

The Blue Ridge Chemist

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Virginia Blue Ridge Section, American Chemical Society



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Official Opening of the New Chemistry-Physics Building



(Photo from the Virginia Tech Web site.)

Virginia Tech Hosts May Meeting

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

VIRGINIA BLUE RIDGE SECTION AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

585th SECTION MEETING

Hosted by Virginia Tech

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

PROGRAM:

5:00-6:00	Social Hour
6:00-7:00	Dinner
7:00-	Tour and talk

The social hour and dinner will take place in the Alumni Hall of the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center (See map). After this we will have a tour of the New Chemistry Building, led by John Dillard. There will also be a presentation (in room 140) on Research Opportunities at Virginia Tech by Jim Viers.

Dinner will be herb grilled chicken, roasted vegetable medley, roasted red potatoes, rolls and butter, New York style cheesecake, iced tea, and freshly ground coffee. Cost for the dinner is \$12.00, with students and retired ACS members half price.

Reservations for the dinner must be made by FRIDAY, MAY 7 by calling Linda Sheppard at 540-231-5966 or by email to lsheppar@vt.edu, or regular mailing to Department of Chemistry Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

Martha Elizabeth Craig
2004 Outstanding High School Chemistry Teacher
in the Virginia Blue Ridge Section of ACS

Miss Craig is the winner of the 2004 Outstanding High School Chemistry Teacher for the Virginia Blue Ridge Section of the American Chemical Society. She has been teaching chemistry for Pittsylvania County Schools at Gretna High School located in Gretna, Virginia for 18 years and has served as Science Department Chair since 1998.



Miss Craig has been the Lead Science Teacher for Gretna High School since 1996 and has been a facilitator for chemistry teachers at divisional meetings. She has been a science mentor for new teachers since 1996. Since 1998, Miss Craig has been the Science Academic Competition for Excellence Coach and has also been a chemistry teacher for the Piedmont Regional Governor's School.

Ms Deborah Powell, Miss Craig's principal and nominator, stated, "Miss Craig displays her belief that teachers should be highly motivated individuals who view teaching as a privilege and an opportunity to impart knowledge in chemistry as well as provide guidance in producing vital and productive citizens. Her job as an educator knows no time boundaries for she is always available to any student whatever the reason."

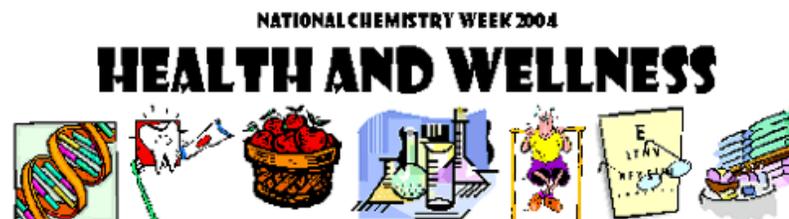
Miss Craig's students have a 96% pass rate on the Chemistry SOL test. Some of her former students are now teachers, pharmacists, lab technicians, nurses, biochemical engineers, veterinarians, and physicians.

Miss Craig has done volunteer work on numerous occasions by conducting chemistry labs for fourth graders at Gretna Elementary School, judging science fairs, and teaching after-school classes for gifted eighth graders from Gretna Middle School.

The Virginia Blue Ridge Section of the American Chemical Society is proud to award Miss Craig the Outstanding High School Chemistry Teacher Award for 2004.

NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK—GETTING THE BALL ROLLING

National Chemistry Week (NCW) will be here sooner than you think, and planning is already underway for local and national activities. The theme for NCW 2004 is "Health and Wellness" and the unifying event is hosting a "health fair." Bayer Pharmaceuticals is aiding in this effort by donating Clinistix and Multistix (urine test strips) for use by local sections. The ACS Office of Community Activities (OCA) staff is writing activities which use these strips to demonstrate how diseases like diabetes are detected. Because we are chemists and not certified medical professionals, we cannot do screening with these test strips, so we will need to invite a local medical doctor to be part of our health fair. The doctor can offer screening for diabetes, and our local ACS volunteers can explain the chemistry of how the screening tests work. OCA is currently researching groups that can help us to host a health fair. With the current emphasis that health and wellness is getting in the media, this will be an ideal opportunity for us to contribute to our community with pertinent activities and relevant information. Anyone with ideas related to the NCW celebration is invited to email ncw@acs.org. Information is currently on the NCW website (chemistry.org/ncw) and new information will be posted as it becomes available.



Theme:	Health and Wellness
Date:	October 17-23, 2004
Unifying Event:	Community health fairs held during NCW
K-12 Event:	National Poster Contest focused on chemistry's contributions to our health and wellness
Student Affiliate Event:	NCW Chemvention Contest – invention contest using chemical principles

ChemMatters	Magazine for high school students will dedicate its October issue to the chemistry of health and wellness
Celebrating Chemistry:	Hands-on activity newspaper for elementary school students related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? diagnosis of diabetes/kidney function - urinalysis and blood testing ? nutrition/obesity – antioxidants, caloric intake ? infection – hand-washing, the body’s defenses ? dental health – preventative use of plastics ? prevention of skin cancer – sunscreens
chemistry.org/ncw:	Interactive website with materials for students, educators, communicators, coordinators and industry representatives

Each year National Chemistry Week reaches over 30 million people with positive messages about the contributions of chemistry.

In 2003:

- ? Over 10,000 volunteers from academia, government and industry dedicated themselves to spend time with kids across the country to explain the importance of science in daily life.
- ? More than 50 chemical companies donated employee time, materials/supplies or funding for NCW activities in the US.
- ? NCW activities were conducted in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and on US Military bases in Japan and the Mediterranean.



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VBR Science Fair Winners in Our Section

The Virginia Blue Ridge Section annually gives an award for an outstanding chemistry project at the Blue Ridge Highlands Regional Science Fair and at the Western Virginia Regional Science Fair.

This year the winner from the Blue Ridge Highlands fair is Kristine Bronnenkant from the Southwest Virginia Governor’s School, with the title of “Biodiesel vs. Petroleum - the Battle of Toxic Emissions”. Her sponsor was Carl Chandler.

The winner from the Western Virginia Regional fair is Amandeep Sandhu from Hidden Valley High School/Roanoke Valley Governor’s School, with the title of “The Effectiveness of Fruit and Plant Pigments as Titration Indicators”. Her sponsor was Cam Srpan.

The Virginia Blue Ridge Section of the American Chemical Society would like to congratulate both of these winners.

Directions to Donaldson Brown Center at Virginia Tech

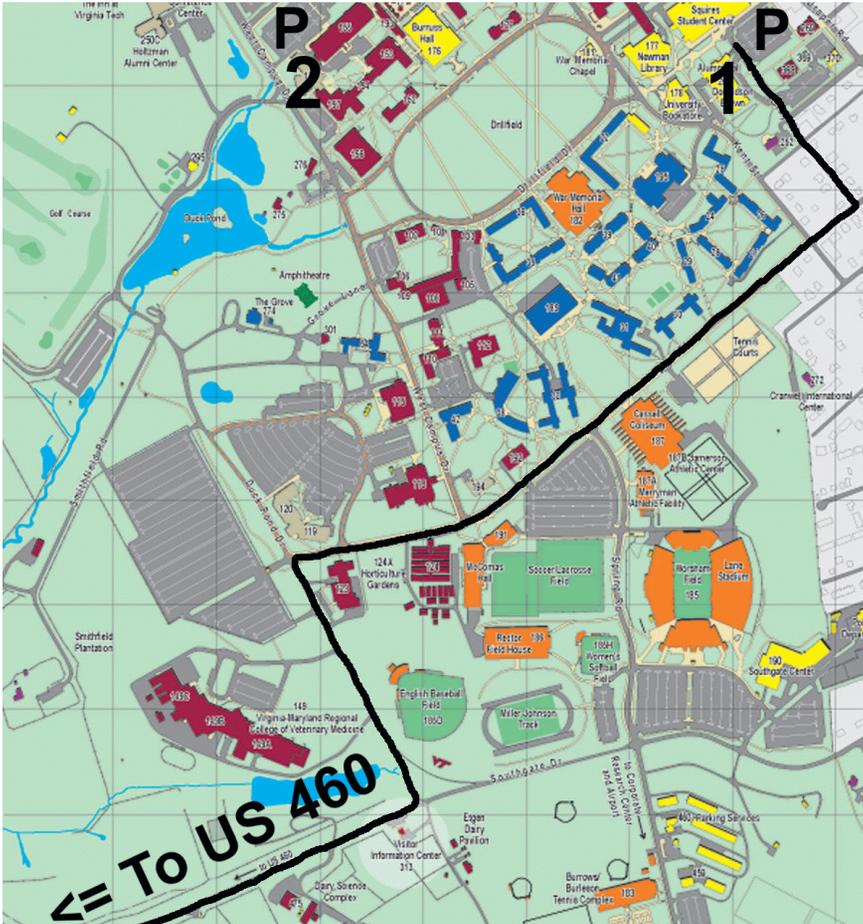
1. Take exit 118B from I-81 from the exit ramp, take the Blacksburg exit.
2. This exit will put you on the Christiansburg bypass. Do not exit onto Rt. 460 West Business.
3. Follow the bypass until the traffic light for Southgate Drive. Turn right at the light onto Southgate Drive.
4. Follow Southgate Drive to the first left, Duck Pond Drive.
5. Take Duck Pond Drive up the hill to Washington Street.
6. Turn right onto Washington Street.
7. Take Washington Street to the four-way stop. Go through the intersection.
8. Turn left onto Otey Street.
9. Otey street will take you right in front of the hotel. The hotel will be on the left.
10. Free parking permits are issued at the front desk of the hotel.

Directions to the Events at Virginia Tech

The meal and social time will occur in the Alumni Hall at the Donaldson Brown Hotel & Conference Center (1 on the map below). The tour and talk will be in the new Chemistry and Physics Building (2 on the map below). P is parking, and the black line follows the directions to Donaldson Brown given on to the left.

(Original map and directions from Virginia Tech Web site.)

Map of Virginia Tech



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The September Virginia Blue Ridge Section meeting is scheduled for Monday the 20th at the Roanoke Valley Governor's School. Congressman Bob Goodlatte will be speaking on science funding issues. The contact person is Gwen Sibert. (This is subject to changes in Congress' s schedule.)