

# The Blue Ridge Chemist

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



## VIRGINIA BLUE RIDGE SECTION AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

### 680th SECTION MEETING Hosted by Ferrum College

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

#### PROGRAM:

5:30-6:00 Social Time, Virginia Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor Franklin Hall  
6:00-7:00 Dinner, Virginia Room  
7:00-8:00 Talk, GRB 106 (located in Garber Hall)

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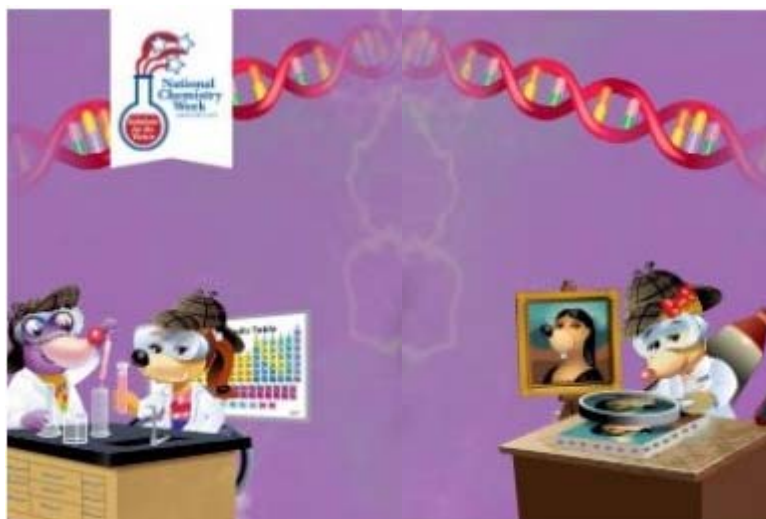
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### National Chemistry Week



### Ferrum College hosts the October Meeting

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

The social time and dinner will take place in the Virginia Room in Franklin Hall on the first floor. The talk will take place in room 106 in Garber Hall. The evening speaker is Laura Grochowski, Ferrum College School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. Her talk is titled “Seduced by the Dark Side: The Rise of Designer Drugs”.

The meal will be a pasta buffet. Start off with a mixed garden vegetable salad with Ferrum house dressing and an antipasto platter. The main dishes include penne pasta and stuffed tortellini with cheese. Top your pasta off with grilled chicken breast and marinara sauce (choice of with or without meat), Alfredo sauce, or pesto. Garlic breadsticks will be served on the side. Finish your meal with a chef’s choice cheesecake. Water and tea are available. Cost for the dinner is \$15.00, with students and retired ACS members being half price.

Reservations for the dinner must be made by noon on WEDNESDAY October 12, (7 DAYS BEFORE THE MEETING). Contact Maria Puccio at (540) 365-4238, or email [mpuccio@ferrum.edu](mailto:mpuccio@ferrum.edu), or write Maria Puccio, Ferrum College, GRB 309; 80 Wiley Dr. Ferrum, VA 24088

**Dr. Laura Grochowski,**

**School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics**

**Ferrum College**



Laura Grochowski received a BS in Biology with a minor in Chemistry from Delaware Valley College in 1997. She studied antibiotic and nonribosomal peptide biosynthesis with Mark Zabriskie at Oregon State University where she obtained a Ph.D. in Medicinal Chemistry in 2004. Laura then joined Bob White's lab in the Department of Biochemistry at Virginia Tech as a postdoctoral associate. While at Virginia Tech her work focused on the uncanonical biochemistry and coenzyme biosynthesis of methanogenic archaea. Her work has been published in a variety of journals including Biochemistry, ACS Chemical Biology, and the Journal of Biological Chemistry. Laura joined the faculty at Ferrum College in 2011 and is currently developing undergraduate research programs in areas of both natural products and methanogenesis.

## **Seduced by the Dark Side: The Rise of Designer Drugs**

The dark side of medicinal chemistry has taken on a life of its own in the rapid expansion of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), commonly known as 'Designer Drugs'. Unlike the backyard chemistry of methamphetamine synthesis, the growing trend in the world of recreational drug use is more akin to that of medicinal chemistry that has lost the guiding principal of medicine 'first, do no harm'. The growing popularity and diversity of designer drugs is creating challenges in all aspects of chemistry, from forensic identification and detection to pharmacology and medical toxicology. In this talk, the fundamental chemistry of some of the most popular and rising designer drugs will be addressed and aspects of drug design, action, metabolism and detection will be presented.



Identifying potent drugs called "bath salts" with a handheld device could soon be a reality.

Credit: Drug Enforcement Agency

## Poetry Contest: National Chemistry Week 2016 (Oct 16-22)

The theme of this year's National Chemistry Week is “**Solving Mysteries Through Chemistry**”. The mission of NCW is to reach the public, particularly students, with positive messages about chemistry. The Virginia Blue Ridge section again is participating in the K-12 poetry contest. Participants are encouraged to illustrate their poems related to using chemistry to solve mysteries. All poems must be no more than 40 words, and in one of the following styles to be considered: Haiku, Limerick, Ode, ABC poem, Free verse, End rhyme, Blank verse.

Entries are judged based upon relevance to and incorporation of the NCW theme (“Solving Mysteries Through Chemistry”), word choice and imagery, colorful artwork, adherence to poem style, originality and creativity, and overall presentation.

All entries must be original works without aid from others. Each poem must be submitted and illustrated on an unlined sheet of paper (of any type) not larger than 11” x 14”. The illustration must be created by hand using crayons, watercolors, other types of paint, colored pencils, or markers. The text of the poem should be easy to read and may be printed with a computer, before the hand-drawn illustration is added, or the poem may be written on lined paper which is cut out and pasted onto the unlined paper with the illustration.

Only one entry per student will be accepted; all entries must include an entry form. All illustrated poems and/or digital representations of the poems become the property of the American Chemical Society. Acceptance of prizes constitutes consent to use winners’ names, likenesses, and entries for editorial, advertising, and publicity purposes.

Please send the entries to Kim Lane, Radford University, 801 East Main St., Radford, Virginia 24142 or bring them to the October meeting. The deadline for receipt of entries is October 19 at 6:02 pm.

## Elections, Blue Ridge Section, ACS, for 2016

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. You may also self-nominate.

### *Elected positions*

Chair: Paul Deck, Virginia Tech

Chair Elect: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: Maria Puccio, Ferrum College

Councilor: Gary Hollis, Roanoke College

Alternate councilor: Maria Puccio, Ferrum College

Treasurer: Chris Monceaux, Radford University

Newsletter Editor: Nancy Richardson, Liberty University

### *Non-elected (appointed) positions*

Awards Chair - Chris Hermann

Teacher Relations - Steve Smith

Website Coordinator - Dana Harris

Chemistry Olympiad/National Chemistry Week - Kim Lane

## Next Meeting: November 14 at Liberty University

Matt Brytenson will speak on lasers.

## Directions to Franklin Hall, Ferrum College

From I-81 take I-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.

## Map of Ferrum College

