



American Chemical Society Susquehanna Valley Section

MAY 2017 NEWSLETTER

The four hundred and thirty eighth meeting of the American Chemical Society Susquehanna Valley Section will be our Annual Awards Banquet and will be held on Wednesday, May 3, 2017. 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 Pine Barn Inn in Danville, PA. The speaker will be Dr. Dee Casteel from Bucknell University.

“Joseph Priestley, Chemistry and Controversy”

Dr. Dee Casteel
Department of Chemistry
Bucknell University
Lewisburg, PA

Joseph Priestley is best remembered for his pioneering work in chemistry and in particular for the discovery of oxygen. Priestley's intellectual interests were wide-ranging, however, and he wrote and discussed topics far outside of science; he was a prolific theologian, an innovative educator, and a political philosopher as well as a chemist. Priestley shares credit for the discovery of oxygen with the Antoine Lavoisier from France and Carl Wilhelm Scheele from Sweden, who all carried out and reported their experiments at nearly the same time.

Priestley was self-taught as a scientist. From his early reading in natural philosophy, as science was then called, Priestley adopted the now superseded theory of phlogiston as the framework for understanding his discoveries and observations. While many of his contemporaries were acknowledging the flaws with phlogiston and developing better ways to understand heat and combustion, Priestley was never able to accept this new thinking.

Priestley was embroiled in religious controversy as well in England and he was a vocal supporter of both the American and French Revolutions. His defense of the French Revolution in particular elicited outrage from the press and the public. In 1791, rioters in Birmingham destroyed Priestley's house, laboratory, and library.

The loss of his lab and library were difficult blows and ultimately drove Priestley to immigrate to the US with his wife Mary in 1793. They settled in Northumberland PA where their large manor house still stands.

In his last 10 years, Priestley continued his work on gases or “airs”, published more scientific papers, and wrote religious tracts.

BIOGRAPHY OF DR. CASTEEL:

Dee Ann Casteel is Associate Professor of Chemistry at Bucknell University where she has been since 1994. She earned her Bachelor of Music degree from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, her home state. From there, she obtained her Ph.D. at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. Following a postdoctoral position at Brown University, she taught for several years at the University of Iowa, College of Pharmacy before moving to Bucknell. Her specialty areas are in organic synthesis and medicinal chemistry with a particular interest in antimalarial compounds. She is the current President of the Friends of the Joseph Priestley House. As elected Councilor for this local section, she represents the section at national meetings. Other interests include participating in various musical groups as well as cooking.

DINNER: Dinner will be buffet-style with a selection of entrees, side dishes, salad and dessert. The cost of the dinner will be \$20 by cash (preferred) or check, but is free for honored students (high school and college) and high school teachers. Please RSVP by Wednesday, April 26 to Bill Dougherty at doughertyw@susqu.edu or 570-372-4540

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.

SECTION NEWS:



The 45th MARM is scheduled for June 4-6, 2017 and is being co-hosted by the Susquehanna Valley and Lehigh Valley Sections of the American Chemical Society. It will be held at Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA. [Book your room now](#) to take advantage of the discounted MARM rate. Many details about the program and offerings are on the website, marm2017.sites.acs.org.

MARM 2017 is also looking for volunteers to help with the many events occurring. If you are interested, or know someone who is, please have them submit information to the following link:

https://bucknell.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7P8zRagayA8pomp.

CHEMAGINATION CALL FOR JUDGES:



The 2017 Mid-Atlantic Regional Chemagination Competition, which will be held on Sunday, June 4 from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm at 2017 MARM is in need of volunteers to serve as judges. Judging would involve evaluation of articles submitted by student teams about a week before the competition and then the interviewing of up to 6 teams during the competition on June 4. The criteria for evaluation are scientific thought, creativity, clarity, and thoroughness. Information about the article topic is given in the [SVS website](#). Further information can be had from [Carol Stein](#).

NATIONAL ACS NEWS:

ACT4CHEMISTRY:

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. One of the main ways the ACS does this is through Act4Chemistry. To learn more please visit their [website](#) or email advocacy@acs.org.

NATIONAL MEETINGS:

The 21st Annual Green Chemistry & Engineering Conference will be held in Reston, Virginia from June 13-15, 2017. Early bird registration ends on April 28th. See the [website](#) for more details.

The 2017 fall national meeting will be held in Washington DC from August 20-24. The theme is "Chemistry's Impact on the Global Economy." See the [website](#) for more details.

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
