

The Blue Ridge Chemist

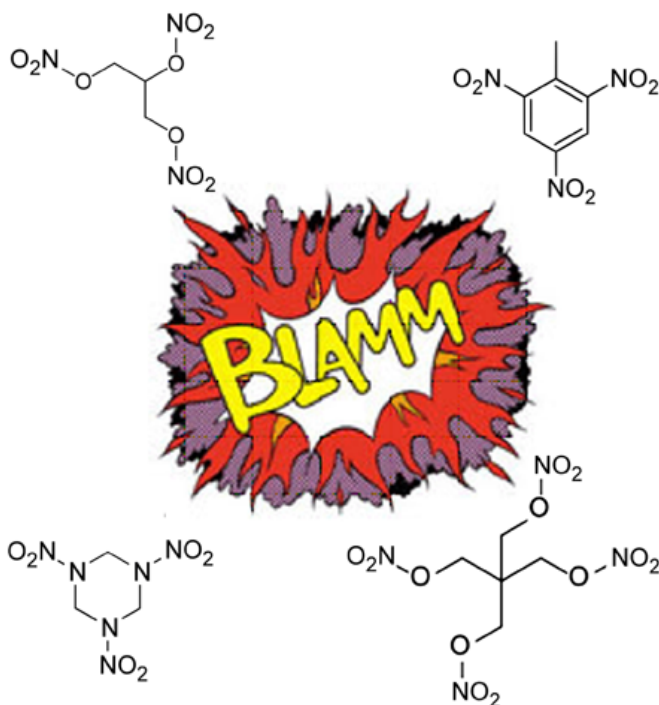
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Ferrum College Hosts October Meeting

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

VIRGINIA BLUE RIDGE SECTION AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

619th SECTION MEETING Hosted by Ferrum College

Tuesday, October 14, 2008

PROGRAM:

- 5:30-6:00 Social Time, Panthers Den
- 6:00-7:00 Dinner, Panthers Den
- 7:00-8:00 Presentation, Panthers Den

The social time, dinner, and presentation will take place in the Panthers Den on the lower level of Franklin Hall. Mr. J. Keith Butler will be speaking on "Military Explosives".

The meal will be roasted chicken with orange glaze, house made vegetarian lasagna, house salad, baby baker potatoes, green beans, cheese cake, and tea and coffee. 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 7, SEVEN DAYS before the meeting, by phoning David Johnson at (540) 365-4364, or by e-mail to djohnson@ferrum.edu, or by mail to David Johnson, Department of Chemistry, Ferrum College, Ferrum, VA 24088.

Celebrate National Chemistry Week (NCW) 2008

Theme: "Having a Ball with Chemistry"

October 19-25, 2008

J. Keith Butler

Milan Army Ammunition Plant in Milan, Tennessee

Mr. Butler received his B.S. in Chemistry from Union University in 1983 and his M.S. in Inorganic Chemistry from the University of Memphis in 1987. He is the Chief Chemist for the Milan Army Ammunition Plant in Milan, Tennessee. He has more than 20 years experience performing acceptance testing on components used to Load, Assemble, and Pack ammunition items for the US Army. In addition to his laboratory duties, he is a spill response team member, hazardous waste operator, and has served as the plant



Chemical Hygiene Officer. Mr. Butler has published notes in the Journal of Chemical Education. He is an adjunct professor of chemistry at Jackson State Community College teaching introductory and freshman chemistry. Mr. Butler sits on the Army's Environmental Restoration Advisory Board for the Milan Army Ammunition Plant, twice serving as the community co-chair. He is also an active judge for the West Tennessee Regional Science Fair, an affiliate of the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. He is active in the American Chemical Society and was the 2007 Chair for the Kentucky Lake section. He was recently appointed to serve on the ACS Joint Board Council Committee on Public Relations and Communications. He is the Industrial Advisor to the Union University SAACS.

Military Explosives

Many different explosive compounds exist but not all have practical applications. To be suitable for military use the explosive material must meet certain characteristics. These characteristics and the historical development from primitive weapons to modern non-nuclear military explosive weapons will be discussed. The study of military explosives is very broad, more than 110 explosives are available to the ordnance engineer and the list is growing. Information will be presented about the chemistry and physics of the detonation process and the characteristics that make an explosive suitable for military use. Examples of explosive compounds from a variety of chemical classes will be given. The military classifies explosives based on their power and sensitivity. Functional ordnance utilizes this variation in properties to form an "explosive train". This process uses multiple explosive charges of differing sensitivities and powers to meet the needs of specific applications. This and the shaped charge effect will be explained and examples of their implementation in modern ordnance will be given. The presentation is a general survey and is suitable for a non-technical audience.



ChemEd 2009 to be Held at Radford University

Radford University has been selected as the site for the 20th international ChemEd 2009 conference to be held on August 2 - 6, 2009. This conference is a very unique teaching and learning conference where teachers can share teaching experiences, classroom innovations, and laboratory experiments. Several plenary lectures will be offered. Many hands-on workshops will be offered, as well as chemical demonstration presentations.

For the 16th ChemEd 2001 at York University in Toronto, more than 1000 chemistry teachers attended from every Canadian province, every state in the United States, and more than 50 countries. Most of the participants in this conference are high school chemistry teachers. Many professors attend from 2- and 4-year colleges or universities.

The ChemEd 2009 website is hosted by Radford University at <http://www.radford.edu/chemed2009/>. For more information on participating in this event, contact Christine Hermann at chermann@radford.edu.



Mentors Wanted!

The U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad A Program Sponsored by the American Chemical Society Invites You to Apply for the Mentor Position

College and high school educators are invited to apply for a position as mentor for the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad program. Duties during the three-year term include helping to conduct the national study camp for high school students held at the United States Air Force Academy located in Colorado during mid-June 2010, 2011 and 2012. Generally, in their second and third year, mentors accompany four U.S. student competitors to the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO). During the competition, the mentors will serve as members of the IChO Jury. The 2011 and 2012 IChO events are scheduled to be held in Turkey and the U.S., respectively. Most students at the study camp have completed Advanced Placement Chemistry or the equivalent; therefore, instruction at the camp is well beyond the level of high school general chemistry courses. The curriculum also includes considerable laboratory work.

Successful applicants are expected to have a background in one or more of the areas of organic, inorganic, analytical, physical, or biochemistry with classroom experience and should demonstrate involvement with students in special projects or activities. Applicants must be prepared to make a three-year term commitment as outlined above. ACS pays all expenses and travel costs, as well as an honorarium.

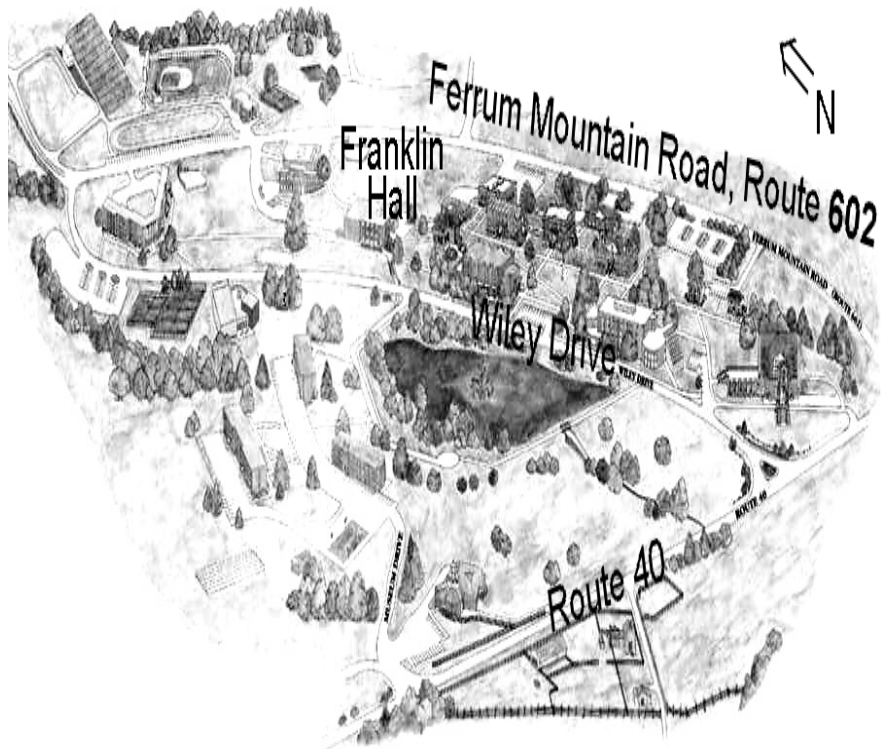
Interested individuals may obtain an application form at: www.acs.org/olympiad. The deadline for completed applications is January 27, 2009.

Our own Neal Sumerlin of Lynchburg College was a mentor from 2001 to 2003.

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 Panthers Den is located on the lower level of Franklin Hall.

Map to Ferrum College



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

THE BLUE RIDGE CHEMIST
Vern Miller, Editor
Roanoke College
Salem, VA 24153

The next Blue Ridge Section meeting will be Tuesday, November 18 at Lynchburg College. Our speaker will be C. Marvin Lang, speaking on "Chemical Philately: A Perforated History of Chemistry". The contact person is Bill Lokar.