbury Class of 2011	Mrs. Coleen Merritt
Shryan Appalaraju	Pomperaug High School, Southbury Class of 2011	Mrs. Coleen Merritt
Bonnie Hawkins	Hamden High School, Hamden Class of 2001	Dr. Nancy Graham

With a limit set by the USNCO National Office, that no more than two students per school that can sit for the National Exam as a way to promote widespread participation within local sections, and also, but to a lesser extent, for reasons of non-U.S. citizenship, some of the 11 top scoring students at the Local Exam were not allowed to compete at the National Exam, and that is the reason why the New Haven Section has been systematically recognizing all 11 top scoring students at the Local Exam. This year, at the award ceremony, each of the following students was therefore awarded a \$75 gift certificate for their outstanding achievement at the Local Exam: **Andras Sagi** (Cheshire HS), **Jonathan Chien** (Hopkins), **Kathleen Wu** (Daniel Hand HS), **Won Chung** (Cheshire Academy), **Aaron Shim** (Choate), **Colin Horgan** (Cheshire HS), **Audrey Zhang** (Cheshire HS), **Leland Pung** (Hopkins), **Benjamin Pollak** (Hopkins), **Peter de Groot** (Hopkins), and **Alan Zhao** (Daniel Hand HS). **Alexander Siegenfeld** (Hopkins) was also, and quite naturally, presented with a similar award.

Whereas approximately 10,000 U.S. students between the ages of 13 and 18 entered the local Chemistry Olympiad competitions vying for a chance to compete in the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad and the International Chemistry Olympiad, nearly 1,000 students (930, to be exact) participated nationwide in the National Exam. The National Exam is a three-part, ca. 5-hour competition that consists of two written exams (a 60, single-answer, multiple-choice question exam covering broad chemistry topics, and an 8, problem-solving, explanations question exam requiring in-depth knowledge of chemistry theories and models), and one laboratory practical. We proudly report that not only **Alexander Siegenfeld** (Hopkins) received High Honors (top 50 students) for his performance on the National Exam, but also **Andras Sagi** (Cheshire HS) and **Jonathan Chien** (Hopkins) received Honors (top 51-150 students) for their performance on the National Exam. Even more remarkably, *and for the second year in a row*, Alexander more precisely finished among the top 20 students at the National Exam, and he was therefore *–and once more!–* one of twenty finalists invited to attend the 2010 two-week intensive USNCO study camp in order to compete for a spot on the U.S. team at the 42nd International Chemistry Olympiad. The study camp was held at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO, on June 1-16, 2010. Under the tutelage of three mentors, students receive at the study camp college-level training, with an emphasis on organic chemistry, through a series of lectures, problem-solving exercises, lab work and testing. Mentors play a vital role in preparing the nation's brightest high school students to compete in the International Chemistry Olympiad.

They guide the top 20 students through a series of practice problems, testing student skills, and ultimately selecting the U.S. team for the International competition. During the camp, mentors and students become a family unit. All participants live in the same dorm facility, eat all meals together, and share bathrooms and telephones. At the conclusion, based on performance, four students are chosen to represent the United States at the International Chemistry Olympiad with teams from roughly 70 other countries. Each country sends four contestants and two coaches to the host country for seven to 10 days of exams, lectures, recreation, and tours. Well, the United States Chemistry Olympiad team was chosen on June 15, 2010, at the conclusion of the study camp, and Alexander Siegenfeld was selected as one of four U.S. high school students to head to Tokyo, Japan, to represent the United States in the 42nd International Chemistry Olympiad, which will take place on July 19-28, 2010. This is a dream come true for Alexander who had already been selected last year as the first alternate of the United States Chemistry Olympiad team at the 41st International Chemistry Olympiad competition held in Cambridge, England (*vide supra*).

In addition to the gift certificate that Alexander received, he was also awarded a digital frame –a wonderful complement to the digital camera that he received last year!–, and we are already looking forward to his visit on the occasion of one of our fall general membership meetings to address us about his 2010 International Chemistry Olympiad experiences – with lots of pictures! But for the time being, we just want to wish Alexander good luck at the “Chemistry Games of the 42nd Olympiad”, and tell him, “Go for the Gold”! The ACS New Haven Local Section and its 2010 Chemistry Olympiad competitors are all behind Alexander, and wish him the very best.

The members of the 2010 U.S. Chemistry Olympiad Team (the U.S. Alpha Gamma Team)



From left: Kevin Yan (alternate), Alexander Siegenfeld, Utsarga Sikder, Colin Lu, Joe Tung (alternate), and Richard Li.

Finally, the New Haven Section wishes to also acknowledge the invaluable contribution of **Dr. Jonathan Parr** (Yale University) regarding the organization of the 2010 USNCO competition, especially with respect to providing lecture hall and laboratory space to administer both the Local and National Exams.

This has been now the third year in a row that the New Haven Section has had a student make the National Team; it is quite unbelievable! **Jenny Lu**, a 2010 Pomperaug High School graduate, and soon-to-be a freshman at Harvard University, was indeed selected as one of the four members of the 2008 U.S. Chemistry Olympiad Team, and she went on to win a Bronze Medal at the 40th International Chemistry Olympiad that was held in Budapest, Hungary. Last year, **Alexander Siegenfeld** was selected as the first alternate of the U.S. Chemistry Olympiad Team, and this year, here he is, one of the four members of the 2010 U.S. Chemistry Olympiad Team, and this time competing for Gold, Silver, or Bronze; it is absolutely unbelievable! We are so very proud of this record of academic achievement for the high school students in our section, and along with increased participation in the Chemistry Olympiad competition, we are looking forward to many more successes of this nature in the years to come! And last, but not least, CONGRATULATIONS to all the New Haven Section Chemistry Olympiad competitors who have graduated from high school this year, we will miss you!



Celebrate National Chemistry Week (NCW) 2010!

Theme: "Behind the Scenes with Chemistry!"
October 17-23, 2010

Chemistry is everywhere, whether prominent as a science fair project or tucked behind the scenes of a special effect or book. Current shows such as MYTHBUSTERS and books such as *The Science of Harry Potter* bring behind the scenes science to prominent view. This allows the public to understand it is not magic, but rather common chemistry topics which can explain the mystery behind the seemingly "magic" that is shown. We want to diminish the term "magic" associated with the "unexplainable" and direct attention to the chemistry which makes these items work.

Councilor's Corner
Jennifer Larese

Monday, March 22, 2010:

YCC: filmed a chemistry short video (app 3 minutes) to be shared with the International Chemical Network (ICN) in EU.

SOCED Open Meeting: Working to get more chemistry departments involved with pre-service education for future chemistry teachers. Many departments don't see that as their role – they would rather leave that for the department of education. Right now, they are focusing in getting the chemistry departments to endorse the statement (only 67 schools responded to the initial request). 600k students take general chemistry each year.

Office of Public Affairs: had a good report from Washington DC – for example, National Lab Day was heartily supported by ACS. ACS is pleased that the White House is taking such a firm stand with science education. Dick Zaire, chemical education taskforce, had 3 main points: a Science Coach's program (6 local

sections of varying sizes to test out the program); association of high school teachers; and a careers website for chemists.

IAC report from Judy Benham with an international REU (Asia) program. SOCED may partner with IAC for this program.

IYC 2011 report: daily chemistry moment for the 365 calendar (go to website acs.org/iyc to submit ideas for the calendar); partnering with CCA for quarterly themes: environment, energy, health, and materials science [two newspapers to support these themes] – water will be integrated into all of these themes. Visit from Tom Lane about common themes: value of a focused summit on education, with people from various groups/divisions to share thoughts/ideas/synergies to get behind a few ideas wholeheartedly as a group? The committee agreed this would be a worthwhile pursuit.

Tuesday, March 23, 2010:

CCA Open Meeting: Preparation for IYC 2011 is well in hand with overall themes (water and the many faces of chemistry) and quarterly themes (environment, energy, materials, and health); the print publications will be available for 1st and 3rd quarters, with online resources available for 2nd and 4th quarters. April 22 is Earth Day: theme is “Plants: the Green Machines”. Themes: 2010: Behind the Scenes (NCW) and Plants: the Green Machines (CCED); 2011: IYC; 2012: Nanoscale Science and Engineering (NCW) and 10th anniversary (CCED). Chemistry Ambassadors program (t-shirts printed) is a good way to improve your public relations. Three sections of CCA: Volunteer Engagement and Recognition (VER) [focus on award categories, including ChemLuminary], Program Development and Promotions (PDP) [determines themes for NCW and CCED], and Evaluation and Technology (E&T) [assessment of NCW and CCED activities, updates on twitter/ACS Network/YouTube]. VER will be updating their ChemLuminary awards for IYC [ie. outstanding community involvement using themes with rubrics for grading the awards]; plans to streamline the self-nominating form for ChemLuminary.

District I Caucus Meeting: Review of the petitions for council. Review of the society’s finance [\$460M revenue (total), +1% increase. 6th year of positive operating results. Key drivers: favorable operating results, investment gains, net reduction in retirement benefit plan liabilities (app. \$20M each)]. Member dues: \$145 to \$146 due to a 1% inflation rate increase [middle of the range of other scientific societies]. Review of NERM and MARM dates/locations. Discussion for changing the Caucus meeting to Sunday night [after town hall meeting from 4-5pm] rather than Tuesday night [current practice].

Wednesday, March 24, 2010: Councilor Meeting

By electronic ballot, the Council selected Luis A. Echegoyen and Bassam Z. Shakhashiri as candidates for 2011 President-Elect.

Society’s total 2009 revenue (\$460 million) was up +1% from 2008, but fell short of the 2009 approved budget by \$19.5 million or 4.1% [expense savings totaling \$22.5 million]. Significant reductions were realized in salaries and fringe benefits; Society’s Net Return from Operations was \$13.7 million, or \$3.0 million greater than anticipated in the 2009 Approved Budget. The financial outlook for 2010 is better, and ACS management expects the Society to meet the 2010 approved budget.

The Council VOTED to set the member dues for 2011 at the fully escalated rate of \$146. For 2009, Society membership totaled 161,783 compared to 154,024 for year-end 2008 [the number of new membership applications received last year was the highest ever. The 2009 number also reflects the transition of 6,658 former Student Affiliates to the new student member category in June 2009 and the recruitment of 6,341 new student member undergraduates].

National Lab Day; More than Just a Day!

In February, California legislators introduced the state level response to Obama’s November 2009 ‘Call to Action’, by designating May 12th as California Lab Day. The bill recognizes the American Chemical Society, NSF, and NSTA among others as keys sponsors of the national movement.

On March 24th, 2010 the House passed H. Res. 1213 recognizing the need to improve the participation and performance of America’s students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields, supporting the ideals of National Lab Day, and for other purposes. The sponsors were Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-OH-11) and Rep. Vernon Ehlers (R-MI-3)

National Lab Day booth at the March National Meeting in San Francisco, CA recruited more than 500 new sign-ups to the web site.

ACS & National Lab day hosted a celebrity luncheon on Capitol Hill! The April 30th luncheon was an exciting gathering of leadership from the scientific establishment, the entertainment industry and Capitol

Hill, coming together to collaborate on bringing National Lab Day's platform to schools and students across the country.

Guests included Tim Daly, Dana Delany, Patricia Arquette, Omar Epps, Tom Fontana, Adrian Grenier, Cheryl Hines, Barry Levinson, Morley Safer, Richard Schiff, Marlon Wayans and Steven Weber. The event also recognized the support of the two legislators responsible for the House resolution honoring National Lab Day, Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-OH) and Rep. Vern Ehlers (R-MI), both strong supporters of the science community.

Help put chemistry on the calendar in 2011!

Next year is the International Year of Chemistry (IYC) and to celebrate ACS invites **YOU** to highlight everyday advances in chemistry.

Through the IYC-2011 initiative "365: Chemistry for Life," a different aspect of chemistry will be highlighted every day on www.acs.org. **Anyone** can submit ideas for a favorite element, compound, discovery, process, chemist, or chemistry innovation at www.acs.org/iyc2011, by **June 30, 2010**. Suggestions should fall into one of four categories: energy, environment, materials, and health. Selected submissions receive recognition and an IYC-2011 pin and t-shirt. For more ideas on how to celebrate the International Year of Chemistry, visit www.acs.org/iyc2011 and www.chemistry2011.org/.

Be a Chemistry Ambassador and share this notice with your community. Encourage your local school teachers, scout leaders, librarians, or civic organizations to participate. Share chemistry. Start a reaction!

In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we report the deaths of the following members of the Section.

Dr. Milton Farber passed away in North Branford, Connecticut on February 17, 2010. Dr. Farber was born in New York City on March 11, 1923. He attended Dewitt Clinton High School in New York City, was a graduate of City College and received his PhD in Organic Chemistry from Columbia University. He served in the United States Army Chemical Warfare Service during World War II, and was involved at Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland in the first analysis of chemical warfare materials found in Europe. During the early 1950's he was part of a team lead by Dr. Ade

Milhorat at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center researching a cure for Muscular Dystrophy. In 1956 Dr. Farber joined the U.S. Rubber Corporation (later Uniroyal) as a research chemist, where he was involved in the creation of several new products (the Royal Seal run-flat tire, Flex-Lite printing sheets) and most notably the invention of dyeable polypropylene fiber. He is named on numerous patents for the work he did while at Uniroyal, and after his retirement in 1994 as a private consultant to the elastomer industry. He maintained an active role in professional organizations including the American Chemical Society and Sigma Xi, and took great pride in mentoring younger research scientists.

Harold Hafner passed away on December 3, 2009. Harold was a graduate of the Yale University Class of 1950, where he received his degree in chemistry. He was employed by Von Roll Isola USA Inc. in New Haven until his retirement, and after retirement continued to work for this company as a consultant. Harold had been a member of the American Chemical Society for 59 years at the time of his death.

Where were you???

Lidia Doweiko chaired the September 16, 1985 meeting of the New Haven Section, which was held at the Yale Motor Inn in Wallingford. The speaker for that meeting was Prof. Joseph Nagyvary of Texas A. & M. University, who spoke on the topic of *Renaissance Chemistry and Violin Making in Cremona, Italy*.



New Haven Section American Chemical Society Newsletter

Volume 28, Number 1, Winter 2011
New Haven Section Chartered in 1912

In this edition

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Website Revamped

As we transition away from our paper mailings, everyone can look for the updates in our emails or at our revamped website, [New Haven ACS](http://www.newhaven.sites.acs.org/) local section (<http://www.newhaven.sites.acs.org/>).

Message from the Chair

Jefferson Chin

Roughly four years ago I decided to become more active within the New Haven section and for the past three years I have been the Chair/Chair-Elect. During that time, a lot of things have changed for me, in particular the reason for volunteering. Initially, I became active as an attempt to help a friend in creating our business network and garner new customers. The plan was easy, do a little volunteering, meet new people and find new opportunities for our start-up. However, as everyone knows, things happen and change is

inevitable. Two years ago, I decided to go back to school and get my MBA and nearly a year ago I started a new job both of which require time and energy to make sure that I accomplish what I need to get done. I will readily admit that certain aspects of my volunteering within the local section have diminished a little; I still remain an active participant.

Some of my friends have been asking me *why*? Why do I continue volunteer? How do I have the time to work during the day, spend time with my family and support our local section? I continue to volunteer because I find it fun and it is an activity that challenges me beyond the scope of my work habits. The diversity of the local section allows me to interact with people that have a common interest –Chemistry– but are in different sectors of chemistry such that the conversation is always novel. And finally, I volunteer for the local section because we are trying to make an impact at the local level particularly in encouraging our youth to enjoy science. True I have less time for other parts of my life such as playing Call of Duty and less time to work on the house but when we can give an award out for doing well in the New Haven Science Fair and watch their face glow with excitement it is all worth the effort.

We're 2 months into 2011 and Spring will soon be here. The general meetings are nearly set and the speakers and topics are incredibly interesting. The Chemistry Olympiad continues to grow, and to accommodate this growth, we are offering this year two different exam times for the Local Exam. Science Fairs are also happening and new this year is the East Haven Science fair, where they are in need of judges. This edition of your Local section newsletter contains a picture contest. The first person that can correctly identify the instrument in the picture can win a Dunkin Donuts gift card. **Please enjoy the newsletter!**

General Meeting Update

Jefferson Chin

March 3rd – *Linda Jacob: Chemiluminescence-A Step into the Light Fantastic*

April 14th – *Eric Kotowski, Elm City Distillery*

May/June – TBD, Student/Teacher Awards

New Haven Science Fair

This year's Science Fair will take place May 10-12, 2011 at University Commons, Yale University. They are seeking judges and mentors for the City-wide New Haven Science Fair. Mentors commit to an hour/week from now until the Fair in May.

Tuesday, May 10, 2011, 5:00 to 8:00 pm: Judging

Wednesday, May 11, 2011 - 9am-1:00pm: Final Judging. 1-6pm: Public Viewing.

Thursday, May 12, 2011 - 9am-9pm

Judges are needed on Tuesday, May 10th (5:00 pm-8:00 pm) and Wednesday, May 11th (9:00 am-1:00 pm). Please sign up online at www.nhsciencefair.org to be either a judge or mentor.

Any questions, please contact Michelle Cirello, Project Manager, New Haven Science Fair Program, 203-782-4341. Visit us at www.nhsciencefair.org

East Haven Science Fair

On May 19, 2011 from 6:30-8:30PM, the East Haven school district will be having its first annual STEM Competition Finals for our grade 6-12 students. We are trying to connect with members of the science community to serve as judges (particularly engineers).

If you would like to volunteer to be a judge please contact

Marilee B. Noonan,

Science Instructional Leader
East Haven High School
35 Wheelbarrow Lane
East Haven, CT 06513

mnoonan@mail.east-haven.k12.ct.us

Chemists Celebrate Earth Day

Walter Krol

The American Chemical Society (ACS) observes Earth Day with the Chemists Celebrate Earth Day (CCED) program. The 2011 CCED theme is

“Energy-It’s Everywhere!” The ACS New Haven Section is sponsoring a poster contest based upon this theme. Prizes will be awarded to the top two posters in each of 4 age groups K-2nd; 3rd-5th; 6th-8th and 9th-12th. All winners, a guest, and their teacher will be invited to an awards banquet held by the section in late May at no charge (additional family members are welcome) where they will receive their awards.

For more information and rules please contact Dr. Walter Krol at walter.krol@po.state.ct.us

Opportunity to Host a Northeast Regional Meeting (NERM)

The New Haven Section has an opportunity to host a meeting of the Northeast Region in either 2013 or 2014. Members of the Section’s Executive Board recently met with representatives of the Northeast Region to discuss the commitment required to conduct a successful meeting. In the coming months the Board will be meeting to discuss whether it will be advantageous and possible for the Section to organize such an event. If we decide to move forward, a Bid Proposal is needed to the regional board by August of this year.

We feel that we cannot undertake this activity without volunteer help from the general membership. Therefore, we would like to poll the membership for your input on the following issues:

1. Did you have an opportunity to attend the Northeast Regional Meeting held in Hartford, Ct. in 2009? What was your impression of that meeting?
2. Do you think it is a good idea for the New Haven Section to host a NERM in 2013 or 2014?
3. Have you had experience organizing or helping to conduct a regional meeting?
4. Would you be willing to attend meetings and volunteer your help as a member of a committee organizing a NERM, should the Section decide to host such an event?
5. Do you have any ideas you’d like to share regarding the program to be presented at a

NERM, should the Section decide to host one?

Please e-mail your comments to newhavenacs09@gmail.com. We welcome your comments and look forward to hearing from you.

The 2011 U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad **Olivier Nicaise**

Happy (Belated) New Year to you, Chemistry Olympians, Coaches, and Supporters of the Chemistry Olympiad!

Well, please be assured that the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO) is making it quite well through the snowy winter, and is certainly looking forward to just as much excitement and success this year as this past year. In other words, it is 2011, and the USNCO is naturally back! As you may remember, just a year ago, I was reporting on feeling excitement in the air at the announcement of the 2010 USNCO. Sure indeed, 2010 turned out to be a very special and “amazingly successful” year for the ACS New Haven Local Section and its Chemistry Olympiad competitors with the remarkable accomplishments of **Mr. Alexander Siegenfeld**, a 2010 Gold Medalist at the 42nd International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO), in Tokyo, Japan, and presently a Senior at the Hopkins School, in New Haven, CT. No doubt about it, 2011 promises to be another unique vintage!

The U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad and the International Chemistry Olympiad are multi-tiered competitions that are designed to stimulate interest and promote achievement in high school chemistry, and bring together the world’s most talented high school students to test their knowledge and skills in chemistry. These programs also provide recognition of outstanding young chemistry students, teachers, and schools. Nations around the world conduct examinations to nominate the most high-performing students for the International Chemistry Olympiad.

The Local and U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad competitions are sponsored by the American Chemical Society, and administered by its local

sections. Each year, four students are chosen to represent the United States team at the International Chemistry Olympiad competition. Overall, the Chemistry Olympiad consists of the following four stages:

1. Local Chemistry Olympiad Competitions
2. U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad Competition
3. Study Camp
4. International Chemistry Olympiad

For the past 26 years, the United States has sent a team of four students to compete with nations around the world at the IChO. The students participate in both theoretical and laboratory examinations over several days. Gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded to the best performers, and the IChO provides students the opportunity to interact with their peers from other countries. The 2011 international event, in its 43rd edition, will be held in Ankara, Turkey, July 9-18, 2011.

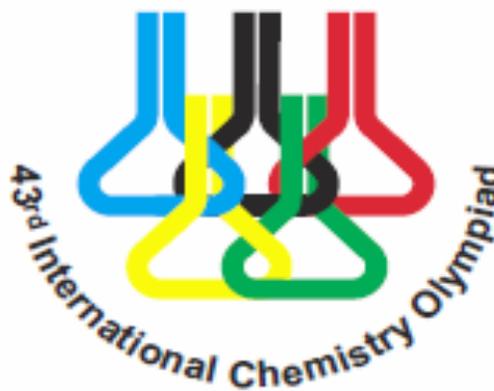
This year's host of the USNCO Program offered by the New Haven Section will be again the Department of Chemistry at Yale University, and on this occasion, the Section would like to thank Professor Scott Miller, Irénée duPont Professor of Chemistry and Chair of the Yale U. Chemistry Department, for accepting to host this competition. On the same occasion, the Section would also like to thank in advance the contribution of Dr. Jonathan Parr, a Lecturer in the Yale U. Chemistry Department, to hosting the USNCO Program. Well, it is clear that the Games of the 43rd Chemistry Olympiad will take place, so, may the preparation for the Games begin!

As the New Haven Section USNCO coordinator, my immediate task is to encourage as many teachers and their students as possible to participate in this program. The identification of the four-member U.S. team begins at the local system level. It is the responsibility of the New Haven Section to nominate students from New Haven County to participate in the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad Competition, aka the National Exam, by first conducting the Local Chemistry Olympiad Competition, aka the Local Exam. The Local Exam and the National Exam will be hosted by the Department of Chemistry at

Yale University (*vide supra*). The Local Exam is a competition with the purpose of encouraging widespread participation, and it will consist of a multiple-choice questions examination (60 questions, 1h50min). The National Exam is a three-part exam, and it will consist of: a multiple-choice questions section (1h30min), a free-response section (1h45min), and a laboratory practical (1h30min).

I encourage as many schools as possible to participate in this academic Olympiad. All students who participate will be recognized and presented with a certificate. Some students will also receive recognition for outstanding performance in certain categories. I hope that this recognition will serve to stimulate interest in chemistry and to promote a positive attitude toward chemistry.

2011 Ankara, TURKEY



! New in 2011 ! Given the increasing success of the USNCO Program in New Haven County, **the Local Exam will be administered on two different dates (Session I and Session II)** to accommodate the schedule of as many Chemistry Olympians as possible! Hurrah! Yippee! ☺

**2011 U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad
ACS New Haven Local Section
Important Dates – Mark Your Calendars!**

Monday, March 21, 2011	Deadline for Registration
Thursday, March 24, 2011	Local Exam, Session I
Saturday, March 26, 2011	Local Exam, Session II
Saturday, April 16, 2011	National Exam.

Again, I encourage as many teachers as possible to enter students –“chemical athletes”!– from their school in this Chemistry Olympiad competition, and I would like to thank you so very much in advance for helping us promote chemical education in this country.

As I said earlier, may the preparation for the Games of the 43rd Chemistry Olympiad begin!

Sincerely,
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The 2010 Kirkwood Medal to Peter G. Schultz **Olivier Nicaise**

The Department of Chemistry of Yale University and the New Haven Section of the American Chemical Society honored **Peter G. Schultz**, the Scripps Professor of Chemistry at The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, CA, as the 2010 recipient of the Kirkwood Medal, on Monday, September 27, 2010.

The Kirkwood Award celebrates the life and work of John Gamble Kirkwood, 1907-1959, former Sterling Professor of Chemistry and Chair of the Department at Yale. Supported by the joint contributions of the New Haven Section of the American Chemical Society and the generosity of dedicated private donors, this award is conferred biennially for “outstanding research contributions, theoretical or experimental, in the physical sciences”. One way of judging the importance of the Kirkwood Award is to realize the stature of its recipients. Indeed, since the award was initiated in 1962, twelve of the twenty three recipients subsequently have won the Nobel Prize.

Dr. Schultz was being recognized for his pioneering work regarding the development and application of molecular diversity technologies to problems in chemistry, biology, materials science, and medicine, including the generation of combinatorial materials libraries and the use of chemical, genomic, and protein libraries to identify and characterize molecules and genes

related to regenerative medicine and orphan and neglected diseases.

A faculty member at Scripps since 1999, Dr. Schultz previously served as a Professor of Chemistry at the University of California at Berkeley, and also as a Principal Investigator at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and an Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Professor Schultz delivered the 2010 John Gamble Kirkwood Lecture entitled “A Chemist’s Foray into Translational Research – From Stem Cells to Orphan Disease” on the Yale University campus, in the Sterling Chemistry Laboratory, and an award ceremony then took place at The Graduate Club with a banquet honoring Professor Schultz.

Speak for Science

Less than 10 percent of the 535 members of Congress have backgrounds in science and engineering. Yet everyday legislators are asked to make important decisions that affect our nation’s scientific enterprise. You and your committee members can help them make informed decisions by joining the ACS’ Act4chemistry Network (formerly the Legislative Action Network).

Act4chemistry is a Web-based political involvement program that gives you an easy, effective way to voice opinions on legislation effecting federal research to K–12 science education.

As you may know, for decades ACS has been a respected source of information and advocacy on Capitol Hill. Often this input is provided in formal testimony before committees and panels making decisions on spending and legislation relating to science and engineering.

But just as important, members of Congress listen to their *constituents* and value their timely input. That’s where you and your committee members can play a valuable role as members of the network.

Prior to key congressional decisions, ACS staff sends e-mail alerts to Act4chemistry members

with background information, the analysis of the potential effect an issue would have on the scientific enterprise, and ACS's position. By clicking on a Web link, participants can go directly to the ACS legislative action center where they are given background information on the topic and a proposed message that can be easily personalized and sent directly to legislators—the entire process takes only a few minutes.

It's free, simple, and done entirely via the Web. But more to the point, by participating in the Act4chemistry Network, chemists can impact federal policies critical to chemistry and our nation.

If you would like more information on the network, please contact the ACS Office of Public Affairs at 1-800-227-5558, ext. 4386 or b_smith@acs.org. Participate and become your legislator's "face of science."

ACS Fellows 2010

Congratulations to *Alanna Schepartz* and *Mark Johnson*, both from Yale University. They are the latest local section members to be inducted into the ACS Fellows ranks in 2010.

2012, New Haven Section ACS Centennial Year **David Smudin**

In 1912 William Howard Taft was President of the United States, the "unsinkable" U.S.S. Titanic sank in the North Atlantic, Ernest Rutherford suggested the planetary model for the atom, the Boston Red Sox moved into the newly constructed Fenway Park, and the New Haven Section of the American Chemical Society received its Charter. The Officers of the Section are in the early stages of planning activities to commemorate this centennial year, and we are looking for suggestions from the membership. Some possibilities include a one day symposium, or a series of lectures throughout the year, on relevant topics in chemistry. Another idea is the publishing of a series of articles in our Newsletter pertaining to the history of the Section, the officers and activities of the Section, and the histories of the chemical industries and university chemistry

departments which functioned within the Section during the last 100 years.

If any members, senior members in particular, have any recollections or other information you would like to share regarding the topics listed above, please send them to newhavenacs09@gmail.com, or contact any of the officers whose information is listed on the first page of this Newsletter. If you have a story to tell, but are too busy to write, we can arrange to meet with you to capture your story.

In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we report the death of the following member from our Section.

LEVITZKY, JOSEPH J. Joseph J. Levitzky, of Hamden, CT, passed away on October 9th, 2010, after an extended illness. He was the dearly beloved husband for 53 years of the late Catherine Z. Levitzky and the most devoted father of Joseph M. Levitzky. Born on June 14, 1926 in New York City, NY, he was a son of the late Gregory and Barbara (Kozey) Levitzky. He is survived by his son, Joseph, and was predeceased by his brother, the Reverend Vladimir Levitzky, and his sister, Katerina Levitzky. He was a parishioner of St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church in New Haven and of St. Rita Roman Catholic Church in Hamden. He was a member of the Holy Name Society and choir of St. Michael Church. A graduate of [New York University](#) and [Yale University](#), with degrees in chemical engineering, and an MBA from the University of New Haven, he was first employed by GAF and then with the Olin Corporation, where his career spanned 30 years. While still with Olin, he became affiliated with the Chemical Engineering department at Yale where he taught for 22 years. He was an elected Fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) and a member of the American Chemical Society.

What is this???

We have been able to obtain pictures of the instrument shown below.



Thanks to John Bayusik

If you know what this is, email newhavenacs09@gmail.com. The first person that can correctly identify it will win a \$25 gift card from Dunkin Donuts. **Contest ends March 31, 2011.**

Twenty Five Years Ago

Chairman Lidia Doweyko presided over the March 11th meeting of the Section held at September's Restaurant in New Haven. The speaker for that meeting was Dr. David N. Hume, retired Prof. of Chemistry at M.I.T., who spoke on the topic of *Blood Alcohol Measurement and the Determination of Intoxication*.