



# Double Bond

*The Newsletter of the Western New York Section of the American Chemical Society*

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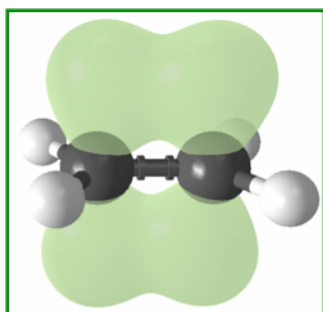
## WNY LOCAL SECTION EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR 2014

Election results for 2014 executive officers for the Western New York Section are as follows:

- The 2014 Section Chair is Sarbajit Banerjee, Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry, University at Buffalo, SUNY.
- Jeremy Steinbacher, Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Canisius College will be Chair-Elect.
- Andrew Murkin, Assistant Professor of Chemistry at the University at Buffalo is Vice-Chair.
- The Members-at-Large are Dominic Ventura, Assistant Professor at D'Youville College and William Sullivan, Research Chemist at Praxair.

The rest of the Executive Committee positions have not changed, and all are listed on the last page of this newsletter. Congratulations, and a big thank you to all who help keep the traditions and valuable assets of the WNY section going.

If any WNYACS members, new or seasoned, would be willing to help with events during 2014, please contact the Chair or the Newsletter Editor.



## 2014 SCHOELLKOPF AWARD NOMINATIONS

Please consider nominating an accomplished chemist/engineer colleague for the Schoellkopf Medal--the oldest continuously presented section award in the ACS.

Information on qualifications for the Schoellkopf award is available on the award website:

[wny.sites.acs.org/awards.htm](http://wny.sites.acs.org/awards.htm)

Questions may be directed to Schoellkopf Committee Chair, Dr. Timothy Gregg ([greggt@canisius.edu](mailto:greggt@canisius.edu), 716-888-2259). Nomination materials, including supporting letters should be submitted electronically as PDF attachments to email by **May 1, 2014** to the secretary:

Dr. Mary O'Sullivan  
[osulliv1@canisius.edu](mailto:osulliv1@canisius.edu)

## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The 7<sup>th</sup> annual **WNYACS Undergraduate Research Symposium** will be hosted by the University at Buffalo on April 19, 2014. Save the date, and join us in celebrating the hard work of students at area colleges and universities.

This year's Symposium will feature a keynote address by Krista S. Walton of the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology. Prof. Walton's address will be entitled "Synthesis and Application of Porous Inorganic-Organic Hybrids".

Registration and information on submitting abstracts for posters and oral presentations at the Symposium is available on the Symposium website:

[wny.sites.acs.org/undergradsymposium.htm](http://wny.sites.acs.org/undergradsymposium.htm)

## 65 YEARS AGO IN THE DOUBLE BOND

The following excerpts appeared in the  
March, 1949 Double Bond

### Engineering Literature and Leadership

The January, 1949, meeting of the Western New York Section of the American Chemical Society was held January 18, 1949 at the Prospect House, Niagara Falls. The speaker was Sidney D. Kirkpatrick, editor of *Chemical Engineering*. Dr. Kirkpatrick's subject was, "The Qualities of Engineering Literature and Leadership". The following is a condensation of Dr. Kirkpatrick's talk:

Never have technical men had a better chance to assume leadership than now. With these opportunities, the present lack of men with technical training who have had the broad experiences needed for leadership is unfortunate.

Management is usually attracted to the person who can express an idea with the proper words and clearness when the opportunity arises. There is a need for such men. When one cannot convey his idea to others, he is on his own, as others cannot understand his desires or directions.

Young men have risen to positions of responsibility by having or acquiring the ability to write clearly.

Philip W. Swain, editor of *Power*, gives the following rules for good writing in an article "Giving Power to Words", which appeared in the *American Journal of Physics* (13, 318-320, 1945):

1. Short words are better than long.
2. Short sentences are better than long.
3. Short paragraphs are better than long.
4. Short articles are better than long.
5. Direct statement is better than indirect.
6. The active mood is better than the passive.
7. Don't pussyfoot.
8. Be simple, human and concise--not complex, pompous and verbose.
9. Don't overwork "is", "was" and other parts of "to be".
10. To gain power, chop off Latin roots wherever Anglo-Saxon words can tell the same story. Thus, "They considered it improbable that circumstances would permit him to divulge the occurrence", would better be, "They didn't think he had a chance to tell the news."

Dr. Kirkpatrick warned against the use of weasel words, --those which have uncertain instead of definite meanings--and suggested that on test his writing by asking himself, "What do I mean?" He should then proceed to say what he means not only so it can be understood, but so that it cannot be

misunderstood. As a horrible example of writing, the speaker read a confused complicated sentence of 209 words which appeared in a booklet published by a corporation to explain its pension plan to its employees.

### From Washington

(...regarding the 1949 National ACS budget...)

Of each person's dues, after allocation to CA, JACS, C&EN, and local sections, about \$1.00 remains for general administration, News Service, employment activities, committee expense, etc. In 1949 these will cost about \$6.75.

It is no wonder why the budget is unbalanced. The ACS is simply caught in the same inflationary spiral as individuals; the cost of doing the same business in the same way is much greater than ever before.

Official (*membership*) counts were made on December 1. The 12 largest groups are as follows: New York, Chicago, North Jersey, Philadelphia, California, Northeastern, S. California, Pittsburg, Washington, Delaware, Detroit (993 members) and Western New York (992 members). The only change in relative position was between second and third. Western New York is 41 closer to 11<sup>th</sup> place than it was last year. Cleveland (970 members) is trying to push into this group.

### Lighter Fractions

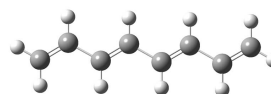
(...the few deemed tasteful enough to reprint...)

Elderly Patient: "As we have not known each other so long, doctor, I do not wish to insult you by just paying my bill. I will leave you a handsome legacy in my will."

Doctor: "That's very kind of you, I'm sure. By the way, just let me have that prescription again. There's a slight change I want to make in it."

Motorist 1 (barely avoiding a broadside crash): "Why on earth didn't you signal that you were turning in?"

Motorist 2 (who has just pulled into their driveway): "I always turn in here, stupid."



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