



Double Bond

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

Volume 89

April 2017

2017 OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Please join us in recognizing

Dr. Sarah C. English

of Sweet Home High School
at our annual Education Awards Banquet

Thursday, April 20, 2017

Cash Bar 6:15 p.m.

Buffet Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Awards 7:45 p.m.

Outstanding High School Science Teacher
Chemistry Olympiad High Scorers
Outstanding College Seniors

The speakers this year will be

Dr. Phillip Sheridan

and

Dr. Steven Szczepankiewicz

Department of Chemistry, Canisius College

The Canisius College Summer Science Camp

Fairdale Banquet Center

672 Wehrle Dr.

Amherst, NY

Cost \$30, \$15 for students

HURRY!

**** RSVP by Tuesday, April 18, 2017 ****

Please send your reservation information to Alice
Steltermann (716-888-2340, or stelterm@canisius.edu).

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY HOSTS SYMPOSIUM

Niagara University was host to the 10th annual WNYACS Undergraduate Research Symposium on Saturday, April 8, 2017.

The Symposium featured a Keynote Address by Dr. Christine M. Mahoney, Senior Research Scientist at Corning, Inc. She addressed the chemistry of glass, surface chemistry, and the latest innovative Mass Spectral techniques for analyzing the composition and structure of surfaces.

Other talks and posters on chemistry research were enjoyed by students and faculty from a wide range of institutions in New York and Ontario. The event attracted corporate sponsorship from Pearson Higher Education, Shimadzu and Krackeler Scientific.

The students listed below were recognized for their outstanding presentations:

For Oral Presentations:

Scott Laengert of McMaster University

Thomas Bui of University at Buffalo

For Poster Presentations:

Ben Swanson of Canisius College

Maoj Awad of University at Buffalo

Alejandro Falca of University at Buffalo

Kelli Burkholder of Niagara University



WNY CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD HIGH SCORERS

Listed below are 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>
Nicole Haseley	Orchard Park	Dr. Robert Rominger
Michael Wahl	Williamsville North	Ms. Colleen Sowinski
Emily Ahuna	Amherst Central	Mr. Dennis Bauer
Cameron Watt	Grand Island	Mr. Robert Collard
Connie An	Williamsville East	Ms. Stacy Bernard
Philip Davis	Kenmore West	Mr. Edward Clinch
Justin Jablonski	Orchard Park	Dr. Robert Rominger
Amelia Schaeffer	Amherst	Mr. David Mansell
Wayne Wells	City Honors	Ms. Valerie Davis

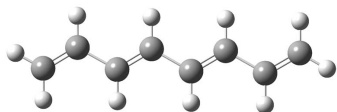
These nine students have been invited to take the National Chemistry Olympiad exam later this month. The top 20 students from the national competition will take part in a two-week study camp in June at the U.S. Air Force Academy. They will be competing for a spot on the USNCO Team that will go to Thailand in July, 2017 for the International Competition.

2017 UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

Every year, the WNY section recognizes outstanding graduating college seniors. The students listed below, nominated by their institutions, are awarded the 2017 Student General Excellence Award for outstanding academic achievement and significant research accomplishments in their undergraduate majors.

<i>Student</i>	<i>Institution</i>	<i>Major</i>
Michael Swierczynski	Buffalo State College	Chemistry
Victoria Granger	Canisius College	Biochemistry
Wm. Benton Swanson	Canisius College	Chemistry
Michael Pagels	D'Youville College	Chemistry
Zachary Mariani	Niagara University	Biochemistry
Christopher Fritschi	Niagara University	Chemistry
Gregory George	University at Buffalo	Biochemistry
Ryan Fair	University at Buffalo	Chem. Eng.
Megan Corcoran	University at Buffalo	Chemistry
Alejandro Falco	University at Buffalo	Med. Chem.

These students, along with Olympiad high scorers, will be recognized, along with the Outstanding High School Teacher of the Year at the 2017 Education Awards Banquet Thursday, April 20. Details on the banquet may be found on page 1.

**75 YEARS AGO IN THE DOUBLE BOND**

The following book review appeared in the February, 1942 edition of the Double Bond

THE DECIBEL NOTATION. By V. V. L. Rao

The reaction of the uninitiated to the term "decibel" calls to mind a hazy picture of clanging streetcars, automobile horns and other noises of the street, and that the sounds at that corner are rated as so many decibels. The fact is that the decibel unit, or more correctly the decibel notation is a logarithmic expression of power gain or loss referred to a standard level. It finds expression in radio circuit design and speakers, telephony, electric systems and even the much maligned jukebox.

This ignorance of the decibel notation is a result of the incomplete information concerning it even in many advanced reference texts. Mr. Rao's study, properly classed as a monograph, is of interest for several unrelated reasons, first and most important: because it is a masterly survey of a scantily treated subject; second, because the research chemist upon occasion, may be called upon to show some knowledge of this expression of measure; and third, because the volume was first published in Madras, India. The American edition corresponds entirely to the original edition even to the usage of British terminology such as "aerial" for antenna and "valve" for tube.

The book is primarily an application of the decibel notation to radio engineering and acoustics which normally is far afield for the chemist. However, no extreme mathematical or electrical knowledge is necessary for understanding beyond that with which the average research chemist should have some acquaintance. For convenience the book is divided into four parts. Part I deals with every aspect of origin and development of the decibel notation. Part II is the derivation of the Phon notation; a less known but allied unit of acoustical engineering. Part III has a wide range of applications of the decibel notation and Part IV contains four valuable appendices, relating to (1) the importance of long-linear graphs, (2) limitations of a logarithmic unit, (3) the standard cable and (4) logarithmic tables.

The one distinct factor in favor of this book is that it is a pioneering effort to fill a void and is probably one of the first to provide anywhere near adequate and complete information on the decibel notation and its usage.

-M. O. Walker

WNYACS Section Chair 2017

Jason Benedict
University at Buffalo, SUNY
(716) 645-4276
jbb6@buffalo.edu

Chair Elect 2017

Luis Sanchez
Niagara University
(716) 286-8252
lsanchez@mail.niagara.edu

Vice-Chair 2017

Timothy Cook
University at Buffalo, SUNY
(716) 645-4327
trcook@buffalo.edu

Secretary 2017-2018

Christopher Patridge
D'Youville College
(716) 829-8096
patridge@dyc.edu

Treasurer 2016-2017

Andrew Poss
Honeywell
(716) 827-6268
andrew.poss@honeywell.com

Councilor 2017-2019

Peter Schaber
Canisius College
(716) 888-2351
schaber@canisius.edu

Councilor 2016-2018

David Nalewajek
Honeywell
(716) 827-6303
david.nalewajek@honeywell.com

Member-at-Large 2016-2017

Dominic Ventura
D'Youville College
(716) 829-7545
venturad@dyc.edu

Newsletter Editor

Timothy Gregg
Canisius College
(716) 888-2259
greggt@canisius.edu

Newsletter Assistant Editor

Alice Steltermann
Canisius College
(716) 888-2340
stelterm@canisius.edu

Schoellkopf Award Chair 2017

Jeremy Steinbacher
Canisius College
(716) 888-2343
steinbaj@canisius.edu

Education Committee Co-Chair

Sarah Evans
Canisius College
(716) 888-2342
evans51@canisius.edu

Education Committee Co-Chair

Valerie Frerichs
University at Buffalo, SUNY
(716) 645-4135
zuccari@buffalo.edu

Chemistry Olympiad

Mariusz Kozik
Canisius College
(716) 888-2337
kozik@canisius.edu

National Chemistry Week

David Nalewajek
Honeywell
(716) 827-6303
david.nalewajek@honeywell.com

Senior Chemists

Joseph Bieron
Canisius College
(716) 888-2357
bieron@canisius.edu

Member-at-Large 2017-2018

Sarah Evans
Canisius College
(716) 888-2342
evans51@canisius.edu

Member-at-Large 2016-2017

Lindsay Rose
Niagara County Community College
(716) 614-6866
lrose@niagaracc.suny.edu

Younger Chemists Committee

Jeremy Steinbacher
Canisius College
(716) 888-2343
steinbaj@canisius.edu

The Western New York Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) and its editors assume no responsibility for the statements and opinions advanced by the contributors. Views expressed in the editorials are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Western New York Section of the American Chemical Society. All materials to appear in the next issue of *Double Bond* must be received by the editor, in care of the Dept. of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Canisius College, 2001 Main Street, Buffalo, New York 14208, by the FIRST day of the month. Notice for change of address or email should be made through **ACS Member and Subscriber Services** at (800) 333-9511, <mailto:service@acs.org> or the website: portal.acs.org/portal/PublicWebSite/contact/WPCP_007970.

The *NF=B Double Bond* (aka *Double Bond*) is published from September through June by the WNY Section of the ACS. Contact information is at our website: http://wny_sites.acs.org. Member subscriptions are included in the annual National ACS dues. Permission to reprint is granted for this publication.