

# The Blue Ridge Chemist

The Blue Ridge Chemist, since 1947 the  
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Virginia Blue Ridge Section, American Chemical Society



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## VIRGINIA BLUE RIDGE SECTION AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

### 601st SECTION MEETING Hosted by Virginia Tech

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

#### PROGRAM:

5:15-7:00	Dinner at Macados in Blacksburg
7:00-9:00	Thirty minute tours of the CAVE, in groups of about 15

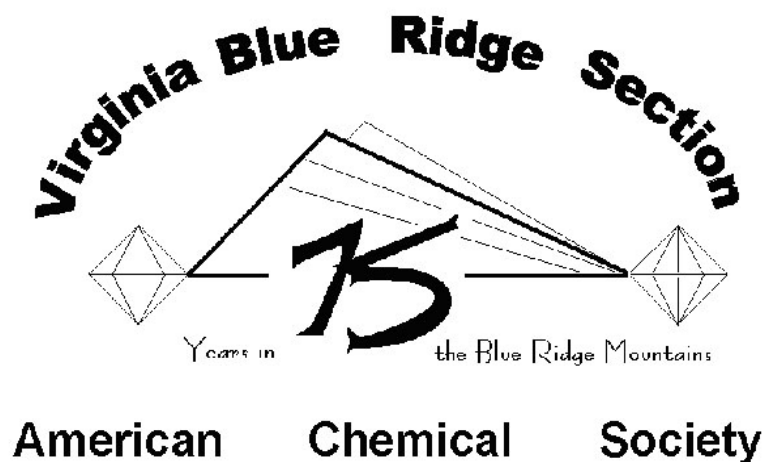
The program will be a tour of the Virginia Tech CAVE, room 3030 in Torgersen Hall.

Dinner will be at Macados in Blacksburg. Individuals will be responsible for their own meals, selected from the menu.

Reservations for the dinner must be made by SUNDAY, MAY 7, TWO DAYS before the meeting, by phoning Adele Addington at 540-375-2364, or by e-mail to Addington@roanoke.edu, or by mail to Adele Addington, Department of Chemistry, Roanoke College, Salem, VA 24153.

The VT Web site says visitors may park in any faculty, staff, visitor, or student parking space **if they have a valid visitor parking permit and if the space is not restricted by signs**. Parking permits should be obtained from the Visitor Information Center on South Gate Drive by 5:00 p.m., or at the VT police department behind Lane Stadium.

Communication with parking folks said that parking in faculty/staff/commuter lots, such as Sanger lots, after 5 p.m. does not require a permit. Parking around the Drill Field does require a permit.



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Virginia Tech Hosts the May Meeting

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

## Tour of the VT-CAVE

At this month's meeting, Dr. David Bevan of the Department of Biochemistry at Virginia Tech will lead us in a tour of the VT-CAVE. The VT-CAVE is a room-sized, high resolution 3-D visual environment. Using computer generated structures (of any object, including molecules for our purpose), the images are rear projected in stereo onto three screens and the floor. Viewers don special stereo glasses and thus are able to "walk" into the projected graphic. A special hand-held control unit allows one to navigate through the graphic. The CAVE technology has allowed scientists to visualize many objects and processes in a unique 3-D perspective. Please visit the VT-CAVE site for more information (<http://www.cave.vt.edu/>).

Dr. Bevan will be using the CAVE to present a variety of interesting biological molecules, to show the power of such a 3-D, stereo vision tool in understanding complex structures and molecular modeling.

## Our 75th Anniversary Big Bash

Mark your calendars now! Please join us on October 23, 2006 (yes-that is "Mole Day") for our celebration of 75 years of the Virginia Blue Ridge section of the American Chemical Society. The event will be held at the Hotel Roanoke, in the Shenandoah Room, with a social time beginning at 5:30, dinner at 6:30, followed by a presentation at 7:30. Our speaker and honored guest will be Dr. Ann Nalley, the current President of the American Chemical Society.

During our social hour, a cash bar will be available. Tables will have displays of materials important and relevant to the history of our section. Posters will be present highlighting the activities of our student affiliates at each school represented in the section.

Dinner will be a buffet, featuring sliced roast beef, chicken breast in champignon sauce, and pasta primavera. Costs are \$30 per person (\$15 for retired and student members).

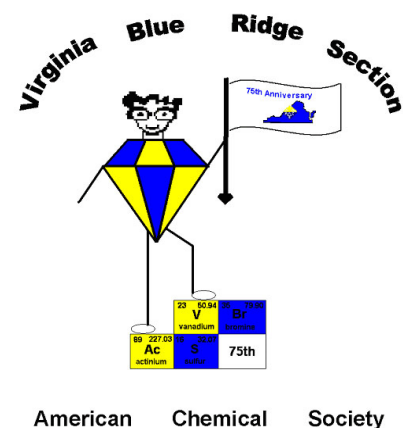
## Logo Design Winner

Thank you to all the SAACS chapters that submitted a logo for the 75th Anniversary Celebration. After careful discussion of the submitted entries, we selected the Roanoke College design as our official logo. An award of \$50 will be sent to that organization. Their winning entry is featured on the cover of this issue of the BRC.

## 75th Anniversary T-shirts

The Executive Committee was impressed with the logo design submitted by Lynchburg College, and decided to prepare a T-shirt to commemorate our 75th Anniversary. The T-shirt features Lynchburg College's submission on the back (see below), with a "75 in the mountains" in royal blue on the front left. Congratulations to the Lynchburg College ASAACS group on their \$50 award. T-shirts are available (\$12 for S, M, L, or XL, and \$13 for XXL). Contact Adele Addington ([Addington@roanoke.edu](mailto:Addington@roanoke.edu)) if you would like to purchase one. A limited supply of each size is available. If demand warrants, an additional order will be placed.

## DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY



**Gail F. Cook, Radford High School  
Outstanding High School Teacher of the Year for 2006**

Gail Cook has been at Radford High School for 23 years and has been teaching for 27 years. She uses many different lab and technology experiences into her classroom to both teach concepts and get students excited about doing chemistry. She has integrated the use of technological tools such as graphing calculators and calculator-based interface systems and probeware to collect data in chemical laboratory experiments. When



lab work is limited for safety or facility reasons, Gail supplements the curriculum with interactive videos and DVDs on computers. Gail has webbed interactive audio/visual technologies to enhance her curriculum and build-on and supplement lab bench work to create an effective and complete instructional program in chemistry. She does not stop short of having chemistry fun with students either. Walk by her room and you might here the high pitched pop of a presence of a hydrogen test, see bright colors of flames tests, or hears the sounds of happy student's slurping of ice cream made in plastic bags.

In the last two years, Gail's students have a 100% pass rate on the Virginia SOL exam in chemistry. She has served as Chair of the Science Department for 15 years and has served on textbook adoption committees and important self-study accreditation committees.

Gail has assembled and coached Science MACC team for 17 consecutive years. Last year, her team won both the conference and the superbowl. She has coached Klassroom Kwiz (WDBJ7) for a number of years. Her most competitive group won the local title and she accompanied the group to the national competition in Chicago, where they finished in 13th place.

Gail has participated in Optical Data training, Large Screen Projection training, Laser discs in Science and Math, Faculty tours of local industry, and has extensive computer training. She has attended many conferences. Gail participated in a comprehensive two week advanced workshop to learn competencies to best use the Virginia Tech Mobile Chemistry Lab. She has written several grants and obtained money to provide learning resources for the students.

**Regional Science Fair Awardees**

The Blue Ridge Section gives a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond to a student in the regional science fair who makes good use of chemistry.

This year's winner of the Blue Ridge Highlands Regional Science Fair is Savannah L. Kirby, with a project entitled "Creeping Science: the Study of Chromatography". She is a student at Galax High School, and was sponsored by Robin Lewis.

This year's winner of the Western Regional Science Fair is Matthew Brown, with a project entitled "The Application of Gas Chromatography in Detecting Washed Checks". He is a student at Patrick Henry High School and Roanoke Valley Governor's School, and was sponsored by Steve Smith.

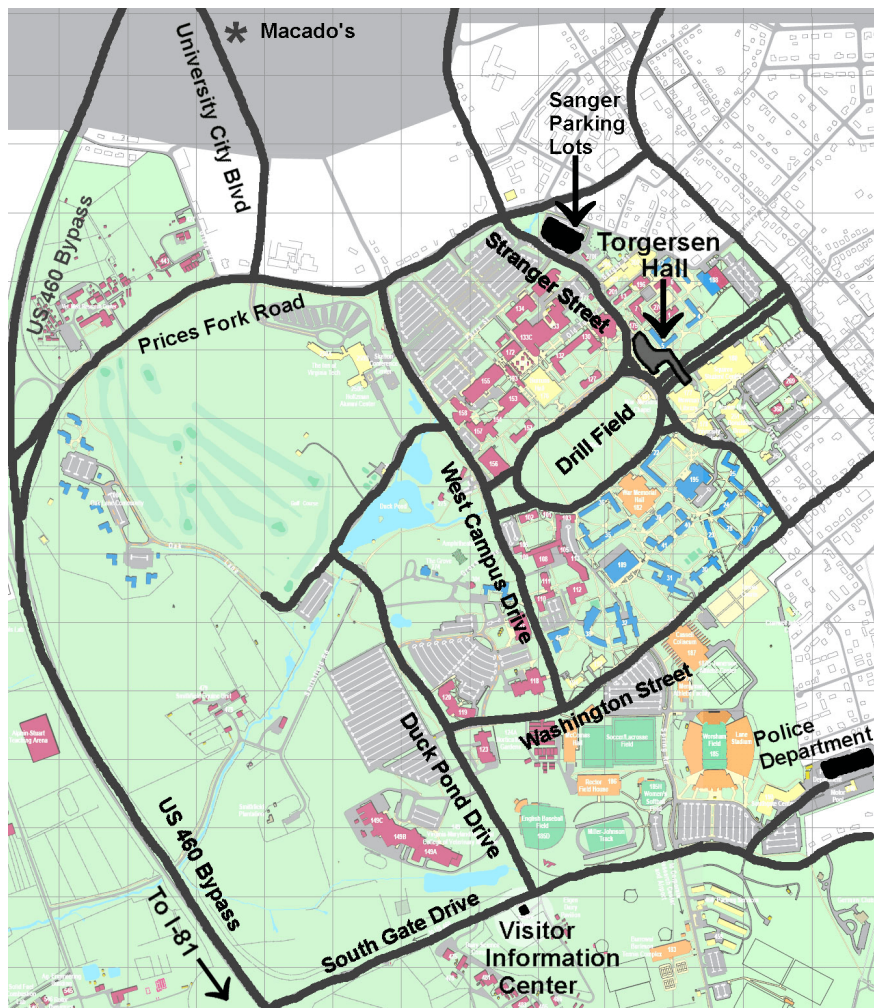
**Directions to Macado's**

Take the I-81 Exit 118B onto U.S. 460 West. This exit connects directly to the Christiansburg Bypass. Follow the signs for Blacksburg/Virginia Tech. Continue on W-460 to Prices Fork Road. Take the first Prices Fork Road exit (east). Continue to University City Blvd (2 lights) ; turn left. Continue about ¼ mile. Macado's is on the right, across from Krogers.

## Directions to Virginia Tech Cave (Torgersen) from Macado's

Go back to Price Fork Road, turn left, go to Strange Street, and then turn right. The Sanger parking lots are a short distance on the left, and Torgersen Hall is further down on the left. The CAVE is in room 3030.

### Map of Virginia Tech



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The next Virginia Blue Ridge Section meeting will be Thursday, Sept 23, at the Clarion Hotel. It will be a joint meeting with AIChE and IEEE, and the speaker will be Jack McKenna. The contact person is Adele Addington.