



# Double Bond

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

Volume 80

April 2008

## APRIL MEETING

### EDUCATION NIGHT BANQUET AND AWARDS DINNER

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2008

**Fairdale Banquet Center**  
672 Wehrle Drive  
Amherst, NY

**6:30 PM Cash bar**

**7:00 PM Buffet Dinner**

**7:30 PM Awards**

Chemistry Olympiad Awardees  
Outstanding College Seniors  
Distinguished High School Science Teacher

**8:30 PM Speaker**

JANE GILBRIDE

*NASA Messenger mission to the planet Mercury*

**All are welcome!**

Dinner: \$28/person Students: \$14

To make reservations, contact Alice Steltermann  
by April 21, 2008,

(716) 888-2340 or e-mail: [stelterm@canisius.edu](mailto:stelterm@canisius.edu).

## FROM THE EDITOR

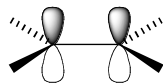
Greetings Western New York,

I'd like to point out two important upcoming events. First, this Saturday, April 19, 2008, the Department of Chemistry at the University at Buffalo, SUNY will host the First Annual Western New York Section ACS Undergraduate Research Symposium. This gathering of students and research mentors from a wide array of colleges will highlight the original research results of undergraduates in the region. This Local ACS Section-sponsored symposium will consist of posters, oral presentations and a KeyNote Address by Dr. Paul Weiss of the Department of Chemistry, Pennsylvania State University. See details on the website: [membership.acs.org/W/WNY](http://membership.acs.org/W/WNY).

In this edition of *The Double Bond* you will also find an invitation to all chemists and science educators to attend the 2008 Education Night Award Dinner on Wednesday, April 23. This celebration honors excellent students at the High School and College levels, and it highlights the educator who has been chosen as the Western New York Distinguished Science Teacher of the Year. Details on this year's awardees and information on reserving your place at the festivities can be found on pages 1 and 2.

Please join the evening's speaker, Jane Gilbride, speaking about the NASA Messenger mission to the planet Mercury, as well as local section members as we acknowledge the accomplishments of our region's science educators and students.

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## EDUCATION NIGHT 2008

### Distinguished High School Science Teacher

The 2008 Outstanding High School Science Teacher Award winner is Lisa Brosnick from North Collins Jr.-Sr. High School. Mrs. Brosnick is an acclaimed teacher of biology and AP biology, and is actively engaged in science curriculum development in the district. In addition, she collaborates in science education development activities through Erie County BOCES, the University of Rochester as well as the University at Buffalo.

Please join us on April 23, 2008 at the Fairdale Banquet Center as we honor Mrs. Brosnick, the Chemistry Olympiad students and the outstanding college students majoring in chemistry and related fields at this year's Education Night Awards dinner. Details are on p 1.

To reserve space call Alice Steltermann at 888-2340 between 8:30 AM and 3:00 PM by April 21st. The cost is \$28.00, or \$14.00 for students.

### Chemistry Olympiad Winners, with Schools

<i>Student</i>	<i>School</i>
Brian Chmielowiec	St. Joseph's Collegiate Inst
Elizabeth Peng	Williamsville South
Vijay Singh	Williamsville North
David Ban	Williamsville East
Spencer Brucks	Kenmore West
Joshua Geiger	Clarence High School
Maxwell Service	Williamsville North
Matthew Simson	Orchard Park
Katherine Kovinse	Letchworth Central
Jason Lowden	Letchworth Central

### Outstanding College Students of the Year

<i>Student</i>	<i>Major</i>	<i>College</i>
Ann M. Wojtaszczyk	Biochem.	Canisius College
Julie L. Miaczynski	Chem.	Canisius College
Matthew R. Tarasek	Chem./Phys.	Buffalo State College
Aaron Burberry	Biochem.	University at Buffalo
Susan Dial	Chem.	University at Buffalo
Thao Vo	Med. Chem.	University at Buffalo
Andrew S. Paluch	Chem. Eng.	University at Buffalo
Cara Lucas	Biochem.	Niagara University
John Cadwalader	Chem.	Niagara University
Kiante Hyman	Chem.	D'Youville College

### THIS MONTH IN CHEMICAL HISTORY

Harold Goldwhite, California State University,  
Los Angeles ([hgoldwh@calstatela.edu](mailto:hgoldwh@calstatela.edu))

I am always pleased when I receive a message regarding one of my columns; it reassures me to know that someone out there is reading this stuff! Recently I received not only such a message, but also a gift from

reader Willard E. McFarland who lives in North Hills, California. He sent me a copy of a small book "A Laboratory Guide of Industrial Chemistry" by Allen Rogers Ph.D., Instructor in Industrial Chemistry at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, N.Y. and a member of the ACS, the Society of Chemical Industry, and the American Leather Chemists Association. The book was published by the D. Van Nostrand Company in 1908. I will devote this column to Dr. Allen Rogers, and a forthcoming column to his instructive textbook. Luckily for me Dr. Rogers' career is summarized in the valuable book "American Chemists and Chemical Engineers" which was edited by Wyndham D. Miles Ph.D. and published by the ACS in 1976.

Rogers had both academic and practical industrial chemical training. Born in Maine on May 22, 1876 he attended the University of Maine for his B.S. degree in chemistry which he received in 1897. He was appointed instructor in chemistry at the University of Maine upon graduation and served for 3 years. He then moved to the University of Pennsylvania where he received his Ph.D. in 1902. For two years he was an instructor of organic chemistry there and then was hired as an industrial chemist by the Oakes Manufacturing Co. on Long Island, New York. Rogers clearly learnt a great deal in his two years in industrial chemical practice. When he was hired to teach industrial chemistry (one precursor of chemical engineering) at Pratt Institute he developed and equipped laboratories in which students would get hands-on experience of actual industrial chemical processes. In this he followed the lead of European technical institutes.

Rogers' students, many of whom already had work experience, were mature and were given an experimental program which included miniature versions of such industrial staples as saponification plants, tanneries, aniline dye manufactories, and paint blending plants. In addition to his lectures to these students Rogers also lectured on food chemistry to nutrition students, and dyes and pigments to art students. Rogers' courses also included in-depth instructive visits to chemical plants.

Rogers was an effective writer and published several books. An early text on "Elements of Qualitative Analysis" was followed by the Laboratory Guide referred to above; a second edition of the Guide appeared in 1917. His collaborative text "Industrial Chemistry" became a standard textbook with its first edition in 1912 and its sixth in 1942. Rogers' own area of emphasis was leather processing and he published "Practical Tanning" in 1922 and "Manufacture of Leather" in 1929. In World War I he served in the Chemical Warfare Service as a major. He was awarded the Grasselli Medal in 1920 for his work on using fish skins as material for leather.

Rogers died on November 4, 1938 only 62 years old from injuries received in a fall down the steps of the chemical engineering building at Pratt Institute: a sad irony, since chemical engineering was to supplant industrial chemistry as an academic subject.

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