



American Chemical Society Susquehanna Valley Section

MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER

The four hundred and fifty third meeting of the American Chemical Society Susquehanna Valley Section will be our Annual Awards Banquet and will be held on Wednesday, May 1, 2019. With the presentation of various local section awards, the Annual Awards Banquet recognizes both aspiring and accomplished local chemistry professionals who have helped to promote chemistry, the chemical professions, and the section. This year's ceremony will begin at 5:30 PM at the [Pine Barn Inn](#) in Danville, PA. The speaker will be Dr. Jeremy Ramsey from Lycoming College.

“Using Analytical Chemistry to Support Rural Coffee Farmers in Dominican Republic”

Dr. Jeremy Ramsey
Department of Chemistry
Lycoming College
Williamsport, PA

ABSTRACT:

Coffee is grown at high elevation in tropical regions of the world with Central and South American countries producing the bulk of the agricultural crop. In most producing countries, coffee is commonly traded globally following harvesting and processing, but rural coffee farmers in Dominican Republic have almost no access to the wider market and receive a very low return for their crops. This causes them to work additional jobs to avoid living in poverty. The Warrior Coffee Project at Lycoming College aims to create international markets for Dominican grown coffee with the first efforts being directed toward a Lycoming branded coffee being the first step. Our research group has begun assisting these efforts by evaluating the quality of drinking water available to farmers so that we might suggest water handling and hygienic methods that they can implement to increase their quality of life. More recently, we have begun developing methods for monitoring antioxidant capacity of coffee and deploying these analysis methods to the mountainous, coffee-growing regions of Dominican Republic. The presentation will discuss water quality, coffee production, analytical method development, and challenges of initiating a research program in a foreign country.

BIOGRAPHY OF DR. JEREMY RAMSEY:

Dr. Jeremy Ramsey has been a faculty member in the Department of Chemistry at Lycoming College since 2005. He earned his B.S. in Chemistry from Clarion University of Pennsylvania and his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University. Following graduation, he spent two years as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, followed by two years as a Senior Scientist with Geo Centers at the Naval Research Laboratory. Dr. Ramsey's experience is predominantly within the areas of

electrochemistry and vibrational spectroscopy; however, he also has significant experience with miniaturized separation methods (Lab on a Chip/Microfluidics), chromatographic analysis of explosives, and spectroscopic characterization of organic reducing agents (samarium diiodide).

DINNER: The Annual Awards Banquet of the local section will be held on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 5:30 pm at the [Pine Barn Inn](#) in Danville, PA. Please RSVP to William Dougherty at doughertyw@susqu.edu or 570-372-4540 by Sunday April 28. Cost of the dinner is \$20 per person, paid at the door, cash or check (payable to Susquehanna Valley Section of the ACS). Please do not mail checks in advance. Receipts will be provided upon request. Please note that individuals who are receiving an award at the banquet will not be charged for dinner.

DIRECTIONS TO THE PINE BARN INN:

Address: One Pine Barn Place, Danville, PA 17821

From I-80:

Take the Danville exit 224 to PA-54 East which is Continental Blvd. In three miles turn left onto Bloom Street. Stay on Bloom Street; the Pine Barn Inn will be on your left in about half a mile. See the website for more details: pinebarninn.com

SECTION NEWS:

2019 CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD:



U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad

A reminder that students who qualified will take the National Chemistry Olympiad Exam on Saturday April 27th at Bucknell University at 9 am. Please contact Patrick Martino (patrick.martino@bucknell.edu) if you have any questions. For more details about the exam see the [local website](#) and [national website](#). Best of luck to our section's participants!

JOB POSTINGS:



King's College has open part-time positions to teach general chemistry I lab courses for fall 2019. For the full listing and application instructions, see:

<https://www.kings.edu/hr/employment-opportunities>

MARM2019:



The 47th Mid Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM) will be held May 30-June 1, 2019. The meeting is hosted by the Maryland Local Section of the American Chemical Society.

BOOK YOUR STAY: The Days Inn in Baltimore's Inner Harbor is offering rooms for \$99/night. Check their website, marm2019.org, for more information.

CERM 2019:



The 50th Central Regional Meeting (CERM) will be held June 4 - 8, 2019. The meeting is hosted by the Midland Local Section of the American Chemical Society. Check their website, acscerm2019.org, for more information.

NATIONAL ACS NEWS:

NATIONAL MEETINGS:

Fall 2019:

The 2019 fall national meeting will be held in San Diego, CA from August 25 – 29. Check the [website](#) for registration details.

23rd Annual Green Chemistry & Engineering Conference and 9th International Conference on Green and Sustainable Chemistry:

These events will be held together from June 11-13, 2019 in Reston, Virginia. See the website, gcande.org, for more details.

SERVICE ON ACS NATIONAL COMMITTEES:

There are many national committees of the ACS that welcome non-councilors. If you are interested in being considered for a committee appointment at the national level, you are encouraged to create a listing in the ACS Yellowbook and fill out a committee preference form.

If you are not already in the Yellowbook system, you can request access from Cheryl Vockins (c_vockins@acs.org)

The online committee preference form to select and inform our office of your committee interests will be open until June 7, 2019 and is located at <https://www.yellowbook.acs.org> (note: you will need your ACS member number or ACS ID for access).

If you would like to be considered for an appointment, the Committee on Committees now requires that you provide specific details/rationale (500 character limit) about your qualifications/expertise for that appointment so be sure and fill out that text box.

Although not all can be appointed to committees, you can be sure that you will get thorough consideration for an assignment.

Please contact Cheryl Vockins (c_vockins@acs.org), if you have any questions.

ACS LEGISLATIVE ACTION NETWORK:

Legislation that may impact the chemical enterprise comes before Congress on a regular basis, and the ACS is committed to keeping its members informed and encouraging them to weigh in on high-priority issues. To see the position of the ACS on many legislative issues visit the ACS LAN website:

<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/policy.html>

To find out how to become more active in ACS advocacy activities, see the website:

<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/policy/memberadvocacy/advocacy-tools.html>

To join ACS' grassroots legislative advocacy network, ACT4CHEMISTRY, which will allow you to stay up to date on policy issues and contact legislators on behalf of chemistry and chemists, go to their [website](#), follow the [Act4Chemistry Twitter account](#), or email advocacy@acs.org.

JOIN THE ACS:

If you know of anyone who would benefit from being a member of the American Chemical Society, please direct them to the membership website:

<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/membership-and-networks/acs/join.html>

Susquehanna Valley Section Web Page: <http://departments.kings.edu/SusquehannaValleyACS>

Please send any comments about the monthly newsletter to Ron Supkowski, Section Secretary
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