



# New Haven Section American Chemical Society Newsletter

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New Haven Section Chartered in 1912  
[www.newhaven.sites.acs.org](http://www.newhaven.sites.acs.org)

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Vacant

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## Younger Chemists Committee

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## Message from the Chair

Dr. Camille Solbrig

Involvement in the workings of the section has slowed, and so we are asking section members to step up to help organize meetings and events, as well as attract other chemists to our section events.

## **Consider volunteering on the New Haven Section's Executive Board\***

*Chair-Elect* is a 3 year position encompassing chair-elect, chair, past-chair positions. Chair elect's duties entail planning, advertising and running our section meetings of which we have about 6 a year at local restaurants. If you have had experience running programs and have also been an officer in a club or organization please consider volunteering to get more involved as a section leader. Section leaders also get to attend national ACS leadership training events.

**Committee positions:** Outreach opportunities include our programs during National Chemistry Week and Earth Day, Chemistry Olympiad competition for High School Students and the

New Haven Science Fair. This year we are also planning an Undergraduate Research Symposium at Southern CT State University in the spring for which there will be many volunteer opportunities.

Some committees include the Bylaw ad hoc committee, Younger Chemist's Committee (chemists under 35), newsletter editor (2/year) and section website web master.

\*Send an email to Camille Solbrig at [newhavenchemists417@gmail.com](mailto:newhavenchemists417@gmail.com) if you would like to join our cadre of volunteers.

### **Message from the Past-Chair**

Dr. Ken White

We had our election and thanks to those of you who took the time to vote.

Welcome to our new officers for 2016.

**Counselor:** Dr. Kap-Sun Yeung

**Secretary:** Ms. Kathryn Kuhr

**Alt Counselor:** Mr. Carlos Quimbaya

**Alt Counselor:** Dr. Olivier Nicaise

Dr. Steve Cantor resigned as Alternate Counselor for health reasons.

Dr. Camille Solbrig is moving to Chair in 2016 and I will move to Past Chair. This leaves the Chair-Elect position vacant. The main function of the Chair-Elect (to schedule meetings) will be shared by the members of the Executive Board

### **ACS New Haven Section Undergraduate Research Symposium**

**SAVE THE DATE: Saturday April 30<sup>rd</sup>, 2016.**

Next April will see the inaugural Undergraduate Research Symposium in New Haven taking place at Southern Connecticut State University. This event is being organized by the local section and will provide an excellent opportunity for undergraduates in the area to present to a wide audience the results of research that they have carried out. We are very fortunate in our

part of the state to have so many top level research groups and advisors and we want the undergraduates who are doing all the work to have the chance to show what they have done in a professional but relaxed environment. Of course, we hope also that local members will take advantage of the event to learn more for themselves about the work that is being done in our local chemistry departments.

Overall the format will be that of a typical scientific symposium, with presentations being either oral or as posters. An important part of the program will be the chance for all participants to mix socially with other chemists in the area and time will be set aside for breaks and lunch, etc. Research topics can cover any area of chemistry and we are expecting that there will be an exciting range of topics to suit all interests.

We will be sending out more detailed information early next year, including registration forms.

### **Younger Chemists Committee**

Kathryn Kuhr

Since August, the New Haven Local Section has been promoting its new Younger Chemists Committee. The goal of the YCC is to make ACS more relevant to younger chemists while developing the skills and network of young professionals. At the YCC governance meeting during the Fall National ACS Conference in Boston, our committee was awarded a starter grant for \$250.

In early November, the Younger Chemists Committee hosted a successful first event at the University of New Haven. YCC members spoke with student members of ACS about their experience in the chemical field. Of the YCC representatives, we heard from three graduate students at Yale and two members in industry. The YCC was glad to have the UNH Student Chapter Advisor, Dr. Pauline Schwartz, attend the event and share her career experience also. Stories ranged from picking the right college major, to an unexpected love for computational

chemistry and water purification at PepsiCo. Despite the road to where the members are now, a common theme that arose from those who spoke was to step out of your comfort zone and try something new.

In an effort to share who we are, we would also like to feature a new YCC member with each newsletter. Our featured member for this newsletter is Benjamin Rudshateyn, a graduate student at Yale. He was one of the first members to join the committee and is always engaged in contributing ideas for its growth. Benjamin is a current third-year student and National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow in the physical chemistry PhD program at Yale University. He is studying computational chemistry with applications in dye-sensitized solar cells and carbon dioxide mitigation under Prof. Victor S. Batista. Benjamin has been an ACS member since March 2011 and has been involved in the New Haven Local Section of the Younger Chemist's Committee since this past summer. In his spare time, Benjamin is an avid letter writer in both English and Russian, always trying to perfect his sloppy cursive. *Thank you for your participation, Benjamin!*



Benjamin Rudshateyn

speaker. Hailing from the forensic department at the University of New Haven, Dr. Powers gave a detailed account of his work in the forensic field. Attendance at this meeting was high with 36 people showing up to enjoy the dinner and the speaker at Brazi's restaurant in New Haven.

October's meeting was held at our other favorite meeting spot; Eli's in Hamden. Our speaker was Dr. Catherine Stephens, a scientist with the Institute for Cultural Preservation at Yale's West Campus. Dr. Stevens told us about her research into paper conservation including ways to measure degradation of different types of paper and an evaluation of tools sold to better store documents. A lively question and answer session followed Dr. Stephens's presentation as there was much interest in her work amongst the members of the audience. Our group must have impressed Dr. Stephens as well as she quickly renewed her ACS membership and has become one of our regular attendees at section meetings. We were also excited to be invited to an open house at the Yale Institute in November which attracted about 7 of our members to the conservation facility to view the building and its laboratories.



*Dr. Stephens presenting her work on cellulose degradation at our October meeting.*

### **ACS Section Meetings Winter Recap**

Dr. Camille Solbrig

After the summer hiatus from section meetings we resumed in the fall with an interesting and varied line up of speakers. Our September meeting featured Dr. Robert Powers as our



*New Haven section member Jerry Putterman (right) visits with Aliza Taft and Catherine Stephens (from the left) staff of the Yale Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage.*

Our last meeting of the year was at a new venue; The Library Wine Bar and Bistro in Wallingford. The Library is also associated with Gouveia Vineyard in Wallingford and features the vineyard's wines. The section members attending were treated to a presentation on winemaking by an employee of the vineyard with questions and answers as well as a tasting of some of the vineyard's wines. We were also excited to have as our speaker Dr. Laura Pence from the University of Hartford that evening. The presentation outlined Dr Pence's year as an ACS Washington Fellow.

### **Councilor Report**

Gerald J. Putterman

The Section's Newsletter is being issued four months after the 2015 fall National Meeting held in Boston and three months before the 2016 spring National Meeting to be held in San Diego. Thus most of the news from the fall Council Meeting has already been in Chemical and Engineering News and information pertaining to the upcoming meeting has not yet appeared. Therefore I have the opportunity in this report to provide some of my own observations on what occurred in Boston.

As noted in previous reports not only do I attend the Council Meeting but I also attend the District I Council Caucus. Due to a scheduling conflict, the Caucus was held on Sunday evening rather than on the customary evening before the Council meeting (Wednesday morning). My

informal survey of attendees revealed that most of them preferred Tuesday evening but I'll have to wait for the spring announcement to learn if it will return to Tuesday.

I found the total attendance of 13, 888 at the fall National meeting to be somewhat disappointing. That number was composed of 8129 attendees, 3462 students, plus exhibitors and guests.

Advanced registration for each 2016 national meeting will be \$415. The \$15 is a surcharge due to reduced participation by companies at the exhibition. Operating budgets are low for exhibition attendees and the crowd at the exhibition hall was not large.

At the Employee Clearing House 58 employers were seeking to fill 229 openings while there were 846 applicants.

At the council Meeting it was announce that as of July 31, ACS membership was 156, 561; 2055 fewer than on the same date in 2014. The number of new members who have joined this year is 14, 457; 147 fewer than this time last year. The Society's overall retention rate is 84%. The number of international members has increased to 25,989; 1014 higher than in July, 2014. The international retention rate is 85%.

Considering membership at the local level please note that in addition to our section receiving local section dues it also receives funds based on a fixed amount allotted to every section as well as an amount based on the number of members in the section. Thus it behooves us to get as many members as possible to join our section. Because of the quality of our programs, members from neighboring sections in CT have asked me how they can make the New Haven Section their section. It's easy, just call headquarters in Washington and they can do the transfer for you.

Finally I would like to recognize my long-term co-councilor, Olivier Nicaise who has chosen not to stand for re-election. It has been a pleasure serving with him. Fortunately for the section he will continue to be the driving force for the highly successful Chemistry Olympiad.

I would also like to congratulate and welcome our new councilor, Kap-Sun Yeung. I look forward to working with him.

While our section currently has two councilors, please note that the number of councilors allotted to a section is entirely dependent on the number of members in that section—another good reason to encourage members to join the New Haven Section.





# Undergraduate Research Symposium

The New Haven section is pleased to host the  
First Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium  
Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
at Southern Connecticut State University  
120 Engleman Hall  
8:00am – 2:00pm

The symposium program will feature both oral and poster presentations given from undergraduate students conducting research at local universities within New Haven and Fairfield Counties. Presentation topics will cover research in fields such as nanotechnology, forensics, biochemistry, chemical engineering, polymer science, green chemistry, sustainability, and many more.

Attendance for the event is FREE and open to all local students, faculty, and industry professionals. Lunch and coffee breaks will be provided.

If you are a company within the Northeast interested in sponsoring the event please contact [Kathryn Kuhr](#) for more information.

**2016 CONNECTICUT ORGANIC  
CHEMISTRY SYMPOSIUM  
AT YALE**

**Thursday, April 7**

**Sterling Chemistry Laboratory  
225 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT.**

**John F. Hartwig**

*Henry Rapoport Professor of Chemistry  
University of California, Berkeley*

**Erick M. Carreira**

*Professor of Chemistry  
ETH Zurich*

**Vincent Mascitti**

*Senior Director,  
CVMED Medicinal Chemistry  
Pfizer Groton*

**Craig M. Crews**

*Lewis B. Cullman Professor of Molecular,  
Cellular, and Developmental Biology  
Yale University*

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Pfizer  
and YALE Department of Chemistry*

**More details coming soon!**

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