

The Blue Ridge Chemist

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



VOLUME LIX

October/November 2006

No. 7

VIRGINIA BLUE RIDGE SECTION AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

603rd SECTION MEETING

Hosted by the Executive Committee at Hotel Roanoke

Monday, October 23, 2006

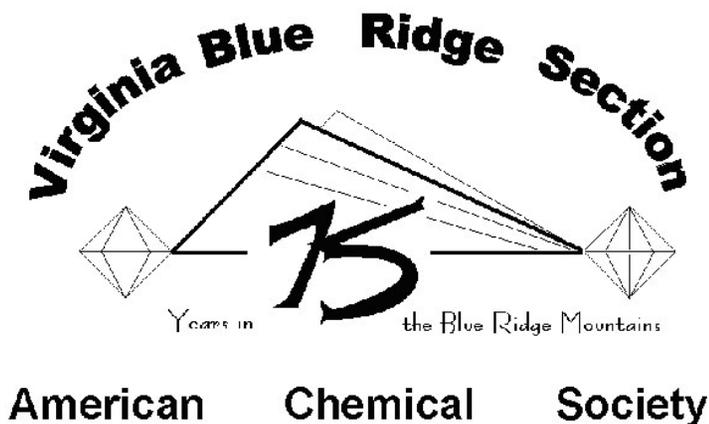
PROGRAM:

5:30-6:30 Social Time, foyer, Shenandoah Ballroom
6:30-8:00 Dinner, Shenandoah Ballroom
8:00-10:00 Presentation, Shenandoah Ballroom

The social time will take place in the foyer to the Shenandoah Ballroom, while the dinner and talk are in the Shenandoah Ballroom. Dr. E. Ann Nalley will be speaking on "Ensuring the Future: ACS & The Chemical Enterprise".

Dinner will be fresh fruit salad, traditional tossed salad with assorted dressings, tricolor pasta salad, sliced roast beef with sauce Robert, breast of chicken with champignon sauce, pasta primavera with crisp vegetables and Alfredo sauce, potatoes, pasta, rice, fresh vegetables, cheesecake with fruit sauce, fresh apple pie, and chocolate fudge cake. Cost for the dinner is \$30.00, with students and retired ACS members being half price.

Reservations for the dinner must be made by MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, SEVEN DAYS before the meeting, by telephoning Adele Addington at (540) 375-2364, or by e-mailing to Addington@roanoke.edu, or by mailing to Adele Addington, Department of Chemistry, Roanoke College, Salem, VA 24153.



**Executive Committee Hosts the October Meeting
The Big Bash at Hotel Roanoke**

Ferrum Hosts the November Meeting

<http://membership.acs.org/V/VBR>

Dr. E. Ann Nalley, President, American Chemical Society

Dr. Ann Nalley, 2006 President of the American Chemical Society, is currently a Professor of Chemistry in the Physical Science Department at Cameron University, a position that she has held since 1969. Before coming to Cameron she taught high school chemistry and mathematics at Muskogee High School. She has held positions as a visiting scientist or professor in the Chemistry Departments at the University of Oklahoma and the University of Texas at Dallas, and the Polymer Science Department at the University of Southern Mississippi. She earned a B.S. at Northeastern Oklahoma State University, an M.S. in Analytical Chemistry at Oklahoma State University, and a Ph.D. in Radiation Chemistry from Texas Woman's University. She has held every office in the local section of the American Chemical Society and has served on nine national committees and/or task forces. She has served as a Councilor for more than 25 years. She had previously served for seven years on the Board of Directors of the American Chemical Society as Director of District V. She served four years on the National Board of the American Institute of Chemists as a Director-At-Large.



Ensuring the Future: ACS & The Chemical Enterprise

I chose "Ensuring the Future: The ACS and the Chemical Enterprise" as the theme for my presidential year. I selected this theme to build on "Chemistry Enterprise 2015," a project undertaken in 2005 by President Bill Carroll to understand the vectors driving the chemistry enterprise today, and how the enterprise will change in the next ten years. Although I would like to say that I can set the American Chemical Society and the chemical enterprise on a course toward a positive future, I am not naive enough to believe that the whole chemical enterprise can be changed in one year. Therefore, I have three focal points for discussion, action and activities this year: (1) communicating the value and relationship of basic and applied research; (2) the importance of good science and mathematics education at all levels; and (3) recognizing that the most important asset the American Chemical Society has is its members. In this presentation, I will reflect on our progress to date.



Call for Volunteers

Come out and support chemistry in your local section! The Virginia Blue Ridge Section of the American Chemical Society is seeking groups and individuals to volunteer for National Chemistry Week activities throughout the section. Volunteers are needed at the Science Museum of Western Virginia in Roanoke on October 21 and at River Ridge Mall in Lynchburg on October 28. If you or your group is interested in volunteering, please contact Bill Lokar for more information. lokar_w@lynchburg.edu (434) 544-8631.

The Virginia Blue Ridge Section's 75th Anniversary: Our BIG BASH History Snippet

Over the past 75 years, the Virginia Blue Ridge Section has hosted a number of American Chemical Society presidents, as we are this month when Dr. E. Ann Nalley joins us for our 75th Anniversary Celebration. Listed below are the ACS presidents who have visited our section and the dates of their visits.

Edward R. Weidlein (Feb 27, 1937)

Frank C. Whitmore (Jan. 15, 1938)

William L. Evans (Nov 1, 1941)

Harry N. Holmes (Oct 24, 1942)

M.H. Arverson (Feb 29, 1964)

Bernard Freidman (Jan 14, 1975)

Attila Pavlath (Nov 17, 1999 and April 19, 2006)

Bill Carroll (Oct 3, 2005)

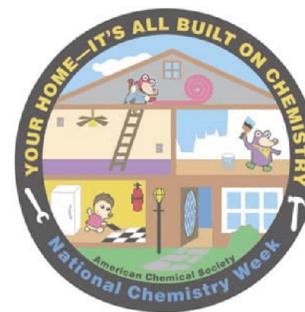
Ann Nalley (Oct 23, 2006)

The Virginia Blue Ridge Section holds a special place in the memories of Dr. Attila Pavlath. Dr. Pavlath has visited our section twice, most recently this past April as we celebrated our 600th local section meeting. During his first visit, however, Dr. Pavlath received good news, as recounted below by Dave Johnson.

An Evening to Remember by Dave Johnson

The 549th meeting of the Virginia Blue Ridge Section was November 17, 1999 and it was my last meeting as section Chair. As had recently become the custom, Ferrum College was to host the November meeting and an ACS tour speaker had been scheduled. Dr. Attila Pavlath was to talk on the use of edible films to preserve lightly processed foods. I was aware that Dr. Pavlath was a candidate for President-Elect of the ACS and I had voted for him because the main

plank in his platform was strong support for local sections. Dr. Pavlath was driving to Ferrum and staying overnight at the guest apartment on campus and, because Mrs. Pavlath had accompanied him, I took my wife, Jenny, down to meet and let them into the apartment. Balloting for the national ACS elections had been completed and Attila noted the possibility of hearing the results while at Ferrum. In fact, he called ACS headquarters from the apartment to give them his local number - just in case. As we sat and chatted before heading over to the Panther's Den, the phone rang and I knew from his expression that the news was good. And so, it was my good luck to introduce Dr. Pavlath, not just as the evening's speaker, but as the President-Elect of the American Chemical Society. Good fun!



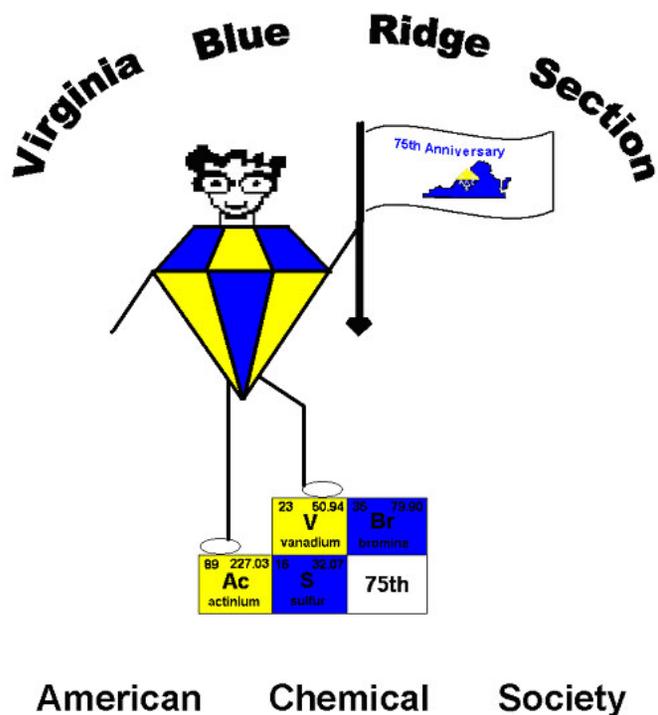
Calling SAACS Chapters: 75th Anniversary Poster Display

Our student affiliates compose an integral part of the Virginia Blue Ridge section of the American Chemical Society. Your work helps us relay the message of the importance of chemistry to the broader community. In recognition of your efforts, we invite each SAACS chapter to prepare and present a poster highlighting your chapter's activities and achievements. This poster will be displayed in the lobby/social area during the Big Bash on October 23. Please let me know by October 15 if your section will have a poster to display at the Big Bash! For more information, contact your SAACS advisor or Adele Addington (Addington@roanoke.edu).

75th Anniversary T-shirts

The executive committee was impressed with the logo design submitted by Lynchburg College. We 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 SAACS 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) if you would like to purchase one.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY



National Chemistry Week

The theme for National Chemistry Week this year is "Your Home: It's All Built on CHEMISTRY" and will be observed from October 22-28, 2006. Bill Lokar of Lynchburg College is serving as the sections NCW coordinator this year. He has arranged for the section to present demonstrations at the Science Museum of Western Virginia on October 21 and at River Ridge Mall in Lynchburg on October 28. We are currently seeking volunteers to help with this event. Please contact Bill if you would like to help! (lokar_w@lynchburg.edu)

Additionally, we are looking to host an event in the Greater Lynchburg area in the near future. We are also reaching out to local school systems, sponsoring a poster contest for K-12 students. The section will offer a prize for the best poster submitted from each age group; the winner will be announced at the November meeting at Ferrum. These winning entries will be forwarded to the national competition. Information about the K-12 poster contest can be found at http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/acdisplay.html?DOC=ncw%5cncw_06_poster.html. Please forward this information to schools in your neighborhood!

We encourage our SAACS chapters to actively participate in NCW events on their campuses and in the community. We are sponsoring a competition for the SAACS chapters within the section; the section with the "most outstanding NCW activities", as judged by the VBR executive council, will receive a \$50 prize. Report forms for SAACS activity submissions will be available soon.

National Chemistry Week is a great opportunity to engage in community involvement through chemistry, both on and off campus, or in or outside the work place. We encourage all of our members to become involved in National Chemistry Week, in any and all capacities. More information about National Chemistry Week can be

found at: http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/acdisplay.html?DOC=ncw\ncw_index.html. If you or your group is interested in volunteering for activities within the section please contact Bill Lokar (lokar_w@lynchburg.edu). Hope to see you during National Chemistry Week.

Attention Primary and Secondary Educators and Students

The American Chemical Society is sponsoring a poster contest for students in grade K-12. This year's theme is "Your Home-It's All Built on Chemistry". Students are invited to create a poster that will serve as a public service announcement emphasizing the role of chemistry/science in the home. Guidelines can be found on the ACS website at: http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/acdisplay.html?DOC=ncw%5cncw_06_poster.html. In addition to the national contest, all submissions will be displayed at the November 7 Virginia Blue Ridge Section meeting at Ferrum College. The section will award prizes for the winning poster in each grade category as outlined in the official rules. Posters must be submitted to the section by November 3, 2006. Posters can be submitted to the following locations:

New River Valley: Joe Wirgau, Radford University, (540) 831-5650 or jiwirgau@radford.edu.

Roanoke: Gary Hollis, Roanoke College, (540) 375-2437 or hollis@roanoke.edu.

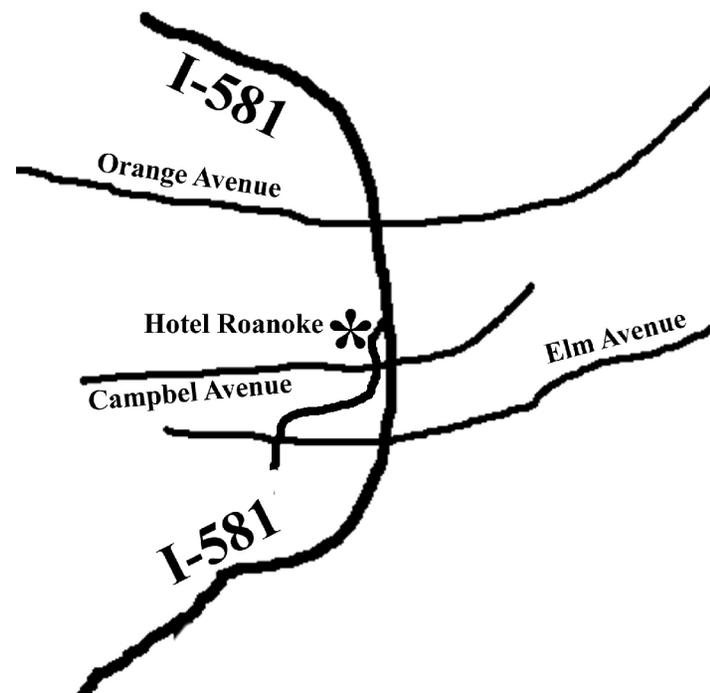
Lynchburg: Bill Lokar, Lynchburg College, (434) 544-8631 or lokar_w@lynchburg.edu.

For additional information, please contact Bill Lokar {(434) 544-8631} or lokar_w@lynchburg.edu or see the ACS website above.

Directions to Hotel Roanoke

From North or South I-81, take exit 143 (I-581 South) to Exit 5. Cross Wells Avenue and continue to the main entrance of the hotel.

Map to Hotel Roanoke



**VIRGINIA BLUE RIDGE SECTION
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY**

**604th SECTION MEETING
Hosted by Ferrum College**

Tuesday, November 7, 2006

PROGRAM:

- 5:30-6:00 Social Time, Blue Ridge Mountain Room
6:00-7:00 Dinner, Blue Ridge Mountain Room
7:00-8:00 Presentation, Blue Ridge Mountain Room

The social time, dinner, and talk will take place in the Blue Ridge Mountain Room in the Skeens Conference Center in Franklin Hall. Dr. Yorke E. Rhodes, New York University, New York, NY, will be speaking on "Solar System Planetary Atmospheres - Where's the Second Place You Could Live?" .

Dinner will be Caesar salad, rolls, beef tender (cooked medium rare), salmon, rice pilaf, vegetable medley, lava cake, iced tea, water, and coffee. A vegetarian option of vegetable ravioli and fried green tomato is available upon request when the reservation is made. Cost for the dinner is \$14.00, with students and retired ACS members being half price.

Reservations for the dinner must be made by TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, SEVEN DAYS before the meeting, by phoning Jason Powell at (540) 365-4376, or by e-mail to JPowell@ferrum.edu, or by mail to Jason Powell, Department of Chemistry, Ferrum College, Ferrum, VA 24088.

Dr. Yorke E. Rhodes

Yorke Rhodes received a B. S. in soil chemistry from the University of Delaware in 1957, as Senior of the Year in the College, and then earned an M.S. in organic chemistry in 1959 with William A. Mosher and Darrel Lynch. After completing his Ph.D. at the University of Illinois in 1964 with Prof. James C. Martin, he was a National Institutes of Health Postdoctoral Fellow with Kenneth B. Wiberg at Yale University. He joined the faculty of New York University at the University Heights campus in 1965 and



developed research areas in SO₂ solvent chemistry, electrocyclic reactions, small ring chemistry, and carbocations, especially neighboring group cyclopropane-assisted cation rearrangements. He moved to the Washington Square campus in 1973 after a sabbatical leave with Horst Prinzbach at the Universitat Freiburg in West Germany. Work at the Square continued in carbocations, led to alkyl group migratory aptitude studies and to synthetic studies in silyl ketene acetal chemistry for synthesis of quaternary neopentyls. He was a State Department exchange visitor to Prague, Czechoslovakia, and Zagreb, Yugoslavia, in 1977 and was also Gastprofessor with Ivar Ugi at the Technische Universitat Munchen (TUM) in 1977, followed by a stay in 1978 as Alexander von Humboldt U.S. Senior Scientist Awardee at the TUM with Ugi. NASA/IEEE Summer Fellowships were held at the Jet Propulsion Laboratories at Cal Tech in Pasadena with Wes Huntress in 1980 and 1981 (astrochemistry). In 1987, he was professor associe at the Centre d'Astrophysique, Universite de Grenoble, France, with Alain Omont (astro-polycyclic

aromatic hydrocarbon chemistry). Rhodes was awarded the Golden Dozen Award for Teaching Excellence in the College of Arts and Science in 1991, and again in 1996. Professor Rhodes is director of the Dual Degree Program in Science and Engineering at New York University and Stevens Institute of Technology, resides as Professor in a Residence in a University residence hall, and is very active in the New York Academy of Sciences and American Chemical Society local section activities, sponsoring a variety of symposia, poster sessions and other activities for students. He was recently elected chair-elect for 1997 and chair of the ACS New York Section for 1998. As an ACS Councilor he is also a member of the Local Section Activities Committee and welcomes discussions about local sections. He has served on Department of Education review panels and is an educational consultant/evaluator for several undergraduate and high school research mentoring programs.



ACS National Elections

While the BRC cannot endorse any candidates running for an office in the National American Chemical Society, we can say that Dr. Rhodes is one of the candidates running for President - Elect. Also running are Dr. Bruce E. Bursten, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN; Dr. Bassam Z. Shakhashiri, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI; and Dr. James A. Walsh, (Retired), John Carroll University, Treasure Island, FL.

Please exercise your right and vote in this year's ACS elections.

Ballot, Blue Ridge Section, ACS, for 2007

The Nominating Committee has prepared the following slate of nominees for the election at the November meeting. All have agreed to serve if elected. Other nominees will be accepted from the floor at that meeting. If you would like to nominate someone, please check with that person about his or her willingness to serve.

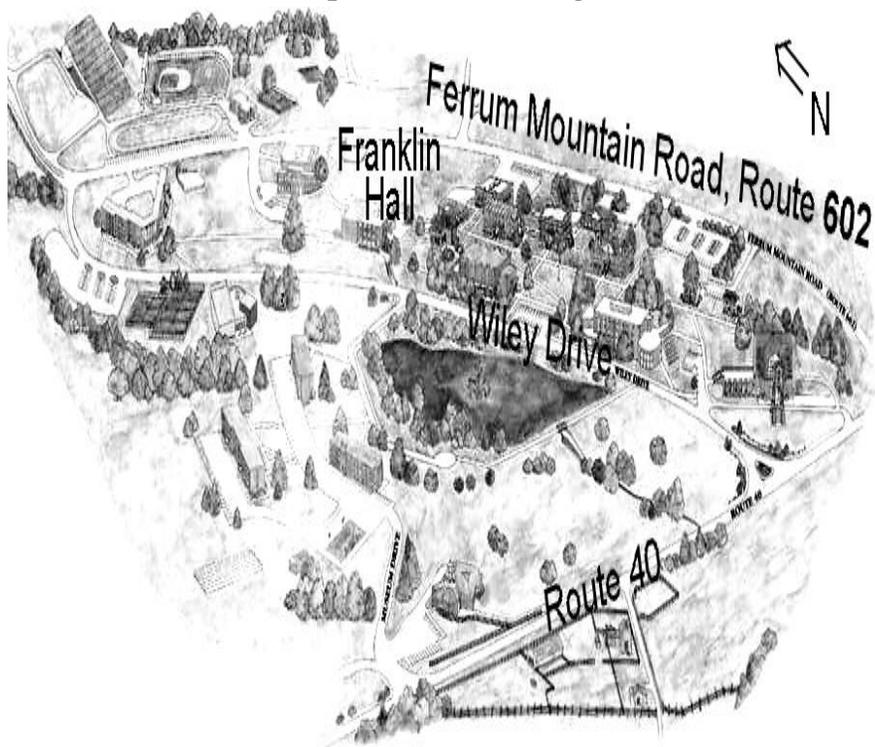
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|---------------------|-------|---|
| Chair | _____ | Dave Johnson, Ferrum College |
| | _____ | _____ |
| Chair-elect | _____ | Joe Wigau, Radford University |
| | _____ | _____ |
| Secretary | _____ | Bill Lokar, Lynchburg College |
| | _____ | _____ |
| Treasurer | _____ | Vernon Miller, Roanoke College |
| | _____ | _____ |
| Recorder | _____ | Gary Hollis, Roanoke College |
| | _____ | _____ |
| Newsletter Editor | _____ | Vernon Miller, Roanoke College |
| | _____ | _____ |
| Councilor | _____ | Ben Huddle, Roanoke College |
| | _____ | _____ |
| Alternate-councilor | _____ | Gwen Sibert, Roanoke Valley Governor's School |
| | _____ | _____ |

Please bring your ballot to the November meeting, or mail it to Jason Powell at Life Sciences, Ferrum College, Ferrum, VA 24088.

Directions to Ferrum College

Directions to Ferrum College from Roanoke: Take Interstate 581 South which turns into Route 220 South. Stay on Route 220 through Boones Mill to Rocky Mount. Take the second Rocky Mount exit to Route 40 West. Ferrum is 10 miles beyond Rocky Mount on Route 40 West. Pass Ferrum Mountain Road (Route 602) on your right, then take the next right into the college's main entrance. You will pass Garber Hall (with the greenhouse) on the right, then Stanley Library and Schoolfield Hall. The next building on the right is Franklin Hall, and parking is available below Franklin Hall across from the Fitness Center. The Blue Ridge Mountain Room is the large meeting area on the second floor of Franklin Hall.

Map to Ferrum College



THE BLUE RIDGE CHEMIST
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