

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 LIX

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No. 2

History Quiz

Submit your answers to this month's question by February 17, 2006 to Adele Addington (Addington@roanoke.edu)

1. Of the 21 members of the Virginia section signing the original petition to form the Blue Ridge section, name five.

2. Where was the first meeting of the Virginia Blue Ridge Local Section held?

Roanoke College Hosts the February Meeting

<http://membership.acs.org/v/vbr>

VIRGINIA BLUE RIDGE SECTION AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

597th SECTION MEETING Hosted by Roanoke College

Monday, February 13, 2006

PROGRAM:

- 5:00-6:00 Social Time, Pickle Lounge, Colkett Center
6:00-7:00 Dinner, Pickle Lounge, Colkett Center
7:00-8:00 Talk, Massengill Auditorium

The social time and dinner will take place in Pickle Lounge, Colkett Center, and the talk will be in Massengill Auditorium. Dr. Ronald A. DeLorenzo will be speaking on "From the Loch Ness Monster to the Killer Lake of Cameroon: Mysteries in Science".

In an attempt to keep prices down, we will experiment with doing the meal somewhat differently. After giving \$10.00 (\$5.00 for retirees and students) to the Treasurer, you will receive a ticket for the Roanoke College Commons. After entering the Commons, give your ticket to the greeter and go through the line picking up a tray, utensils, and food. Then take your food to Pickle Lounge. For those desiring assistance, Roanoke College Student Affiliate members will be present to carry trays and provide navigational assistance. Comments to Vern Miller (miller@roanoke.edu) or any other member of the Executive Committee will be appreciated.

Reservations for the dinner must be made by MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, SEVEN DAYS before the meeting, by contacting Ben Huddle at 540-375-2440, or by e-mail to huddle@roanoke.edu, or by mail to Ben Huddle, Department of Chemistry, Roanoke College, Salem, VA 24153.

Dr. Ronald A. DeLorenzo, Middle Georgia College

Education: Post Doctorate, Duke University (1971) Ph.D., University of Massachusetts Lowell (1970) M.S., University of Massachusetts Lowell (1967) B.S., St. John's University, New York City (1963). Selected professional activities: American Chemical Society National Touring Speaker; author and contributing author for nine college chemistry textbook titles published by D. C. Heath (Massachusetts), Wm. C.



Brown (Iowa), West (California), Prentice Hall (New Jersey), and Saunders (Philadelphia); feature editor, Journal of Chemical Education, Applications and Analogies column, published by the Division of Chemical Education of the American Chemical Society; American Chemical Society National Meeting Symposia Organizer and President; Video, taped by Atlanta TV station WPBA (Public Broadcasting, Atlanta) with sale proceeds to support Georgia Education; consultant to federal, state, and local Governments. Selected honors: Visiting Scientist Award, American Chemical Society Western Connecticut Section, given to outstanding chemical educators at the university level (1997); Catalyst Award, one of a total of six given for excellence in college chemistry teaching in the U.S. and Canada by the Chemical Manufacturers Association, Washington, DC (1991).

From the Loch Ness Monster to the Killer Lake of Cameroon: Mysteries in Science

Enjoy applying scientific principles to obtain new and unusual insights like deducing the temperature of hell and determining the proper way to open a beer can. Hundreds of Dr. DeLorenzo's answers have appeared in newspapers such as the Atlanta Constitution, professional journals,

and several textbooks. Answered questions include the following: How can you burn thousands of calories by drinking water? Why do women get drunk faster than men? How can water cure any medical problem? Why do teeth, underwear, and ice cream explode? Why do fingerprints of attacked children disappear? Why do humans kiss? Why does smoke go to the ground if rain is due? Why do extramarital affairs rarely last more than a year? Why is electricity free in the winter? How can sand restore eyesight and hearing? Why are commercial thirst quenchers ineffective? Why won't faded red underwear un-fade in the dark? How are AIDS and unwanted pregnancies affected by hand creams? Why aren't sex and breathing fatal activities? What's the real reason why hot water pipes freeze first? How can a gasoline fire cool a can of beer? What's the real reason water is not applied to oil fires? How is it possible to boil water incorrectly? Why do humans have underarm hair? Why does oatmeal stick to your ribs? How did Coke beat Pepsi in the cola space war? Why do fizz keepers appear to work when they really don't? Can real gold jewelry turn green? Why do intelligent people join cults?

Virginia Blue Ridge Section's 75th Anniversary: Our BIG BASH Call for Posters

Attention SAACS advisors: As part of our celebration of our 75th anniversary, we would like each SAACS group to prepare a poster highlighting activities and achievements of our SAACS groups for the October meeting. This will be a wonderful opportunity to share your achievements and activities with other SAACS groups and to learn about what other students are doing in the area. More details about size limitations of your poster will be included in upcoming BRC publications, but start thinking about what you can present in your poster now!

Virginia Blue Ridge Section's 75th Anniversary: Our BIG BASH Logo Design Competition

Attention SAACS Advisors: To help us celebrate 75 years of local section activities, we would like to invite our student affiliate groups to be involved and help in designing a logo for our celebration! Design a nifty icon that embodies our celebration. Ideas may include, but certainly are not limited to the fact that this is our 75th anniversary. As this is our "diamond" anniversary, perhaps your design could include the chemistry of carbon (organic, polymer, biological, and any other ties you can make). Be creative and colorful!

For individuals with an idea, but not part of a SAACS group, please contact a SAACS group nearby to contribute your ideas!

Submit your entry to Adele Addington (addington@roanoke.edu) along with description of the symbolism embodied in your design by April 1st. The winning entry will be announced at the April meeting. A \$50 prize will also be awarded to the winning entry at that time.

Virginia Blue Ridge Section's 75th Anniversary: Our BIG BASH History Snippet

In preparation for our historical celebration in October, we will be sharing a brief snippet of our section's history each month in the BRC. Additionally, we will include two questions for you to answer. Submit your answers to each question to Adele Addington (addington@roanoke.edu). A winner will be randomly selected from all the correct entries received that month to win a free meal at an upcoming regular local section meeting!

The Virginia Blue Ridge Local Section of the American Chemical Society arose from the Southwest Virginia Chemist's Club. A petition

to form the new local section was dated December 12, 1930, with 21 members of the Virginia section signing. The Charter for the new section was issued on May 18, 1931 and the first meeting held on October 17 of the same year.

The first few years of the sections existence were times of great difficulty due to the economic hardships throughout the country as we experienced the "great depression". Many chemists were unemployed.

It was difficult for many members to attend meetings as few owned cars and those that did found the twisted primary roads to be mostly "paved" with gravel. Attendance at most meetings averaged 20-25, and in the winter, even less. The treasurer often reported detailed budget information in the section meeting minutes. A typical dinner meeting for 26 members in 1934 cost the section \$23.40. This amount, which included a total tip of \$1.00, comes out to \$0.90 per plate.

Meetings were publicized by postcard announcements produced by the Virginia Section in Richmond. In January 1933 the Blue Ridge section paid the Virginia Section \$10 toward publication of the "Bulletin"; in October 1939, Warren Knapp of Pulaski was appointed associate editor of the Bulletin.

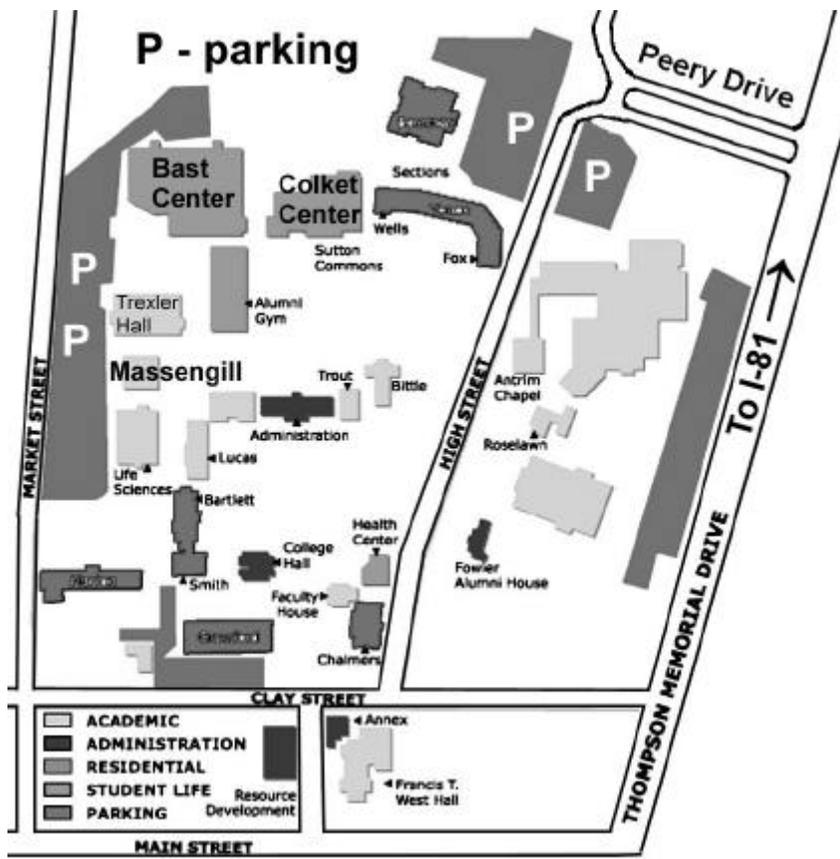
The 1940s was a time of growth for the section, even in the face of gas rationing. Membership had grown from 43 to 86 in 1941, and meeting attendance averaged 50. Many members brought guests (spouses) to the meetings as well. In 1945, Dr. Ashley Robey of Roanoke College was named the Associate Editor of the Bulletin. However, he soon became frustrated with the process of sharing an announcement with the Virginia Section, and in December 1947 he convinced the section that we needed our own publication. Thus, the "Blue Ridge Chemist" was born. The format used today follows that of the first. Each month the next meeting is announced, along with the abstract of the seminar to be presented and a brief biography of the speaker.

(Information taken from "The Fifty Year History of the Virginia Blue Ridge Section of the American Chemical Society, 1932-1981"; E.F. Furtsch, August 1981)

Directions to Roanoke College

From I-81 take exit 140 (Route 311) and go south into Salem, on Thompson Memorial Drive. Turn right onto Peery Drive to enter the campus. You may park in one of the lots ahead, which are near the Colket Center, or you may take High Street, Clay Street, and Market Street to park near Massengill. For handicap access routes, please contact Ben Huddle or Vern Miller. The social time and dinner are in the Colket Center, with the talk in Massengill Auditorium.

Map of Roanoke College



THE BLUE RIDGE CHEMIST
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The next Virginia Blue Ridge Section meeting will be Tuesday, March 21, at VMI. The speaker will be Dr. Dom Paone from Novozyme Biologicals. This meeting will be a joint meeting with the Virginia Local Section of the ACS. The contact person is Bob Ludt.