



# of Western New York

# Double Bond

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

Volume 84

April 2012

## 2012 OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Please join us in recognizing  
**Ms. Michelle Hinchliffe**  
of Lewiston-Porter High School  
at our annual Education Awards Banquet

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Cash Bar 6:15 p.m.  
Buffet Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Awards 7:30 p.m.  
Outstanding High School Science Teacher  
Chemistry Olympiad High Scorers  
Outstanding College Seniors

The speaker this year will be

**Shawn Smith**  
of the Buffalo office of the  
National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration  
(NOAA), whose address is entitled:

*Chaos Theory and Weather Prediction*

**Fairdale Banquet Center**  
672 Wehrle Dr.  
Amherst, NY

Cost \$30, \$15 for students

\*\*\*\* RSVP by April 20, 2012 \*\*\*\*

Please send your reservation information to Alice  
Steltermann (716-888-2340, or [steltermann@canisius.edu](mailto:steltermann@canisius.edu)).

## 5TH ANNUAL UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The Canisius College Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry hosted the Western New York Section's 5<sup>th</sup> annual research symposium for undergraduate students on Saturday, April 14. The event was co-sponsored by the Canisius College Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and Student Chapter of the American Chemical Society.

This year's symposium attracted students and faculty mentors from 14 different colleges and universities, and featured 30 presentations on widely ranging research topics. This unprecedented level of participation from academic groups was accompanied by interest from local chemical companies, including Honeywell International, Life Technologies and Praxair. The event this year also benefitted from sponsorship by Pearson Education and the Canisius College of Arts and Sciences.

The event kicked off with a keynote address by Dr. Todd Krauss of the University of Rochester. Dr. Krauss presented a colorful discussion about the nanoscale world of particles and materials that is the focus of his research.

Ankita Dubey, of McMaster University, was recognized with the Outstanding Poster Presentation award for her poster describing "Synthesis and Characterization of Polyampholytes for Use in Cell-Encapsulation". Honorable mention was also made of the posters by Steven M. Henderson of the University at Buffalo, and Elisabeth A. Geyer of Canisius College.

Leslie A. Nash, of Brock University, won the Outstanding Oral Presentation award for her work on "The Directed Evolution of Trypsin for Mediated Sol-Gel Processing of TEOS"

The organizers would like to express our thanks to the participants and all who helped make the event a success.

### 2012 OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER OF THE YEAR (OSTY)

Michelle Hinchliffe has taught Regents and AP Chemistry at Lewiston-Porter High School for the past 18 years. She received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and her Masters in Education from Niagara University in 1994. Michelle has been a member of the Science Teachers of New York State (STANYS) for many years, served as subject area representative (SAR) for one year, and has also been elected as a director at large (DAL). She has also served on the executive committee for Lewiston Porter United Teachers. Her teacher certification is in biology, chemistry and social studies. In her spare time she has served as the ski club advisor.

Mr. Paul Casseri, the Lew-Port HS principal, has provided the following comments in his nomination for Ms. Hinchliffe. "During her career at Lewiston-Porter High School, Michelle has exhibited a strong work ethic and innovative instructional practice that has allowed her to stand apart as a role model for educators in her department and across the school. Her approach to teaching is student centered and results oriented. Her work in the field of science education has been exemplary. She has done an outstanding job with Regents level Chemistry as well as Advanced Placement Chemistry. These courses are uniquely rigorous and intricate. I have always been most impressed with the thorough manner in which students are exposed to the significant content and then prepared for demanding end of year Regents and AP testing. Her lesson planning is cutting edge. Her use of the POGIL (Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning) a student centered, Socratic based approach to developing student understanding for content, particularly in the laboratory setting, has been extremely powerful in terms of the development of student learning. Michelle's test results have been outstanding and clearly are reflective of this innovative approach. Beyond her work with day-to-day classroom responsibilities, Ms. Hinchliffe has been highly involved in the total school program at Lewiston-Porter. She has spearheaded Lewiston-Porter's involvement in the International Water Forum most recently held in Kyoto, Japan (2010). This work has clearly put Lewiston-Porter on the map in relation to super science educational programs around the globe. I am extremely proud of her work with the students involved in this exciting, adventuresome and rigorous educational opportunity."

Mrs. Colleen Glor, another teacher in the Lew-Port Science department had this to say. "Having worked with Michelle over the past 8 years, I can honestly say that she is a tremendously dedicated and innovative teacher. I have seen her in the classroom with her students as well as worked closely with her on various educational projects outside of the classroom. Ms. Hinchliffe is always looking

for that "next exciting" lesson to engage her students. I know through working closely with her that she finds tremendous satisfaction in, what she likes to call, the "A-Hah!" moment. This is the look that overtakes a student when you can truly see that they really understand what you are doing."

### WNY CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD WINNERS

Below are listed the students with the highest scores on this year's Western New York Chemistry Olympiad Test, along with the name of each student's chemistry teacher at their school.

<i>Student</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Teacher</i>
Amber Kudla	North Tonawanda	Mr. Art Harack
Patrick McCormack	Orchard Park	Dr. Robert Rominger
Alyssa Cartwright	Williamsville East	Ms. Stacy Feil
Jessica Marshall	Williamsville East	Ms. Stacy Feil
Niamh Durfee	City Honors	Ms. Valerie Davis
John Grasso	Kenmore West	Mrs. Marilyn Drnevich
Jacob Mojeski	Canisius	Mr. Dennis Linda
Angela Wager	Akron	Mr. Robert Meek

These eight students have been invited to take the National Chemistry Olympiad exam later this month. The top 20 students from the national competition will then take part in a two-week intensive study camp in June at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO. At the camp's conclusion, four students will be named as the U.S. team to the International Chemistry Olympiad, where they will compete with the world's most talented high school students from more than 70 other nations for gold, silver and bronze medals. The 2012 competition will be held July 21-30, 2012 in Washington, DC.

### 2012 UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

Every year, the WNY section recognizes outstanding graduating college seniors. The students listed below, nominated by their institutions, are awarded the 2012 Student General Excellence Award for outstanding academic achievement and significant research accomplishments in their indicated undergraduate majors.

<i>Student</i>	<i>Institution</i>	<i>Major</i>
Chelsea N. Aldridge	Buffalo State College	Chem & Chem Ed
Andrew C. Forrestel	Canisius College	Chem/Health Prof
Jessica L. Stachowski	Canisius College	Chemistry
Anne Palermo	Niagara University	Biochemistry
Christopher Wirth	Niagara University	Chemistry
Jonathan Cole	SUNY Buffalo	Chem & Bio Eng.
Karen DeWispelaere	SUNY Buffalo	Biochemistry
Karen DeWispelaere	SUNY Buffalo	Chemistry
Jasmine L. May	SUNY Buffalo	Medicinal Chem

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