



# PENN-OHIO BORDER SECTION NEWSLETTER

**Chair/Alternate Councilor**

Dr. Peter Smith  
Chemistry Dept.  
Westminster College  
New Wilmington, PA 16172  
724-946-7299  
[smithpm@westminster.edu](mailto:smithpm@westminster.edu)

**Chair-elect**

Dr. Salah Blaih  
Kent State University Trumbull  
4314 Mahoning Ave. NW  
Warren, OH 44483  
330-675-8937  
[sblaih@kent.edu](mailto:sblaih@kent.edu)

**Past Chair/Councilor**

Dr. Doris L. Zimmerman  
1390 Waverly Dr, NW  
Warren, OH 44483  
330-847-2284 (also fax)  
[zimdorisl@aol.com](mailto:zimdorisl@aol.com)

**Secretary**

Dr. Douglas Motry  
Chemistry Dept.  
Kent State, Salem  
2491 St Rt. 45 S  
Salem, OH 44460  
330-337-4289  
[motry@salem.kent.edu](mailto:motry@salem.kent.edu)

**Treasurer**

Dr. Mike Serra  
Chemistry Dept.  
Youngstown State University  
Youngstown, OH 44555  
330-941-3667  
[maserra@cc.ysu.edu](mailto:maserra@cc.ysu.edu)

**Members-at-large**

Dr. Susan J. Cramer  
Chemistry Dept.  
Grove City College  
Grove City PA 16127  
724-458-2207  
[sicramer@gcc.edu](mailto:sicramer@gcc.edu)

Dr. Kathy Frantz  
Chemistry Dept.  
Thiel College  
Greenville, PA 16125  
724-589-2113  
[kkfrantz@thiel.edu](mailto:kkfrantz@thiel.edu)

Dr. Tim A. Sherwood  
Chemistry Dept.  
Westminster College  
New Wilmington, PA 16172  
724-946-7296  
[sherwota@westminster.edu](mailto:sherwota@westminster.edu)

## November Meeting

Tuesday, November 7, 2006

4:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Thiel College  
Academic Center – Room AC-36  
Kemper Labs

Dr. David Yaron  
Carnegie Mellon University

“Virtual labs and scenario based learning  
for introductory chemistry”

We will present learning technologies that address two main learning challenges in introductory chemistry (<http://www.chemcollective.org/>). Our virtual laboratory addresses the first challenge, that of helping students connect the algebraic manipulations of the current course with authentic chemistry. This is done through our virtual lab, a flexible Java applet that allows students to choose from hundreds of standard reagents and manipulate them in a manner that resembles that of a real lab. The student activities couple the paper-and-pencil manipulations of the current course with chemical manipulations and experimental design. By allowing students to see the species and concentrations present in their solution, it bridges laboratory manipulations with the numbers that are the focus of the algebraic manipulations of the course. The lab has been used for online homework, in class experimentation, and prelabs/postlabs. Tools are provided to allow instructors to create their own lab activities. The other major learning challenge in introductory chemistry is coupling chemical knowledge with the real world. By comparing textbooks with the NY Times' Science Times and Scientific American, we have identified and characterized a misalignment between chemistry instruction and the demands of chemical literacy. We will use our Mixed Reception murder mystery activity and other activities to illustrate how imbedding current course concepts in scenarios can address this misalignment, while requiring only minor changes to current course structures. We will present our experiences and results obtained while using these materials in introductory college and high school courses.

# Councilor's Report

from the 232<sup>nd</sup> ACS National Meeting, San Francisco, CA, September 10-14, 2006

By now you have received your ballot for candidates for President-Elect and Board of Directors. Please vote, either by mail or electronically. At the recent National Meeting, there were three petitions presented for consideration: A Petition on Election Procedures 2006; a Petition on Multi-Year Dues; and a Petition on Rules for Nominating Members of Nominations and Elections for National Offices. Action is expected on these petitions at the 2007 spring national meeting in Chicago. Briefly, I will discuss each petition. The Petition on Rules for Election Procedures involves changing the absolute number of signatures required for a petition candidate to a number of signatures based on a percentage of the current membership. Also, preferential ballot elections are proposed for Directors-at-Large. The Petition for Multi-Year Dues states that members not requesting any of the discounts provided elsewhere in the Bylaws may elect a dues period of one, two, or three years. The dues rate for two- and three-year periods would be two and three times the full annual dues rate established for the first year period. The Petition on Rules for Nominating Members of Nominations and Elections for National Offices would not allow a member of N&E to seek the offices of President-Elect, District Director, or Director-at-Large until at least one year has passed after that person has left the N&E committee. If you have any opinions on these petitions, I would appreciate your input prior to the votes on these petitions.

In further business, the Council voted to support the request of the Committee on Community Activities that its status be changed from an "other committee" of the Board to a joint Board-Council Committee. The Special Discussion item focused on ensuring the ACS's future by engaging younger members throughout the Society's volunteer leadership. The Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs submitted its latest version of the Chemical Professional's Code of Conduct for Council review. Finally, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Planning, the Board of Directors voted to adopt a revised ACS mission statement: "To advance the broader chemistry enterprise and its practitioners for the benefit of Earth and its people."

If you have any comments, questions, etc, please do not hesitate to contact me, as I represent you to the Council. Also, I would be interested in knowing of any members that intend to attend the meeting in Chicago in March.

Respectfully submitted, Doris Zimmerman, Councilor, POBS – ACS.

## Directions to Thiel College

**From the North:** Follow Route 79-S to the 322 (Conneaut Lake) exit. Follow 322-W to the Route 18-S intersection. Follow 18-S to the Thiel Campus.

**From the South:** Follow Route 79-N to the 80-W (Sharon) exit. Follow Route 80-W to the Route 19-N (Mercer) exit. In Mercer take Route 58-W into Greenville. Turn right on Main Street (Route 358-E). Follow Main Street to College Avenue. Turn left on College at the Sheetz Convenience Store. Follow College Avenue (Route 18-N) to the Thiel Campus.

**From the West:** Follow Route 80-E to Exit 4-B (Sharon-Hermitage). Pick up Route 18-N, which takes you into Greenville (approximately 16 miles north). Turn right on Main Street (Route 358-E); follow Main Street to College Avenue. Turn left on College at the Convenience Store. Follow College Avenue (Route 18-N) to the Thiel Campus.

**From the East** Follow Route 80-W to the Route 19-N (Mercer) exit. In Mercer take Route 58-W into Greenville and then follow Route 18-N to the Thiel Campus or...

Take the PA Turnpike to the I-79N exit. Follow 79-N to the 80-W (Sharon) exit. Follow Route 19-N (Mercer) exit. In Mercer take 58-W into Greenville and take 18-N to the Thiel Campus.

**From Above:** Come in the main entrance (Amelia Earhart Drive), make a right onto Irvin Drive, and park in the lot behind the gymnasium. Follow the sidewalk up the hill between the gym and the library. At the top of the hill, the library will be on the right and the Academic Center (Building 22) is directly ahead and attached to the library. Enter the doors on the right and take the elevator to the lower level (L). Follow the signs to AC-36.