

The Blue Ridge Chemist

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Hollins University Hosts the January Meeting

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

VIRGINIA BLUE RIDGE SECTION AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

644th SECTION MEETING

Hosted by Hollins University

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

PROGRAM:

- 5:30-6:00 Social, Ballator Gallery, Moody Center**
6:00-7:00 Dinner, Ballator Gallery, Moody Center
7:00-8:00 Talk, Ballator Gallery, Moody Center

The social time and dinner will take place in the Ballator Gallery of Moody Center. Dr. Kevin M. Dunn, Hampden-Sydney College, will present a talk on "The Science of Soapmaking".

The buffet will consist of chicken Parmesan with linguine noodles and sauce; meat lasagna; vegetable lasagna with carrots, squash, etc.; balsamic roasted vegetables containing squash, zucchini, onions, and other vegetables; tossed salad with ranch or raspberry vinaigrette; garlic bread; mixed berry cobbler; chocolate layer cake with chocolate icing; ice tea; coffee; and hot water with tea packets. Cost for the meal is \$14.00, with students and retired ACS members being half price.

Reservation for the dinner should be made by Tuesday, January 10, **SEVEN DAYS** before the meeting by calling Dr. Bansi Kalra at (540) 362-6542, or e-mail to bkalra@hollins.edu, or regular mail to Dr. Bansi Kalra, Hollins University, P.O. Box 9501, Roanoke, VA 24020.

Dr. Kevin M. Dunn
Professor of Chemistry
Hampden-Sydney College

Kevin Dunn is the Elliott Professor of Chemistry at Hampden-Sydney College. His book, *Caveman Chemistry*, brought him to the attention of handcrafted soapmakers, and in response to their questions, he has undertaken a series of research projects on the chemistry of handcrafted soap. This research has culminated in a second book, *Scientific Soapmaking*, which was published the Spring of 2010.



Professor Dunn has appeared on the Learning Channel's "Mysteries of Magic" and the History Channel's "Modern Marvels". He lives in central Virginia with his wife and several cats.



The Science of Soapmaking

The past thirty years have witnessed a renaissance in a long-forgotten chemical craft. This resurgence of interest was led, not by educators or industrial chemists or government agencies, but by modern-day alchemists working in kitchen laboratories that harken back to the very dawn of chemistry. Retorts and furnaces have been replaced by Pyrex measuring cups and microwave ovens, base metals by lard and tallow and olive oil. Their Philosopher's Stone lies hidden on grocery store shelves, accessible only to those who appreciate its terrible power. And their "gold," like that of their hermetic forbears, is considered by many to be the key to health and longevity.

The science of soapmaking touches on many chemical topics, including stoichiometry, equilibrium, and the properties of acids, bases, alcohols, esters, and oils. This lecture will outline the chemistry of oils and soap, will explore several problems faced by makers of handcrafted soap, and reveal some of the solutions to those problems.

Volunteer Opportunity:
Welcome New ACS Members

Volunteer to call new members who have joined ACS to welcome them to the Society. You can do this on behalf of your local section, your division, or as a member who has found value in being a member of ACS. Email olsa@acs.org if you would like to participate.

Congratulations to the 2012 VBRS Officers

Chair: Kim Lane
Radford University
ktlane@radford.edu

Chair-elect: Natalia Smelkova
Ferrum College
nsmelkova@ferrum.edu

Secretary: Maria Puccio
Ferrum College
mpuccio@ferrum.edu

Treasurer: Vernon Miller
Roanoke College
miller@roanoke.edu

Recorder: Gary Hollis
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

Volunteer Opportunity: Submit CCED and NCW Outreach Ideas

Submit an activity to be considered for ACS volunteers to conduct in outreach settings that focus on recycling (2012 Chemists Celebrate Earth Day theme) or nanotechnology (2012 National Chemistry Week theme). Email outreach@acs.org to volunteer your ideas.

Volunteer Opportunity: Local Section Speakers

Submit an application to serve as a local section speaker. Email speakers@acs.org for more information.

Volunteer Opportunity: Help Translate Outreach Materials into Other Languages

Translate ACS outreach materials into your native language so that the activities can be made available on the ACS website in a variety of languages. Email outreach@acs.org to volunteer.

Volunteer Opportunity: ACS Webinars Audience Advisory Panel

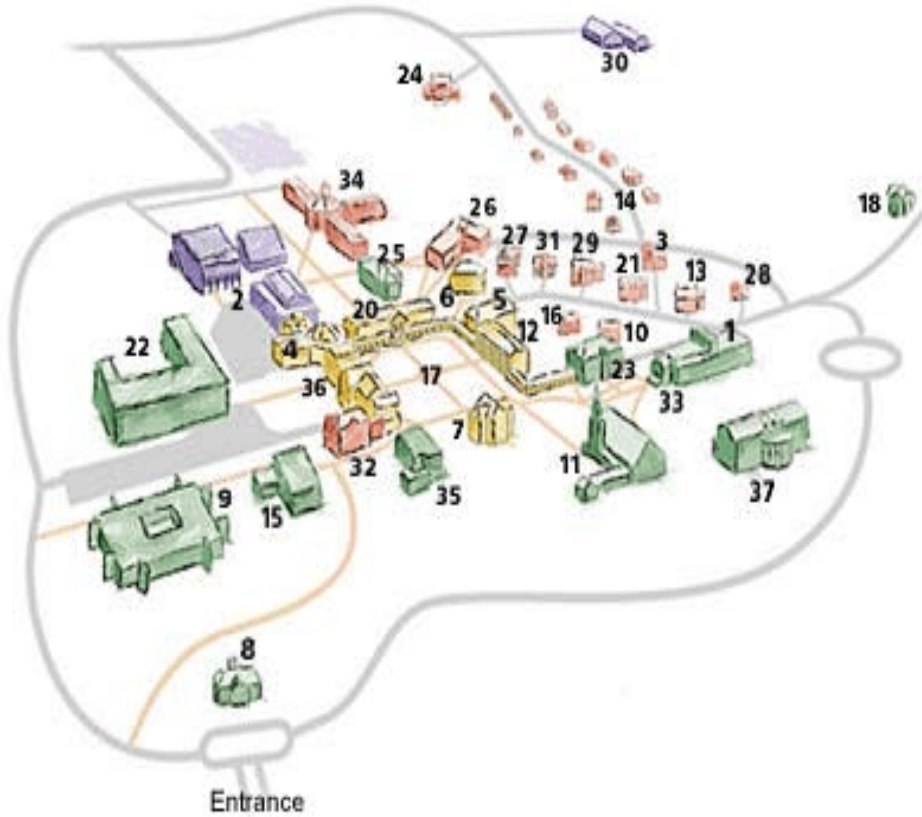
Help shape future of ACS Webinars programming and content. Visit <http://acswebinars.org/audience-advisory> for more information.

Directions to Hollins University

From I-81, take the Hollins exit (146) south to Peters Creek Road and turn left. The entrance to Hollins University is a little more than half a mile and is on the left.

The meeting is in the Ballator Gallery of the Moody Center (Building #22).

Map of Hollins University



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Return Service Requested

The next meeting will be Monday, February 20, at Roanoke College, with Dianne Catley of the Virginia Department of Forensic Science, Western District. The contact person is Ben Huddle.