

# The Blue Ridge Chemist

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



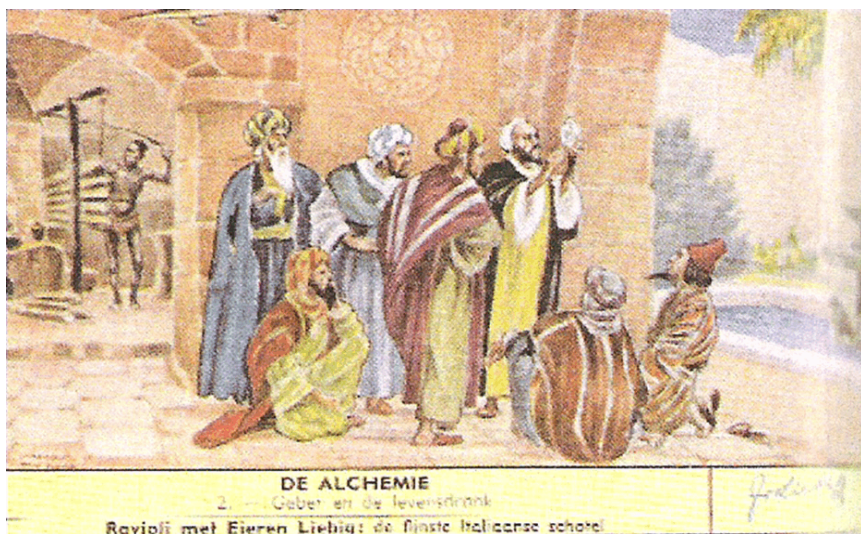
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A 1930's trading card from the Liebig's Extract of Meat Company portraying 8<sup>th</sup> century Arabic alchemy and Jābir ibn Hayyān (Gerber). Gerber is considered by some to be the father of chemistry. ("From Alchemy to Chemistry in Pictures and Story", by Arthur Greenberg)

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Roanoke Valley Governor's School hosts January Meeting

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<http://www.acs-vbrs.org>

## VIRGINIA BLUE RIDGE SECTION AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

### 637<sup>th</sup> SECTION MEETING

Hosted by Roanoke Valley Governor's School  
Wednesday, January 26, 2011

#### PROGRAM:

- 5:30-6:00 Social time, Lecture Hall, RVGS  
6:00-7:00 Dinner, Lecture Hall, RVGS  
7:00-8:00 Talk, Lecture Hall, RVGS

The social time, dinner, and presentation will all take place in the lecture hall at Roanoke Valley Governor's School. The speaker will be Ben Huddle, talking on "Chemistry in the Golden Age of Arabic Science".

The meal will be buffet style with chicken piccata, tilapia in a beurre blanc sauce, mashed potatoes, blue lake green beans, tossed salad (dressings of French, ranch, and vinegar & oil), yeast rolls, chocolate trifle, cheesecake, decaffeinated iced tea and Starbucks coffee (decaf & regular). The dinner is \$14, with students and retired members being half price.

Reservations for the dinner must be made by WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, (7 DAYS BEFORE THE MEETING) by contacting Steve Smith at (540) 853-2116, or by e-mail to [ssmith@rvgs.k12.va.us](mailto:ssmith@rvgs.k12.va.us), or by writing to Steve Smith, Roanoke Valley Governor's School, 2104 Grandin Road SW, Roanoke, VA 24015.

**Dr. Ben Huddle  
Roanoke College**

I was born in Ootacamund, India in 1941, and was brought up in Kyoto and Tokyo, Japan where I graduated from high school in 1959. I have a B.S. in Chemistry (1963) from Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory, NC, and a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry (1968) from the University of North Carolina. I have taught in the Chemistry Department at Roanoke College since 1968, and



served as Chair for 20 years. I have taught a variety of courses here but mostly Physical Chemistry, General Chemistry, and Forensic Chemistry. I have had visiting appointments at Hollins University and at Sang Ji University in Wonju, Korea. I am a past-chair of the Blue Ridge Section, and currently serve as the section Councilor.

**Chemistry in the Golden Age of Arabic Science**

The Golden Age of Arabic science lasted some 500 years, from 750 to 1258 AD. During this period scientists made a number of contributions to the field of chemistry, now largely overlooked or relegated to alchemy. These include the vocabulary of chemistry, the development of laboratory instruments and techniques still used today, and the discovery of many new chemicals. This talk will explore some of these developments.

**Congratulations to the 2011 VBRS Officers**

Chair: Dwight Williams  
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williams.d@lynchburg.edu

Chair-Elect: Kim Lane  
Radford University  
ktlane@radford.edu

Secretary: Natalia Smelkova  
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miller@roanoke.edu

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Roanoke College  
hollis@roanoke.edu

Newsletter Editor: Vernon Miller  
Roanoke College  
miller@roanoke.edu

Councilor: Ben Huddle  
Roanoke College  
huddle@roanoke.edu

Alternate Councilor: Gwen Sibert  
Roanoke Valley Governor's School, retired  
gwen@siberts.net

## **What's the Smartest Way to Connect with ACS Members? The ACS Network, of Course!**

Now that the ACS Network has more than 170,000 members with thousands more joining every month and lots of new ways to collaborate, now is the perfect time to discover what's in it for you! Whether you're looking for career advice, a colleague, a business opportunity or the latest research, you'll find this and more in the ACS Network. It's the smartest place to meet and interact with other smart scientists worldwide!

Get started today in four simple steps and start taking advantage of all the smart ways to advance your career, promote yourself and build your network!

1. Log on to [www.acs.org/network](http://www.acs.org/network) and enter your ACS ID. If don't have an ACS ID, click the register link and follow the instructions to create one.
2. Create your profile and tell the world about yourself, so people can find you.
3. Search for people you know or want to know and ask them to join your network.
4. Explore a variety of discussions, forums, blogs and groups and start your own!

There is something for everyone. So, use the ACS Network to plan activities, organize projects, share interests and get connected to the largest scientific community online! It's the smart thing to do. [www.acs.org/network](http://www.acs.org/network)

## **ACS Announces the 2011 Schedules for Short Courses and Webcast Courses**

The 2011 Schedules are out. Find out which short courses are being offered in what cities and dates for Webcast courses by visiting [www.ProEd.acs.org/2011](http://www.ProEd.acs.org/2011).

The ACS Office of Professional Education has dramatically revamped its website and registration system so you can find the courses you are looking for in no time. Bookmark this link today: [www.ProEd.acs.org](http://www.ProEd.acs.org). You can now search short courses, Webcast courses and on-demand courses by topic area, date, or location and even browse the full instructor list.

ACS is continuously investing in new course development, so if you don't see what you're looking for or have questions about a course, just drop ACS a line at [shortcourses@acs.org](mailto:shortcourses@acs.org) and they'll do their best to serve your technical training needs.

## **American Chemical Society Webinars (ACS Webinars™)**

American Chemical Society Webinars (ACS Webinars™) is a weekly online event serving to connect ACS members and scientific professionals with subject matter experts and global thought leaders in chemical sciences, management, and business on relevant professional issues. Each webinar is 60 minutes in length, comprising of a short presentation followed by Q&A with the speaker. The live webinars are held on Thursdays from 2-3pm EDT and recordings of past webinars are available online at [www.acswebinars.org/archives](http://www.acswebinars.org/archives). View and register for upcoming events at [www.acswebinars.org/events](http://www.acswebinars.org/events) or email [acswebinars@acs.org](mailto:acswebinars@acs.org).

## Directions to the Roanoke Valley Governor's School

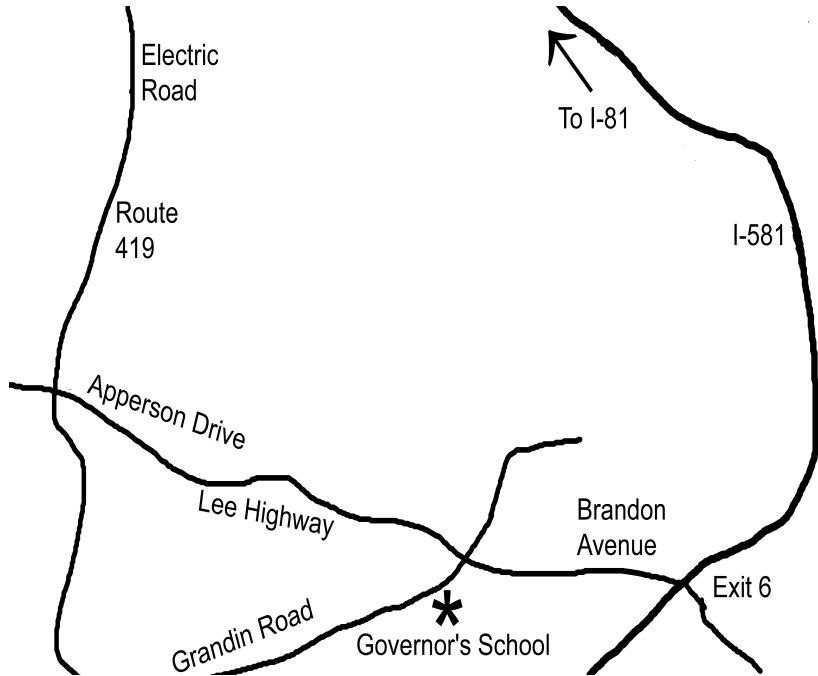
The Governor's School is located a little south of the corner of Grandin Road and Brandon Avenue. (Brandon Avenue is the continuation of Apperson Drive and Lee Highway.)

Driving south on I-581, take exit 6, which is the exit for Colonial Avenue. At the end of the exit ramp, turn right onto Colonial Avenue.

Driving north on I-581, take the exit for Wonju Street. Turn right at the end of the exit ramp onto Wonju Street. At the light, turn right onto Colonial Avenue.

Stay in the left lane on Colonial, and turn left at the light onto Brandon Road. At the intersection of Brandon with Grandin Road, turn left, and shortly turn left again into the campuses of Patrick Henry High School and the Roanoke Valley Governor's School. After entering these campuses, the building ahead and a little to the right is the Governor's School.

## Map to the Roanoke Valley Governor's School



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Vernon Miller, Editor  
VA Blue Ridge Section, American Chemical Soc.  
Chemistry Dept., Roanoke College  
Salem, VA 24153-3789

Return Service Requested

The February meeting is scheduled for Roanoke College. The speaker and date information will be updated on the BRC on our Web site ([www.acs-vbrs.org](http://www.acs-vbrs.org)) when it is available. The contact person is Ben Huddle.