



American Chemical Society Susquehanna Valley Section

MAY 2015 NEWSLETTER

The four hundred and twenty-fourth meeting of the American Chemical Society Susquehanna Valley Section will be our Annual Awards Banquet and will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2015. With the presentation of various local section awards, the Annual Awards Banquet recognizes both aspiring and accomplished chemistry professionals in the area who have helped to promote chemistry, the chemical professions, and the section. This year's ceremony will begin at 5:30 PM at The Links Restaurant in Bloomsburg, PA. The speaker will be Dr. Michael Krout from Bucknell University.

“Chemical Synthesis as a Scientific Tool”

Dr. Michael Krout
Department of Chemistry
Bucknell University
Lewisburg, PA

The science of organic chemistry has had a significant impact on the lives of humans. Chemical synthesis, or the planned execution of a series of chemical reactions to produce a final, intended product, requires an ability to manipulate matter in specific and reliable means. Our ability to leverage chemical synthesis for the preparation of pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, fragrances/ flavorings, and materials enhances our understanding of science and often drives innovation. Personal research experiences, anecdotes, and related examples will be presented to advance the connection between our ability to synthesize organic molecules and the application of these structures to societal issues. Emphasis will be placed on studies related to pharmaceuticals and other structures of biological interest.

Dr. Michael Krout is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry at Bucknell University. He conducts research in the areas of organic synthesis and reaction methods development. Current projects in the Krout laboratory involve the investigation of new strategies for the chemical synthesis of a number of naturally occurring molecules called the eudesmanes that possess an array of interesting properties, such as antitumor and antibacterial. The Krout lab is also engaged in translational studies that involve the design, synthesis, and study of bile acid derivatives that promote unique immunological responses. Dr. Krout graduated from Mifflinburg Area High School in Pennsylvania and received his B.S. in Biochemistry from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He then earned his Ph.D. from the California Institute of Technology where he worked on the development and application of novel chemical reactions to synthesize twisted-amides and natural sesquiterpenes. After graduate school, he was an NIH Postdoctoral Fellow at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City where he conducted studies on the chemical synthesis of potent neurotoxins and developed novel steroid inhibitors with the potential to treat autoimmune diseases.

DINNER: Dinner will be buffet-style with a selection of entrees, side dishes, salad and dessert. The cost of the dinner will be \$20, but is free for honored students (high school and college) and high school teachers. Please RSVP to James Swan at swan@bucknell.edu or 570-577-3671 by Monday, April 27, 2015.

DIRECTIONS TO THE LINKS RESTAURANT AT HEMLOCK CREEK:

Address: 55 Williamsburg Blvd., Bloomsburg, PA 17815

From Bloomsburg:

From downtown Bloomsburg, take Main Street/US Route 11 South for about a mile. Exit onto PA-42 North toward Buckhorn. Continue on PA-42 for approximately 2 miles. Turn onto Buckhorn Road for about 0.6 miles, then turn left on to Schoolhouse Road, and left onto Williamsburg Boulevard at the Links at Hemlock Creek sign.

From Danville:

Take US Route 11 North and exit onto PA-42 North toward Buckhorn. Continue on PA-42 for approximately 2 miles. Turn onto Buckhorn Road for about 0.6 miles, then turn left on to Schoolhouse Road, and left onto Williamsburg Boulevard at the Links at Hemlock Creek sign.

From I-80 West/East:

Take the Buckhorn exit 232 to PA-42. Turn onto Buckhorn Road for about 0.6 miles, then turn left on to Schoolhouse Road, and left onto Williamsburg Boulevard at the Links at Hemlock Creek sign.

From I-81 North/South:

Take exit 151B to I-80W toward Bloomsburg. See I-80 West/East directions above.

SECTION NEWS:

Wilkes University's Max Rosenn Lecture Series in Law and Humanities:

The lecture will be Sunday, April 26, 2015 7:30 p.m. in the Dorothy Dickson Dart Center at Wilkes University. The speaker will be Brian Greene, string theorist and author of *The Elegant Universe*. Brian Greene is one of the world's leading theoretical physicists and a brilliant, entertaining communicator of cutting-edge scientific concepts. The lecture's topic will be "Science Matters: Inspiring the Next Generation of Maverick Thinkers"

The 40th ACS Northeast Regional Meeting (NERM 2015) will be held at Ithaca College, Ithaca, New York on June 10 - 13, 2015.

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

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