



American Chemical Society Susquehanna Valley Section

OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

The four hundred and seventieth meeting of the American Chemical Society, Susquehanna Valley Section will be the Wilkes University [Henry J. and Linda C. Pownall Lecture](#) on Wednesday the 18th of October at 7:00 p.m. in Stark Learning Center 105 (formerly room 101). The guest speaker is Ann Valentine, PhD, a professor and chair of the chemistry department at Temple University. The lecture will be preceded by a reception (5:00 p.m.) and dinner (5:30 p.m.) honoring Dr. Valentine at The Mary Stegmaier Mansion, 156 S. Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre.

“Exploring a Role for Titanium in Biochemistry”

Dr. Ann Valentine
Professor and Chair
Department of Chemistry
Temple University
Pennsylvania, PA



Titanium is the ninth most abundant element in the Earth’s crust. Humans find many applications for titanium: in powerful catalysts, in structural materials, in paints and pigments and more. Yet conventional wisdom holds that biology has very little to do with this metal. Titanium has a reputation for extreme inertness that is belied by data from several experimental systems.

This lecture will address interactions between titanium and biology at the molecular level, with special focus on cases where organisms and/or biomolecules induce the formation of, bind to, or even dissolve titanium minerals. Some potential medicinal implications will also be addressed.

BIOGRAPHY OF DR. VALENTINE:

Ann Valentine is a professor and chair of the chemistry department at Temple University. A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, she earned her BS at the University of Virginia and her PhD at MIT. After an NIH postdoctoral fellowship at Penn State University, Valentine served as an assistant and then associate professor of chemistry at Yale University. She moved to Temple University in 2011.

Valentine's lab research focuses on bioinorganic chemistry, especially how nature manages metals that are hard to handle because they make insoluble materials. This list includes iron, which is essential for nearly every life form, but also titanium, which in her opinion has been neglected.

Valentine won a National Science Foundation CAREER award, an American Cancer Society Research Scholar award and a Chemical Pioneer award from the American Institute of Chemists. She also won a 2016 Dean's Distinguished Teaching Award and a 2021 Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching, and was named the Temple Honors Professor of the Year in 2015 and 2021. Valentine has co-authored more than 50 scientific publications.

DINNER:

The lecture will be preceded by a reception (5:00 p.m.) and dinner (5:30 p.m.) honoring Dr. Valentine, held at [The Mary Stegmaier Mansion](#), 156 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701. Dinner attendees may park on Wilkes University surface lots in addition to Mansion parking (see directions below). The reception will include Hors D'oeuvres and there will be a cash bar. Dinner will include Caesar Salad, Potatoes Anna "Gratin" Roasted Spring Vegetables, Petite Dessert Display, and beverage service (Coffee, Tea, Iced Tea, Soda). Entrée choices include a choice of Chicken Marsala, Angus Fillet Mignon, Maple Glazed Salmon, or Vegetarian Cheese Tortellini in Vodka Sauce. As a result of the generosity of the Pownall's, our guests will be provided with dinner at no cost. However, dinner capacity is limited and reservations will be confirmed on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please RSVP for the event and dinner (noting your entree choice) to Gennie Singer (genevieve.singer@wilkes.edu) or 570.408.4750 by 3 p.m. Monday 9 Oct. 2023.

DIRECTIONS TO WILKES UNIVERSITY:

GPS: Wilkes University parking can be accessed at 141 S. Main St, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

Detailed directions can be found at:

<https://www.wilkes.edu/about-wilkes/planning-your-visit/directions-to-campus.aspx>

Take Exit 3 (River Street Exit), from PA Route 309N then make a left at traffic light. You are now on River Street. Immediately after turning left onto River Street, you will encounter the first of 8 traffic lights. Continue on River Street to the 8th light where you will turn left (east) onto W. Northampton Street. Continue on Northampton until you reach Main St. and turn right. You can park in the Parking #12 (141 S. Main St. next to the Karambelas Media and Communication Center/Sordoni Art Gallery). Additional parking can be found in Parking #8 (169 S. Main Street behind University Center on Main (UCOM) with entrance on W. South Street) and Parking #5 (84 W. South Street behind the Henry Student Center with entrances on S. River Street and S. Franklin Street).

The Mary Stegmaier Mansion



detailed campus map (<https://wilkes.university-tour.com/map.php>)

parking (<https://www.wilkes.edu/about-wilkes/planning-your-visit/parking-locations.aspx>)

LOCAL SECTION NEWS:

LOCAL SECTION ELECTIONS FOR 2024 OFFICERS:

Nominations are due for the positions of:

Chair-elect (one year term as Chair-Elect, one year as Chair, and one year as Past Chair)

Secretary, Treasurer, Councilor, and Alternate Councilor (all three-year terms)

If interested, please contact any [section officer](#).

CHANGE TO 2023-2024 MEETING SCHEDULE:

The April 2024 meeting will be held at the University of Scranton (it was previously scheduled to be at King's College).

NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK:



NCW will be celebrated October 15-21, 2023, with the theme, "The Healing Power of Chemistry" The Susquehanna Valley Section is once again collecting illustrated poems for this year's event. If you know of a student in K-12 who would like to participate, please contact Charlie Guttendorf at cg029@bucknell.edu. The deadline for submissions is Sunday, October 22. For further details, see the [website](#).

HALLOWEEN SHOW AT BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY

The Bucknell University Department of Chemistry will be performing a Halloween show on Tuesday October 24 at the McDonnell Amphitheater on the Bucknell campus. The event is free and open to the public. Activity tables will be available from 5-7pm and the show will start at 7pm. Rain date is Wednesday, October 25. Costumes are encouraged!! Contact the chemistry office at cg029@bucknell.edu or 570-577-3258 for more information.



OPEN POSITIONS IN THE LOCAL SECTION:

Do you want to use your talents to help other chemists in the Susquehanna Valley section? Listed below are examples of positions that need to be filled by willing individuals along with websites that give organizing ideas:

- SVS Chair-Elect
This three-year position is the usual office taken on by local chemists who want to begin to become more involved in the local section.
- [Chemistry Olympiad](#) Chair
Administer Local Chemistry Olympiad Competitions in coordination with the National Chemistry Olympiad.
- WCC ([Woman Chemists Committee](#)) Chair
Help attract, retain, develop, promote, and advocate for women to positively impact diversity, equity and inclusion in the Society and the profession
- CMA ([Committee on Minority Affairs](#)) Chair
Help increase the number & participation of racially & ethnically underrepresented scientists in the Society and its governance
- Project SEED ([Summer Experiences for the Economically Disadvantaged](#)) Coordinator
Coordinators are responsible for establishing programs, identifying mentors, recruiting students, fundraising, and organizing activities such as field trips
- CH&S ([Chemical Health and Safety](#)) Committee Chair
Help provide authoritative technical resources and mentorship in chemical health and safety for all
- SCC ([Senior Chemists Committee](#)) Chair
Help improve communication among senior chemists, increase the number of senior chemists' groups and the level of their engagement within local sections, and encourage the involvement of senior chemists in programs focused on K-12 education, undergraduate networking, and mentoring
- CCEW ([Chemists Celebrate Earth Week](#)) Coordinator
Help promote the positive role that chemistry plays in the protecting our planet (recyclable plastics, cleaner-burning fuels, phosphate-free detergents, environmental monitoring, and green chemistry initiatives).

If you are interested, contact the section Chair (Daniel McCurry, dmccurry@commonwealthu.edu), Secretary (Ronald Supkowski, ronaldsupkowski@kings.edu) or any member of the Susquehanna Valley Section leadership team ([executive committee](#), [committee chairs](#), [liaisons](#)).

LOCAL STEM COMPETITIONS:



A list of all STEM competitions for high school students is posted on our [website](#). If you have any questions about the contests or have suggestions for others, please contact either the person indicated on the site or the section webmaster, Ron Supkowski at ronaldsupkowski@kings.edu or 570-208-5900 x5733

NATIONAL ACS NEWS:

COVID-19:

ACS is committed to helping combat the global COVID-19 pandemic with initiatives and free resources. Learn More at their website acs.org/content/acs/en/covid-19

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 X](#) (formerly Twitter) account, or email advocacy@acs.org.

Act4Chemistry Advocacy Issues. To take action go to the website
acs.org/content/acs/en/policy/memberadvocacy/issues.html#/takeaction

Ask Congress to fund the CHIPS and Science Act

Last year Congress passed the CHIPS and Science Act into law, one of the largest research and innovation bills of the decade. Now, Congress must act to ensure the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy Office of Science, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology have the funding necessary to support the ambitious research agenda outlined in the law in the upcoming fiscal year 2024 appropriations process. We are asking you to highlight the importance of adequately funding research priorities already outlined by Congress in the CHIPS and Science Act to your Representative and Senators.

Ask Congress to support climate change legislation

With the growing climate crisis, the American Chemical Society recently endorsed a package of legislation to help address climate change, both to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve the sustainability of our energy and transportation sectors, and adapt to a changing world. ACS believes these steps are only part of addressing our changing climate, but it is a step towards leaving a better planet to our children and grandchildren. We ask you to raise these important issues to your Representative and Senators as they consider their legislative activities and priorities.

Support the Chemical Safety Board

The CSB is an independent federal agency that saves companies, universities, and local communities billions of dollars and countless lives by helping them prevent catastrophic incidents. Despite its great value, the administration has called for \$9.4 million for FY 2019 to be allocated to CSB, specifically for its elimination. Join us in asking appropriators and other members of Congress for their continued support of the CSB and its mission to protect workers and the public.

Keep Science Funding Strong

Congress and the White House are working to complete the budget appropriations process. Join us in asking appropriators for a strong and predictable boost in federal funding for scientific research.

Congressional Chemistry Caucus

The Caucus' mission is to educate Members of Congress, their staff, and the public on the benefits of chemistry in today's society and its economic impact on our country. If you do not see your Representative or Senators represented in the Chemistry Caucus ask them to join.

JOIN THE ACS:

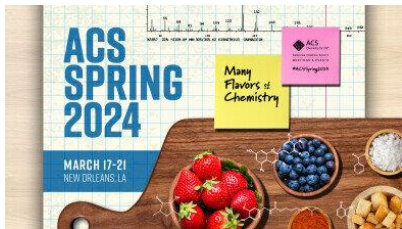
If you know of anyone who would benefit from being a member of the American Chemical Society, please direct them to the membership website: <https://www.acs.org/membership.html>

CHAT GPT IN A CHEMISTRY CLASSROOM DISCUSSION:

Join an online discussion of chemistry faculty who have tried Chat GPT in the classroom and published articles on the topic. The discussion will be on Friday, October 6 from 12-1 pm. See the [website](#) to register and get more information



NATIONAL MEETINGS:



Spring 2024 ACS National Meeting

The Spring 2024 national meeting, “Many Flavors of Chemistry” will be a hybrid event. The meeting will be held March 17-21, and the in-person event will take place in New Orleans, LA. See the [website](#) for more information.

SAVE THE DATE:

The 28th Biennial Conference on Chemical Education will be held at the University of Kentucky in Lexington on July 28 – August 1, 2024. See the [website](#) for more details.



Susquehanna Valley Section Web Page: svs-accs.org. Please send any comments about the monthly newsletter to Ron Supkowski, Section Secretary ronaldsupkowski@kings.edu King's College 131 N River St Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711
