



New Haven Section American Chemical Society Newsletter

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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.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
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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,
Dr. Olivier Nicaise
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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 Dowejko 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*.