

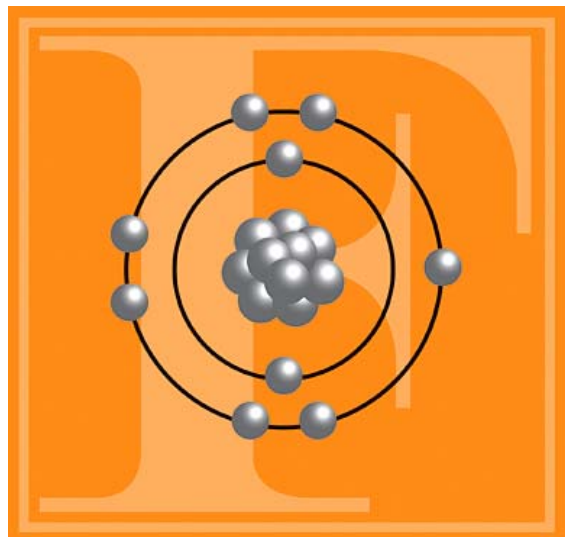
# The Blue Ridge Chemist

Since 1947 the Official Local Section Publication of the  
Virginia Blue Ridge Section, American Chemical Society



Volume 72, No. 2

March 14, 2019



**Roanoke Valley Governor's School  
Hosts the March Meeting**

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

*The Blue Ridge Chemist* 2019, 72(2), 7-12.

## VIRGINIA BLUE RIDGE SECTION

### AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

699<sup>th</sup> SECTION MEETING

Roanoke Valley Governor's School

Roanoke, Virginia

**Thursday, March 14, 2019**

5:30 PM – Social Time

6:00 PM to 7:00 PM – Dinner

7:00 PM to 8:00 PM – Lecture

Dr. Paul Deck, Associate Professor of Chemistry at Virginia Tech, will give a talk entitled “Fun with Fluorine.” The social time, dinner, and talk will take place in the Lecture Hall at RVGS.

The dinner will be an informal spread of pizza and soda. Cost to regular members is \$10, with students and retirees at half price. Reservations for the dinner must be made by Tuesday, March 12, two 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).

#### **Lecture Summary: “Fun with Fluorine!”**

If the Periodic Table of the Elements were overlaid on a map of the United States, fluorine would be in Montreal! It's that weird. Can this unusual element be tamed and harnessed?

In this low-key, informal lecture, I will talk about how fluorine is produced, describe some of its interesting features and properties, and summarize how it is used. I will talk about fluorine-containing polymers, fluorine in the environment, fluorine in the health sciences – among other fun topics and maybe even a few controversial ones. My talk will last about 40 minutes.



**Paul A. Deck**  
Associate Professor of Chemistry  
Virginia Tech

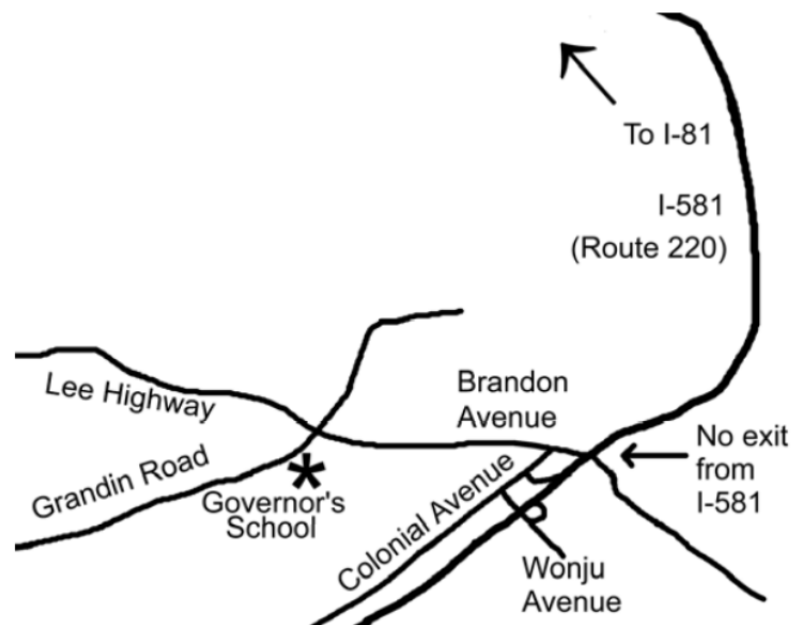
Paul Deck is the third son of two chemists. He was raised in suburban Detroit and attended Hope College in Holland Michigan, graduating with a BS degree in Chemistry in 1987. He earned a PhD in Chemistry from the University of Minnesota in 1993 and then spent two years as a postdoctoral researcher at Northwestern University. Finally, he moved to Blacksburg in 1995 to begin teaching and leading a research group at Virginia Tech. Dr. Deck's awards include the American Chemical Society E. Ann Nalley Regional Award for Volunteer Service, and most recently, the Certificate of Teaching Excellence at Virginia Tech.

Dr. Deck's research involves polymer chemistry and catalysis. He especially enjoys making crazy fluorine-containing molecules that nobody has ever made before.

In his spare time, Paul is a semi-professional jazz pianist who performs regularly throughout the Blacksburg area with a group called *Highlands Jazz*.

## Directions to RVGS

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; 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. Turn left at the light onto Brandon Rd. At the intersection of Brandon with Grandin Road, turn left, and then promptly 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. Please call Steve Smith at (540) 853-2116 for directions to the meeting if they are not obvious.



## Don't Miss the Annual Poster Session at Radford!!

As a part of the April 12, 2019 meeting at Radford University, the Virginia Blue Ridge Section of the American Chemical Society is sponsoring the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Undergraduate/High School Poster Session. Poster boards will be provided.

If you have a student (or students) who will be participating, submit the following information by email to Dr. Christine Hermann (chermann@radford.edu) by **April 05, 2019**. **This is a firm deadline. No posters will be accepted after this time.** All students and faculty will get email confirmation. If you did 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(es):

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

48" by 36" poster board with tripod on table or just table will be provided. Please specify what you need.

\_\_\_\_\_ poster board with tripod

\_\_\_\_\_ table needed



**Henri Moisson**  
First to Isolate Elemental Fluorine  
1906 Nobel Prize in Chemistry



**Davidson Hall**  
Virginia Tech Chemistry Department