

The Blue Ridge Chemist

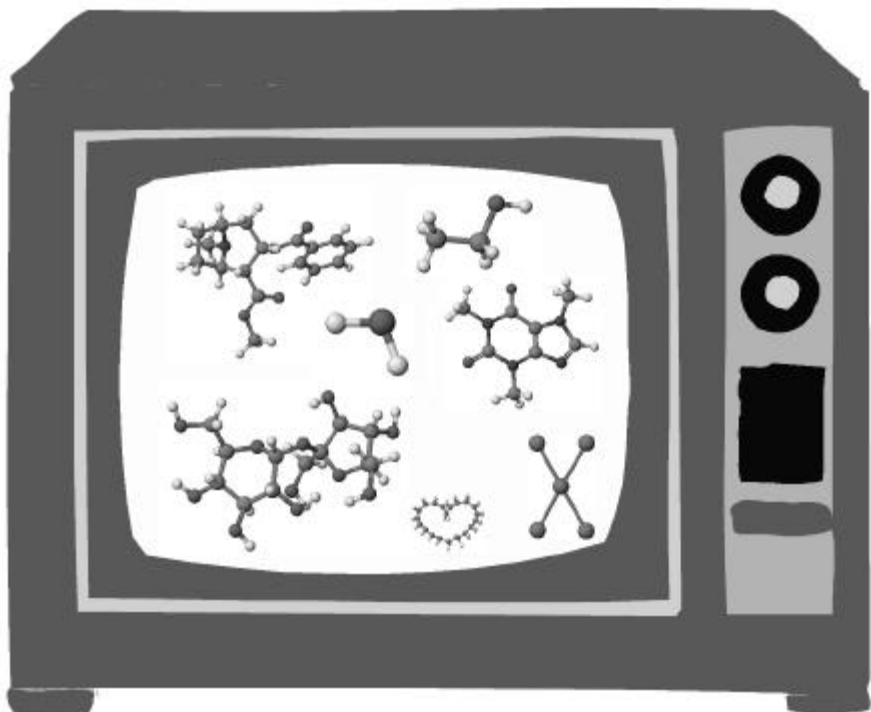
The Blue Ridge Chemist, since 1947 the
Official Local Section Publication of the
Virginia Blue Ridge Section, American Chemical Society



VOLUME LVII

February, 2004

No. 1



Roanoke College Hosts February Meeting

membership.acs.org/v/vbr

VIRGINIA BLUE RIDGE SECTION AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

582th SECTION MEETING

Hosted by Roanoke College

Thursday, February 12, 2004

PROGRAM:

5:00-6:00 Social Time

6:00-7:00 Dinner

7:00-8:00 Meeting

The social time, dinner, and meeting will take place at Roanoke College in the Ballroom of the Colket Student Center. (See map on page 7). The speaker will be Dr. John J. Fortman, speaking on "Humorous Chemistry on Popular TV Shows".

The menu is fresh fruit salad, Seafood Newberg, London Broil, rice pilaf, asparagus tips, rolls, carrot cake, and apple pie a la mode, with coffee and iced tea. The cost for the dinner is \$12.00. For retired members and students the cost is \$6.00.

Reservations for the dinner must be made by **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, (7 days before the meeting)**, by e-mailing Ben Huddle at huddle@roanoke.edu, or phoning (540) 375-2440, or regular mailing to Department of Chemistry, Roanoke College, Salem, VA 24153. Reservations can also be made through Margaret Anderson by phoning (540) 375-2441.

Humorous Chemistry on Popular TV Shows

Video clips will be show from old programs like "The Honeymooners" and "WKRP in Cincinnati" as well as newer shows like "Sabrina the Teenage Witch" and "Honey I Shrunk the Kids - TV Show." Others will come from talk/variety shows like the old Steve Allen Show and today's David Letterman Show. Live demos which add to the fun on the clips will be done.

John Fortman

John Fortman is Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at Wright State University where he retired in 2001 after 36 years of teaching freshman and inorganic chemistry. In 1998 he was appointed the Robert J. Kegerreis Distinguished Professor of Teaching and won seven different teaching awards over the years at Wright State. In 1998 he received the CMA Catalyst Award for Outstanding Teaching of College Chemistry. Dr. Fortman received his B.S. from the University of Dayton in 1961 and his Ph.D. in physical inorganic chemistry from the University of Notre Dame in 1965. He has published over 50 papers in chemical education in addition to his research publications. With Rubin Battino he has produced three sets of videotapes which contain over ten hours of chemical demonstrations for use at middle school through college levels. For over 25 years he has done chem demo outreach shows for middle and high school students in the Dayton area and continues to inspire and fascinate over 7500 students each year with at least 15 shows. He has done workshops on teaching and demonstrations around the country. He has designed alternative courses for general chemistry, elementary chemistry and chemistry for elementary education majors. His course for non-science students was cited as a model in the 1990 AAAS report on "The Liberal Art



of Science: Agenda for Action". The alternative general chemistry course was developed while he was a member of the General Chemistry Task Force of the ACS Division of Chemical Education. This course starts with organic and biochemistry moving through materials and finishing with energy while emphasizing applications and bringing in only those principles that are needed as they are necessary. The course has been characterized as being taught inside-out, upside-down, and backwards. In addition to demonstrations, course content, and organization, his interests include the use of analogies and videotaped material. John has been an ACS member since 1962 and is currently Councilor for the Dayton section and member of the Committee on Constitution & Bylaws after serving for five years on the Local Section Activities Committee. As an ACS Tour Speaker he has given over 200 talks over the past ten years, visiting 150 of the 189 different local sections and doing each of the 28 speaking tours at least once. He has presented in 49 of the 50 states.

Congratulations NCW Awardees

Congratulations to the ACS Student Affiliate Chapters at Roanoke College and at Sweet Briar College for being the chapters in the Virginia Blue Ridge Section that had the best activities for National Chemistry Week. The Roanoke Affiliates had mole day breakfast, coffee shop discussion, a Skittles count contest, and other activities. The Sweet Briar Affiliates had a big Saturday event for high school girls. Each chapter received \$50 for their efforts.

Cover Molecules

The molecules on the TV screen are cocaine, ethanol, caffeine, sucrose, valentineane, chemical X (from Power Puff Girls) and, of course, water.

Chemists Celebrate Earth Day, April 22, 2004
What do you know about H₂O?

Members of the American Chemical Society's Committee on Community Activities invite you to participate in Chemists Celebrate Earth Day on April 22, 2004. The program is a joint effort between the ACS Committee on Community Activities, the Committee on Environmental Improvement, and the Green Chemistry Institute. Chemists Celebrate Earth Day provides volunteers with an opportunity to showcase chemistry's contributions to sustaining a healthy planet and environment as part of the annual Earth Day celebration.

The 2004 theme for Chemists Celebrate Earth Day is "What do you know about H₂O?" As part of the celebration, the American Chemical Society is sponsoring a music video competition for students in grades K-12. The contest encourages students to produce a music video best illustrating the theme "What Do You Know About H₂O?" As the unifying event, local sections are asked to participate in "Testing Rain Water" an activity designed to measure the acidity of rainwater in area communities and to compare results online to national findings. The web activity is made available through ACS collaboration with members of the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) and the ACS East Central Illinois Section. Hands-on activities, as well as a sample press release and templates, are available at <http://chemistry.org/earthday>. For additional information, contact the ACS Office of Community Activities at 1-800-227-5558, ext. 6078.

Job Positions Posted on Web Site

Did you know that the VBRS Web site has a place for posting local, chemistry-related job positions? The URL of our Web site is located on the cover of the newsletter. Check it out!

Twelfth Annual Undergraduate/High School Poster Session

The Virginia Blue Ridge Section of the ACS is sponsoring its annual poster session as a part of the April 14, 2004 meeting at Radford University. The posters will consist of an 8'(high) by 4'(wide) board.

If you have a student or students who will be participating, submit the following information to Chris Hermann by late March via email [chermann@radford.edu], by fax [540-831-6615], or by mail [Box 6949, Department of Chemistry and Physics, Radford University, Radford, VA 24142]. If you have any questions, call Chris Hermann at 540-831-5413 (office) or 540-639-6705 (home). All students and faculty will get e-mail confirmation.

Name of Project:

Name(s) of Student(s):

Affiliation (name of high school, college, or university):

Class of Student(s) (circle) (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior)

Student(s) e-mail address: _____

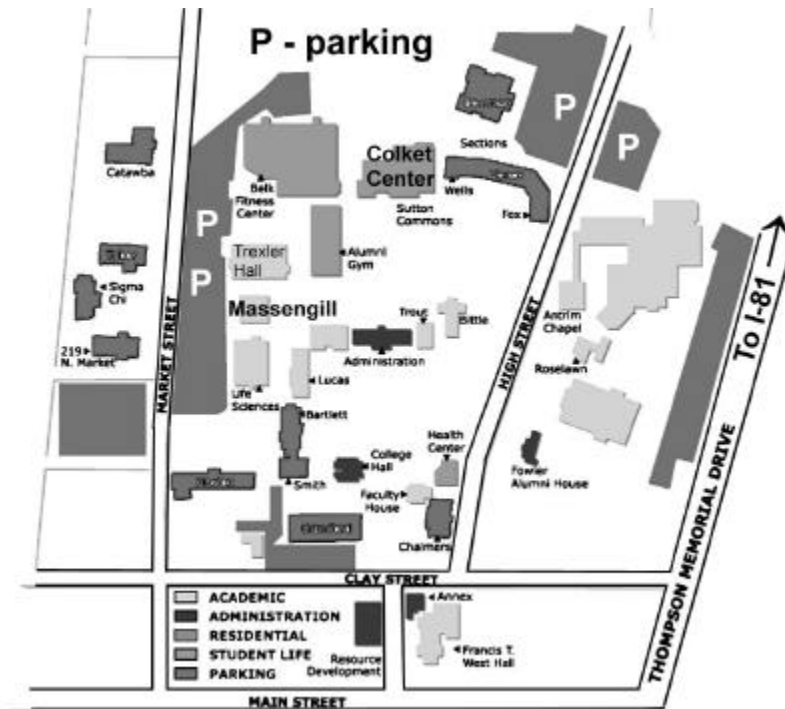
Advisor's Name, Address, Telephone Number, and e-mail address:

Directions to Roanoke College

From I-81 take exit 140 (Route 311) and go south into Salem. This road is Thompson Memorial Drive. The first light is Main Street, and the street just before this is Clay Street. Turn right onto either Main or Clay Street and then right onto either Market or High Street to get to a parking lot. There are many steps from the Market Street lot, but there are more spaces available here.

The social time, dinner, and meeting are in Ballroom of the Colket Center. Parking is available from both High Street and Market Street.

Map of Roanoke College



Non-Prof. Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Salem, VA 24153
Permit No. 31

THE BLUE RIDGE CHEMIST
Vern Miller, Editor
Roanoke College
Salem, VA 24153

The next Blue Ridge Section meeting will be Wednesday, March 10 at Virginia Military Institute. Our speaker will be R. Paul Philp, speaking on "Forensic Geochemistry, or Who Was Responsible for the Spill?"