



# American Chemical Society Susquehanna Valley Section

## MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER

The four hundred and forty third meeting of the Susquehanna Valley Section of the American Chemical Society will be held on Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 (which is the THIRD Wednesday in March) in Room 324 in the Natural Sciences Center on the campus of Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, PA. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM and will be preceded by a dinner at BJ's Steak and Rib House at 5:30pm. The speaker will be Dr. Jeremy Ramsey of Lycoming College in Williamsport, PA.

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

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

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.

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 lecture will be preceded by dinner at 5:30 PM at BJ's Steak and Rib House located at 17 North Market Street, Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. RSVP to Bill Dougherty at [doughertyw@susqu.edu](mailto:doughertyw@susqu.edu) or 570-372-4255 by 4:00 P.M. on Monday, March 12, 2017. Dinner will be ordered from the menu. Menu and directions to BJ's Steak and Rib House can be found at [www.bjsribs.com](http://www.bjsribs.com).

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## DIRECTIONS TO SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY:

Address: 514 University Avenue, Selinsgrove, PA 17870

From Route I-80 West:

Take the Danville exit, 224. Take route 54 east to Route 11 south towards Selinsgrove. Continue left on Route 11/15 south (continue as directed below from Route 11/15).

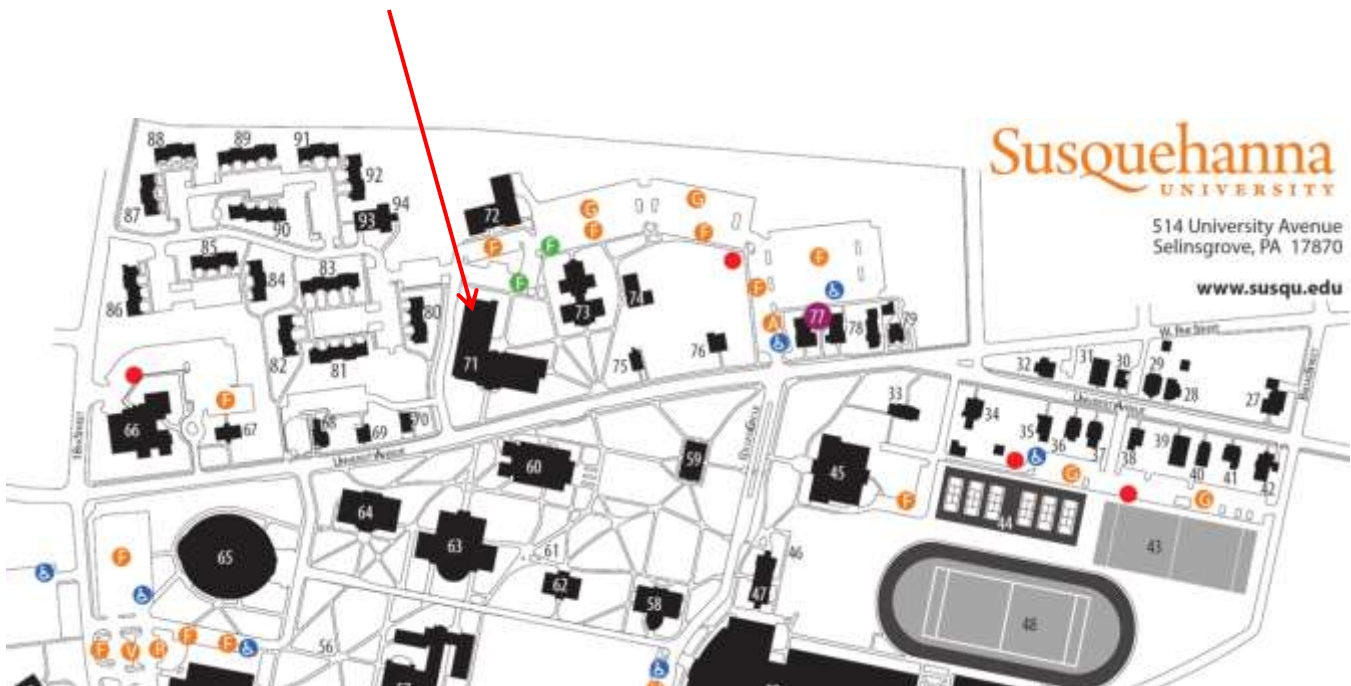
From Route I-80 East:

Take the Lewisburg exit, 210A. Take Route 15 south towards Selinsgrove. Turn right onto Route 11/15 south (continue as directed below from Route 11/15).

From Route 11/15:

Route 11/15 south becomes Market Street. Turn right onto W. Pine Street. West Pine Street becomes University Avenue. Follow the campus map to visitor parking.

A full campus map can be found at [Susquehanna University Campus Map](#). The Natural Sciences Center (# 71) is designated with the arrow on the map below:



## SECTION NEWS:

### 2018 SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY SECTION CHEMISTRY HIGH SCHOOL EXAM:

The annual exams, hosted by the Susquehanna Valley Section of the ACS, will be held Saturday, April 14. Students from across the section are nominated by their teachers to take this exam. Students with high scores in our different districts receive a David H. Frederick Memorial Award in High School Chemistry at our Awards Banquet on Wednesday, May 2 at the [Pine Barn Inn](#) in Danville, PA. See the [website](#) for details.

### 2018 CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD:



U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad

The local 2018 U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO) will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2018 from 9am to 2pm at Marywood University. If you know of a truly outstanding chemistry student please submit his or her name to Dr. Deanne Garver, [dgarver@maryu.marywood.edu](mailto:dgarver@maryu.marywood.edu), by the end of March. See the [local website](#) and [national website](#) for more details.

### PENNSYLVANIA JUNIOR ACADEMY OF SCIENCE (PJAS):



The local PJAS regions will be holding their annual high-school science competitions. PJAS is always looking for local science professionals to volunteer to judge the STEM projects of the area's 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Region 5's competition (the western half of the SVS section) will be Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at Susquehanna University and Region 2's competition (the eastern half of the SVS section) will on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at Wilkes University. For more information visit the websites at <http://www.pjas.net/region5> or <http://www.pjas.net/region2>.

### LOCAL STEM COMPETITIONS:

We have posted a list of all STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) competitions for high school students on our website:

<http://departments.kings.edu/SusquehannaValleyACS/services/STEM.html>

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](mailto:ronaldsupkowski@kings.edu) or 570-208-5900 x5733

### JOSEPH PRIESTLEY HOUSE:

Sunday, March 11, is the opening day of the current season at the Joseph Priestley House in Northumberland. The visitor center is open from 1 - 4 PM and will feature costumed guides and live chemistry shows. For more information, call the house at 570-473-9474 or go to:

[www.josephpriestleyhouse.org/event/commonwealth-charter-day-and-priestleys-birthday/](http://www.josephpriestleyhouse.org/event/commonwealth-charter-day-and-priestleys-birthday/)

## NERM 2018:



In 2018, the Northeast Region of the ACS is offering a focused, specialized regional meeting on “Nanomaterials: Applications and Environmental Impacts”. A call for abstracts has been issued. NENM 2018 is scheduled for June 1-3, 2018 and is being hosted by the Northern New York Section of the American Chemical Society. It will be held at Crowne Plaza Hotel & Resort, Lake Placid. Abstracts will be accepted until March 12 on the [ACS MAPS](#) system. See their [website](#) for more details.

## NANO-MARM 2018:



NanoMARM will be a one-day regional meeting on Sunday, 3 June 2018. It will be held in the Iacocca Center on the Lehigh University campus and will include the MARM Chemagination competition and the MARM awards banquet. The plenary speaker will be Dr. Jennifer M. Rampling of Princeton University speaking on “George Ripley and the Image of English Alchemy.” Abstracts will be accepted until March 12 on the [ACS MAPS](#) system. For more information contact [nanomarm2018@gmail.com](mailto:nanomarm2018@gmail.com)

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## NATIONAL ACS NEWS:

### NATIONAL MEETINGS:

The 2018 spring national meeting will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana from March 18-22. See the [website](#) for details and registration instructions.

The 2018 fall national meeting will be held in Boston, Massachusetts from August 19-23. A call for papers has been opened with many divisions having a deadline of Monday, March 12. See the [website](#) for more details.

### 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](mailto: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>

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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](mailto:ronaldsupkowski@kings.edu)

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