

# The Chemical Bulletin

<http://chicagoacs.org>

NOVEMBER • 2013

## CHICAGO SECTION AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

### Joint Meeting with the Chemistry Department of Benedictine University

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2013**

**Krasa Center**  
**Benedictine University**  
5700 College Road  
Lisle, IL 60532  
630/829-6000

#### DIRECTIONS TO THE MEETING

##### From Chicago and near-Chicago suburbs

Take I-294 or I-290 to I-88 west. Go west on I-88 to I-355 south. Take the Maple Avenue exit west (right turn) for about two miles. The campus is on the left side. Look for signs. Turn left (south) on College Road and proceed about one block. Turn right into the campus, and then follow the campus road to the left, continuing past the water tower and into the parking lot next to the athletic field and the Krasa Center/Student Union. The meeting is on the east end of the building, 2nd floor.

##### From the north or south suburbs

Take the I-355 North-South tollway to the Maple Avenue exit west. The University is about two miles west of the Tollway. The campus is on the left side. Look for signs. Turn left (south) on College Road and proceed about one block. Turn right into the campus, and then follow the campus road to the left, continuing past the water tower and into the parking lot next to the athletic field and the Krasa Center/Student Union. The meeting is on the east end of the building, 2nd floor.

*(directions continued on page 2)*

**PARKING: Free**

**JOB CLUB**

**5:00 P.M.**

**PRE-DINNER TALK**

**6:00 P.M.**

**“Photocatalytic Decomposition of Carboxylated Molecules on Light-Exposed Martian Regolith” by Dr. Timothy Marin, Benedictine University, Lisle, IL.**

*(continued on page 2)*

**SOCIAL** **6:00 P.M.**

**BUFFET DINNER** **7:00 P.M.**

**AFTER-DINNER TALK** **8:00 P.M.**



**Dr. Paul Stoddard**, Associate Professor, Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences, Northern Illinois University

#### **“The Geology of the Planet Mars”**

**Abstract:** Mars has long held the attention of astronomers, exobiologists, science fiction writers, and the public at large. From early, albeit incorrect, reports of extensive canal systems, to thirsty

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invaders, to Martian meteorites, to Spirit, Opportunity, and Curiosity, Mars seems never far from our consciousness. We will take an overview of the exploration of Mars, focusing on the search for signs of Martian water, environments capable of sustaining life, and life itself. Specific mention will be made of the Mariner missions, Vikings I and II, and of course, the current fleet of rovers. We will talk of the geologic history of Mars, and compare it to that of Earth. We will summarize the talk by examining the implications of the above topics for our chances of finding life on Mars.

**Biography:** Paul Stoddard received an A.B. in Geology/Physics-Math from Brown University in 1978; M.Sc. in 1982 from Texas A & M University, and a Ph.D. in Geological Sciences from Northwestern University in 1989. He worked as a geophysicist at Conoco, Inc. from 1982 to 1985. He was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geology, Northern Illinois University, 1989-1995. He became an Associate Professor of the Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences at Northern in 1995, where he is currently. Matt Young, Lead Scientist, Half Acre Beer Company, Chicago, IL

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## PRE-DINNER TALK

**Abstract:** We propose that the paucity of organic compounds in Martian soil can be accounted for by efficient photocatalytic decomposition of carboxylated molecules due to the occurrence of the photo-Kolbe reaction at the surface of particulate iron(III) oxides that are abundant in the Martian regolith. This photoreaction is initiated by the absorption of UVA light, and it readily occurs even at low temperature. The decarboxylation is observed for miscellaneous organic carboxylates, including the nonvolatile products of kerogen oxidation (that are currently thought to accumulate in the soil) as well as  $\alpha$ -amino acids and peptides. Our study indicates that there may be no "safe haven" for these organic compounds on Mars; oxidation by reactive radicals, such as hydroxyl, is concerted with photocatalytic reactions on the oxide particles. Acting together, these two mechanisms result in mineralization of the organic component. The photooxidation of acetate (the terminal product of radical oxidation of the aliphatic component of kerogen) on the iron(III) oxides results in the formation of methane; this reaction may account for seasonably variable production of methane on Mars. The concomitant reduction of Fe(III) in the regolith leads to the formation of highly soluble ferrous ions that contribute to weathering of the soil particles.

**Biography:** Timothy Marin is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Departments of Chemistry and Physics at Benedictine University. He received a B.S. in chemistry from Benedictine University, and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Northwestern University in chemical and molecular physics. Dr. Marin's teaching responsibilities have included the physical chemistry curriculum as well as the general chemistry course sequence.

He holds an appointment at nearby Argonne National Laboratory in the Chemical Sciences and Engineering division, where he engages in government research primarily involving radiation-induced processes in advanced nuclear fuel cycling. He also holds an active collaboration with the Notre Dame Radiation Laboratory and the Synchrotron Radiation Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, working to ascertain the fundamental properties of water under extreme temperature and pressure conditions.

(Directions continued)

### From the south

Take I-55 to the I-355 north. Take I-355 north to the Maple Avenue exit west to the University. The campus is on the left side. Look for signs. Turn left (south) on College Road and proceed about one block. Turn right into the campus, and then follow the campus road to the left, continuing past the water tower and into the parking lot next to the athletic field and the Krasa Center/Student Union.

The meeting is on the east end of the building, 2nd floor.

### By train

Metra, the Chicago area commuter rail system, runs between Lisle and downtown Chicago. For train schedules, call (630) 968-3916 or visit [www.metrarail.com](http://www.metrarail.com). Cab service is available for the two-mile trip from the station to campus.

The meeting is on the east end, 2nd floor of the Krasa Center/Student Union.

**The Chicago Section's  
e-mail address  
is  
[chicagoacs@ameritech.net](mailto:chicagoacs@ameritech.net)**

## DINNER MENU

- Antipasto Platter
- Caesar Salad with Homemade Croutons
- Assorted Rolls with Butter
- Sautéed Fresh Zucchini
- Pasta Bar with Penne Pasta
- Marinara Sauce and Pesto Cream Sauce
- Home-style Meatballs in Marinara Sauce and Traditional Chicken Cacciatore
- Parmesan Cheese
- Mini Cannolis
- Freshly Brewed Iced Tea, Lemonade and Ice Water

The cost is \$15.00 per person. No discounted dinners for students, retirees or unemployed.

Dinner reservations are required and should be received in the Section Office via phone (847-391-9091), email ([chicagoacs@ameritech.net](mailto:chicagoacs@ameritech.net)) or website (<http://chicagoacs.net/meetings/13nov.php>) by noon on Wednesday, November 20. PLEASE HONOR YOUR RESERVATIONS. The Section must pay for all dinner orders. No-shows will be billed.

## "CHEM SHORTS" For Kids

The Elementary Education Committee of the Chicago Section ACS presents this column and hopes it will reach young children and help increase their interest in science. Please print it out and pass it on to your children, grandchildren, or elementary school teachers. Teachers are encouraged to incorporate the projects in this column into their lesson plans.

### Make Dry Ice Bubbles

Kids, you can use sublimating dry ice to produce carbon dioxide gas to fill bubbles. Here we will give you three variations for this experience, beginning from simple and gradually getting a little more complex.

**Small Bubbles.** A small piece of dry ice can be used to produce cloudy bubbles that will last a long time. Pour a little bubble solution into a bowl. If you don't have bubble solution, swish a small amount of liquid dishwashing detergent into water. Ask an adult partner to use tongs or gloves to pick up a piece of dry ice and add it to the bubble solution. That's it!

**Giant Bubble.** All you need to make this giant bubble is dry ice, bubble solution, a paper towel or cloth rag, and a little water. The dry ice sublimates to form carbon dioxide gas, which expands the bubble. Pour some water into a bowl. Have an adult partner add a piece of dry ice. The dry ice will make bubbles in the liquid. Use a piece of paper towel or a rag that has been wetted with bubble solution to smear bubble solution across the whole top surface of the container. What happens?

**Glowing Bubbles.** You can make the bubbles glow by adding a little highlighter ink to the bubble solution. For the giant bubble version, you can try tonic water instead of tap water, and use a black light.

### **How It Works --**

Dry ice sublimates in air, meaning the solid carbon dioxide changes into carbon dioxide gas. This process occurs much more quickly in a bubble solution than in air. As the dry ice sublimates, the carbon dioxide vapor is caught inside the bubble solution. The bubble expands, but the cooled bubble solution does not evaporate quickly so the bubble lasts for a relatively long time.

Sometimes conditions are right for the bubble to stabilize at a given size. This happens because carbon dioxide is able to diffuse across the bubble surface. Sublimating carbon dioxide expands the bubble, but when the bubble expands its walls become thinner and leak more. Since more carbon dioxide can escape, the pressure is reduced and the bubble has a tendency to shrink back again. As long as the solution doesn't evaporate too quickly, the bubble may remain relatively stable until the dry ice is nearly gone. At that point the bubble will become smaller.

### **Reference:**

Anne Marie Helmenstine in About.com Chemistry:

<http://chemistry.about.com/od/dryiceprojects/a/dryicebubbles.htm>

<http://chemistry.about.com/od/dryiceprojects/a/dryicebubble.htm>

Submitted by DR. KATHLEEN CARRADO GREGAR

To view all past "ChemShorts for Kids" go to:

<http://www.chicagoacs.net/ChmShort/kidindex.html>

## CHICAGO SECTION'S ELECTION RESULTS

The Tellers Committee met on Friday, October 11, 2013 at the Chicago Section ACS office to count the ballots for the 2013 election. There were 536 ballots counted. The following will assume their positions January 2014:

**Chair-Elect: Inessa Miller**

**Vice-Chair: Ken Fivizzani**

**Secretary: Margaret Schott**

**Treasurer: Mark Kaiser**

**Directors: Katie Leach  
Anthony Toussaint  
Joy Walker  
Russ Johnson  
Paul Brandt  
Mary Jo Boldingh  
Margaret Levenberg  
Milt Levenberg**

**Councilors: Cherlyn Bradley  
Fran Kravitz  
Barb Moriarty**

### **Alternate**

**Councilors: Irene Cesa  
Mark Kaiser  
Michael Koehler  
Josh Kurutz**

Thanks to all the candidates for participating and congratulations to the winners!

## SAFETY CULTURES IN ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

The Safety Culture Task Force of the ACS Committee on Chemical Safety (CCS) has published a 57-page report entitled Creating Safety Cultures in Academic Institutions. This report includes discussion of common issues with respect to the safety culture in colleges and universities. Several recommendations are made. Appendices list suggested duties of institutional personnel and chemistry-based technicians. The references (called Endnotes in the report) are a timely listing of resources for those working in academic safety areas. An electronic version of the report can be downloaded from the CCS website, [www.acs.org/safety](http://www.acs.org/safety). A printed copy can be obtained from the ACS National Office, 1155 Sixteenth St. NW, Washington DC 20036.

### SECTION DUES

Members are urged to pay the \$15 Section dues when you get your annual ACS membership dues statement. The Section needs this revenue to help support its many activities.

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## SCIENCE NEWS AT THE ACS PRESSROOM BLOG

Check out the new weekly ACS Pressroom Blog, your source for science news based on reports from the Society's 40+ peer-reviewed journals. It features four categories of stories. The Medical Bond covers topics in health and medicine. The Food Court highlights food and nutrition. Flowers & Power describes innovations in environmental science and energy. Finally, Pressroom Perspectives describes ACS' Science Communications activities. The blog is on the ACS Network at [https://communities.acs.org/community/science/science\\_news](https://communities.acs.org/community/science/science_news).

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## DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

Get those fingers ready to make reservations for the annual Chicago Section's ACS holiday party on Friday, December 13 at the Fountain Blue Banquets. Gifts for the raffle will be numbered randomly and placed on side tables in the dining room. Each attendee will draw a number when they register that evening for the meeting.

Gifts will be handed out throughout the evening by calling up groups of individuals having a series of numbers. Meeting attendees are asked to claim their gift only during the time their numbers have been announced. Those individuals who do not claim their gift will have another opportunity to claim them at the end of the evening. Individuals must present their number in order to pick up their gift.

Door prizes of wine will only be handed out to those 21 or older. A substitute prize will be handed out to students under the age of 21. As always, please do not open your wine at the table.

RICHARD CORNELL  
HOSPITALITY CHAIR

## NOTICE TO ILLINOIS TEACHERS

The Chicago Section ACS is an ISBE provider for professional development units for Illinois teachers. Teachers who register for this month's meeting will have the opportunity to earn CPDU's.

## FOOD AND TOY DRIVE

We will be collecting nonperishable food items (not in glass containers) for charity at the December Holiday Party again. The food is donated to the local Loaves and Fishes Community Pantry for distribution. Loaves and Fishes Community Pantry is a community-based, non-profit organization established to provide food and personal care essentials to residents in need.

We will also continue our toy drive to collect children's toys for toddlers to 12 year olds. The toys will be donated to a local Silent Santa program.

**Please open your heart to both of these programs and bring a nonperishable food item and a new toy to the holiday party.**

**Please, do NOT donate any clothing -- Thanks**

## REPORT OF COUNCIL MEETING IN INDIANAPOLIS

The 246th National Meeting of the ACS was held in Indianapolis, IN, from September 8 – 12, 2013. The theme of this meeting was "Chemistry in Motion." The Chicago section was represented by Cherylnlavanaugh Bradley, Charles Cannon, Ken Fivizzani, Herb Golinkin, Tom Higgins, Russell Johnson, Milt Levenberg, Inessa Miller, Barbara Moriarty and Susan Shih.

**Finances:** The Committee on Budget and Finance reported that the Society ended 2012 with \$470.5 million in total expenses and \$490.7 million in total revenue. The Society ended the year in compliance with four out of the five financial guidelines established by the Board. Programs funding requests were approved and/or reapproved for the ACS International Center, the ACS Entrepreneurial Initiative and the National Association for Chemistry Teachers (NACT). The Board of Directors voted on the recommendation of the Society Committee on Budget and Finance, to approve an advance member registration fee of \$380 for national meetings held in 2014 and to set the dues for 2014 to \$154.

**Governance:** The Council elected councilors to serve on the Committee on Committees, the Council Policy Committee and the Committee on Nominations. For the Committee on Committees – Janet L. Bryant, Dee Ann Casteel, Amber S. Hinkle, Wayne E. Jones, Jr. and V. Michael Mautino were elected. For the Council Policy Committee – Harmon B. Abrahamson, Judith H. Cohen, Alan M. Ehrlich and Angela K. Wilson were elected. For the Committee on Nominations and Elections – Lisa M. Balbes, Jeannette E. Brown, Martha L. Casey, D. Richard Cobb and Lissa Dulany were elected.

The Council also recognized the service of councilors, including Herbert Golinkin, who has represented the Chicago local section for 20 years. In addition, David Crumrine was recognized as he has served the statutory limit on the Chemical Safety Committee.

The candidates for the fall 2013 ACS national election for President-Elect 2014 are Dr. G. Bryan Balazs, Dr. Charles E. Kolb, Jr. and Dr. Diane Grob Schmidt. Candidates for Directors-at-Large, who are elected by Council, are Dr. Susan B. Butts, Dr. Thom H. Dunning, Dr. Dorothy J. Phillips and Dr. Kathleen M. Schulz

**Meetings and Expositions:** The attendance at the Indianapolis meeting was reported (as of the morning of 9/11/2013) to be 10,840 attendees, including 6,630 regular attendees and 2,580 student attendees.

**Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA):** The Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA) reported that the unemployment rate for chemists has gone down. The career fair at the meeting had 561 job seekers and 29 employers. The virtual career fair had additional job seekers and employers. CEPA provided their updated Professional Employment Guidelines (PEG) for consideration. The draft is found at [careers@acs.org](mailto:careers@acs.org). Comments and/or suggestions should be received by November 1, 2013.

**Local Sections:** The winners of the Awards for Outstanding local sections were announced. The Local Sections honored were the New York, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Midland, Mid-Hudson and Kentucky Lake local sections. Additional Awards were also presented to deserving local sections.

The Council approved a broad change in the ACS Electoral Districts to roughly equalize the six electoral districts. The Council voted to change the name of the Syracuse local section to the Central New York local section. The Council voted to allow the dissolution of the Monmouth County Local Section.

**Divisions:** The Council voted, in a close decision, against changing the name of the Division of Colloid and Surface Science to the Division of Colloids, Surfaces and Nanomaterials.

**Special Discussion Item: What can we – as the Society and as individual citizens – do to help create jobs or demand for chemists?** ACS President Marinda Wu presented recommendations from the presidential task force "Vision 2025: Helping ACS Members to Thrive in the Global Chemistry Enterprise" Following the presentation, numerous Councilors engaged in a discussion of this focused topic on possibilities to encourage jobs creation and offered several suggestions.

Board of Directors Open Meeting: At the open meeting on Sunday, Alan Alda (actor, writer, director and science advocate) presented a very well attended presentation entitled "Helping the Public Get Beyond a Blind Date with Science."

If you have any questions and/or comments about the above actions, please contact me or one of your other councilors. You may contact me by email ([barbaramoriarty0@gmail.com](mailto:barbaramoriarty0@gmail.com)).

BARBARA MORIARTY

### Section Meeting Dates 2014

Thursday, January 16  
 Thursday, February 20  
 Friday, March 28  
 Thursday, April 24  
 Friday, May 16  
 Thursday, June 19  
 Friday, September 19  
 Friday, October 24  
 Thursday, November 20  
 Friday, December 12

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# CALENDAR

**Nov. 3:** Ask-a-Scientist Guided Tour of Fermilab: "The Higgs Boson and the Fate of the Universe," by Joe Lykken. 1-4 pm at Fermilab, Wilson Hall, Kirk Road and Pine St., Batavia. Free admission. Register by Nov. 1. Go to [http://eddata.fnal.gov/lasso/program\\_search/calendar\\_new.lasso](http://eddata.fnal.gov/lasso/program_search/calendar_new.lasso)

**November 14:** Chicago Section ACS Board Meeting, 1400 Renaissance Drive, Suite 312, Park Ridge, IL 60068. Call the Section office at 847-391-9091 for information.

**November 22:** Chicago Section ACS Dinner Meeting. Dr. Paul Stoddard of Northern Illinois University is the speaker who will tell us about the geology of the planet Mars both current and past. **See details in this issue.**

**December 5:** Chicago Section ACS Board Meeting, 1400 Renaissance Drive, Suite 312, Park Ridge, IL 60068. Call the Section office at 847-391-9091 for information.

**December 13:** Chicago Section ACS Holiday Party and Dinner Meeting at the Fountain Blue Banquets. The Speaker will be Alan LaPointe, Shedd Aquarium.

**January 16, 2014:** Joint dinner meeting of the Chicago Section ACS and the AIChE.

**February 13-17:** AAAS National Meeting in Chicago. There will be a free Family Day event on February 15 and 16th at the Hyatt Regency which is open to the public.

**March 2-6:** PittCon 2014 will be in Chicago and co-programming with the ACS Division of Analytical Chemistry. For further information, go to [www.pittcon.org](http://www.pittcon.org).

November, 2013 Vol. 100, No. 9. Published by the Chicago Section of The American Chemical Society, Editorial Staff: Cheryl Bradley, Editor; Richard Treptow, Proofreader. Address: 1400 Renaissance Dr., Suite 312, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068; 847/391-9091. Subscription rates: \$15 per year. Frequency: monthly-September through June.

## JOB CLUB

The next meeting of the **Chicago Section ACS Job Club** will be held on **Friday, November 22 at 5:00 p.m. at Benedictine University**. The meeting will include a review and discussion of some of the tools that a chemist can use to conduct a job search.

The Job Club provides a continuing opportunity for unemployed members of the Section to meet with one another, share their experiences and develop a network that may help in identifying employment opportunities. Bring plenty of resumes and business cards to distribute to your colleagues. Be prepared to talk about the kind of job you are seeking.

Several participants have received outsource help with resume preparation and marketing strategies to present their best attributes to prospective employers. The group has critiqued some individual resumes and made suggestions for improvements in a positive way!

The Job Club is also for employers seeking chemists. Employers need to be prepared to describe the positions to be filled and requirements for these positions.

**Should you wish to attend the Section's dinner meeting following the Job Club, the cost is \$15 and you can continue your networking activities.** Please call the Section office for reservations and indicate that you are eligible for a discount.

Also, the Chicago Section's website has a link to the Job Club's yahoo job forum group. If you can't attend the Job Club, you can still find out about job openings and other information.

## CONTACT THE CHAIR

Do you have any questions, suggestions, ideas, gripes, or complaints relating to the Chicago Section? Do you want to help with Section programs and activities? Then contact your Chair. Simply log onto the Section's Web Page at <http://www.chicagoacs.net/>, click on the "Contact Us", click on "Contact the Chair", and send me an e-mail. If I can answer your query, I will respond personally. If I can't answer directly, I will forward your e-mail to someone who can, or try to provide you a contact – all in a timely manner. The Section belongs to you and the other 4,383 ACS members residing in the Chicagoland area (including northeast Illinois and northwest Indiana). Only you can make it work for you by being involved. But you can also make it fail by not being involved. I look forward to hearing from you.

Mike

Michael G. Koehler, Ph.D.  
CHICAGO SECTION CHAIR

## HELP WANTED

### FORMULATION CHEMIST

**HNC Products Inc., an international R&D and Custom dermatology products manufacturing company centrally located on a 15 Acres campus, outside of Clinton, IL, is looking for an experienced Formulation Chemist to join their R & D group.**

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