

# The Blue Ridge Chemist

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



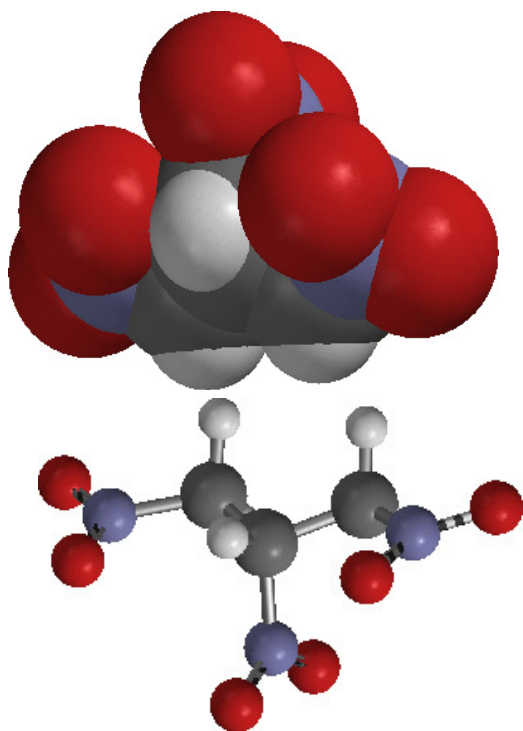
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## VIRGINIA BLUE RIDGE SECTION AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

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

Hosted by Roanoke Valley Governor's School  
Thursday, March 22, 2012

#### 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 Kimberly Meuer speaking on "Modernizing Nitrate Ester Processes from the 1800's".

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

Reservations for the dinner must be made by THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, (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.

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Roanoke Valley Governor's School Hosts the March Meeting

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

**Kimberly Meuer**  
**Alliant Techsystems, Inc.**  
**(Operates the Radford Army Ammunition Plant)**

Kimberly Meuer is a 2001 graduate from Franklin County High and the Roanoke Valley Governor's School. She graduated in 2006 from Virginia Tech with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering. During college she worked at International Paper in Franklin, VA as a Co-op student in the pulp department. After graduation, she went to work as a process engineer in the fabrics division of WL Gore & Associates in Elkton, MD. In 2008, she moved back to the New River Valley to work for Alliant Techsystems, Inc, which operates the Radford Army Ammunition Plant for the army. Kimberly began as a process engineer in the nitrocellulose department and has since leveraged her engineering knowledge to grow into operations management. Currently she is the area manager of the nitroglycerin and waste powder operations. She supervises approximately 50 people between the areas.



**Modernizing Nitrate Ester Processes from the 1800's**

Kimberly will start her presentation by briefly talking about her schooling and career path. She will then go into a discussion of the safety improvements made to the nitroglycerin manufacturing process.

**Demographics of the Virginia Blue Ridge Section, ACS**

<b>Member Type</b>		
<b>Group</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>
Emeritus Member	55	9.95
Regular Member	271	49.01
Regular Student Member	109	19.71
Retired Member	14	2.53
Society Affiliate	4	0.72
Student Member - UnderGrad	100	18.08
<b>Total</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>100</b>

<b>Job Title</b>		
<b>Group</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>
Chemical Technician	4	0.72
Chemist/Scientist	44	7.96
Consultant/Advisor	12	2.17
Engineer	8	1.45
Executive Management	13	2.35
Graduate Student	87	15.73
Health & Safety/Regulatory Affairs Manager	4	0.72
Post Doctoral/Fellow Researcher	11	1.99
Process/Quality Control Manager	5	0.9
Production/Operations Manager	2	0.36
Professor/Instructor/Administrator	152	27.49
Research & Development Management	26	4.7
Sales/Marketing/Business Development	2	0.36
Supervisor/Project Leader/Foreman	6	1.08
Undergraduate Student Member	41	7.41
Other	34	6.15
No Response	72	13.02
N/A	30	5.42
<b>Total</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>100</b>

Years of Service		
Group	Count	%
0	13	2.35
1	168	30.38
2-5	157	28.39
6-10	53	9.58
11-20	61	11.03
21-30	17	3.07
31-40	31	5.61
41-50	25	4.52
51-60	20	3.62
60+	8	1.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>100</b>

Industry		
Group	Count	%
Academic Institution	299	54.07
Engineering/Construction Firm	2	0.36
Government	10	1.81
Hospital/Clinic	4	0.72
Independent Consulting	14	2.53
Independent Laboratory	12	2.17
Manufacturer - Industrial chemicals	10	1.81
Manufacturer - Other	26	4.7
Manufacturer - Pharmaceutical Co.	17	3.07
Manufacturer-Agricultural	1	0.18
Manufacturer-Biotech/life sciences co	4	0.72
Manufacturer-Food/beverage/flavors	1	0.18
Public Utility/Transportation	2	0.36
Other	38	6.87
No Response	88	15.91
N/A	25	4.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>100</b>

## 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Undergraduate/High School Poster Session

The Virginia Blue Ridge Section of the American Chemical Society is sponsoring the twentieth Annual Undergraduate/High School Poster Session as a part of the April 11, 2012 meeting at Radford University. Poster boards will be provided.

If you have a student or students who desire to participate, submit the information below by email to Chris Hermann (chermann@radford.edu) by April 2, 2012. **This is a firm deadline. No poster submissions will be accepted after this time.** All students and faculty will get email confirmation. If you do not get an email reply, then your submission was not received and you cannot present.

Name of Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Student(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Class of Student(s) (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior): \_\_\_\_\_

Student(s) email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor's Name, Address, Telephone Number, and email address:

Poster board (48" by 48") with tripod on table or just table will be provided. Please specify what you need.

\_\_\_\_\_ poster board with tripod on table      \_\_\_\_\_ only table

## Directions to the Roanoke Valley Governor's School

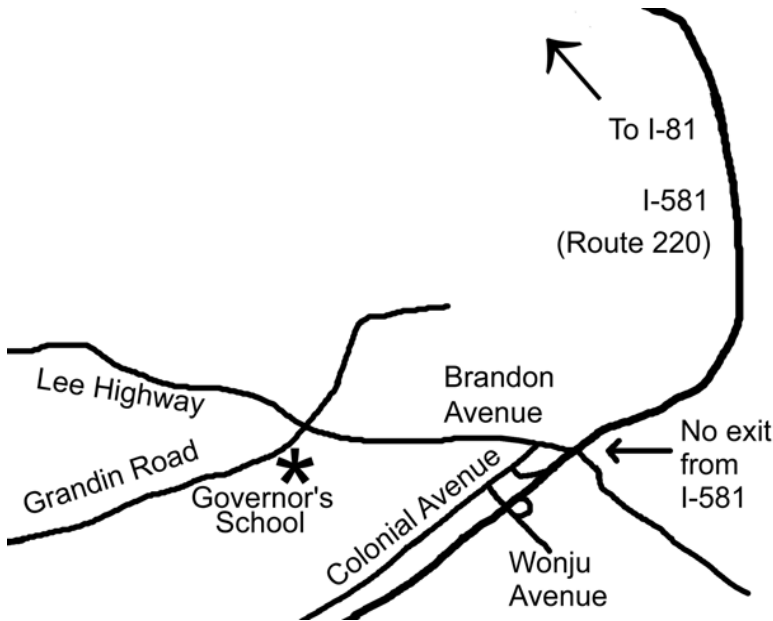
The Governor's School is located a little south of the corner of Grandin Road and Brandon Avenue. (Brandon Avenue is the continuation of Apperson Drive and Lee Highway.)

Driving south on I-581 (220), take the exit for Colonial Avenue. At the end of the exit ramp, turn right onto Colonial Avenue and continue below.

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

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



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

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Salem, VA 24153-3789

Return Service Requested

The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 11, at Radford University. The speaker will be Jim Wightman, who will give demonstrations. The contact person is Chris Herrmann.