



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

Volume 91

April 2019

2019 OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Please join us in recognizing

Kathleen Collins

St. Francis High School and Mt. Mercy Academy
at our annual Education Awards Banquet

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

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

Dr. Mary McCourt

Department of Chemistry, Biochemistry and Physics
Niagara University

Fairdale Banquet Center

672 Wehrle Dr.

Amherst, NY

Cost \$30, \$15 for students

RSVP

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

U.S. CHEMICAL SAFETY BOARD EXECUTIVE TO SPEAK

Dr. Kristen Kulinowski will be the featured speaker at the Science Café Meeting on Tuesday, April 9, 2019. A Canisius College, and University of Rochester alumna, Dr. Kulinowski is a nanotechnology researcher, federal government advisor and is currently the interim Executive Authority of the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board.

All are encouraged to come join the discussion at this event. Undergraduate students get in free. All others pay \$5 at the door. Food and bar open at 5:30 PM. Lecture at 6:30. The location is the Grupp Fireside Lounge in the Richard E. Winter '42 Student Center at Canisius College.

RSVP to Rob Stewart by Friday, April 5:

robert.stewart@Honeywell.com

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The abstract submission deadline is approaching for the 12th annual **ACS Undergraduate Research Symposium**, which will take place at D'Youville College on Sat., April 27th, 2019.

The event will feature a keynote address by Dr. Pablo E. Guzman, Department of the Army, entitled "*Serving U.S. Army Soldiers via Organic Synthesis*".

Abstracts must be received by Friday, April 12, 2019 to be considered for the oral session. All abstracts received after this date will be placed in the poster session. The abstract submission form can be found on the symposium website:

wny.sites.acs.org/undergradsymposium.htm

Questions should be addressed to:
Dr. Dominic Ventura, Symposium Chair
(716) 829-7545
venturad@dyc.edu

KATHLEEN COLLINS, 2019 OSTY

Ms. Kathleen Collins holds certifications in biology, earth science, math and social studies. The majority of her career has been spent teaching Biology, AP Bio, and Physics. She began her career as a teacher with Immaculate Conception School of East Aurora in 1972, where she served as Department Chair from 1976-1986. She began a 14-year stay at Mt. Mercy Academy in Buffalo in 1986, where she eventually served as principal from 1996-2000. She then moved to St. Francis High School, where the principal, Thomas Braunscheidel, had this to say:

“Ms. Collins has served the students of Western New York for her entire career. She has taught many disciplines including Math, Social Studies, and most recently Science. Over her time at St. Francis High School she has taught both Physics, Regents Biology (LE), AP Biology and Bio-Medical Science. She is a Master Teacher who shares her craft with both new and veteran teachers. She holds students to high standards and understands when they need to be pushed and understands when they need a pat on the back.”

In all of her teaching posts Ms. Collins has been involved in Science Fairs, Science Club, and STEM curriculum development. From 2010 to present day, she has participated in *Tech Savvy*, a day-long event designed to encourage girls to explore STEM careers. In 2014 she helped St. Francis High School to secure a \$40,000 Oishei Grant in conjunction with EdCoWNY, which provided equipment and curriculum enhancement to the science program.

One of Ms. Collins' former students, who went on to become a science teacher alongside her at St. Francis, had this to say: “...she pushed me to a place where I could see my own potential much more clearly, and instilled in me the heart of a scientist, which I'm proud to say I've kept till this day. ... Every day, after and before school, her room is open to students of all abilities who are looking for extra help, support, or encouragement.”

Ms. Collins retired from St. Francis High School in 2017, but remains actively involved as a part-time teacher at Mt. Mercy Academy. She truly embodies the qualities of an Outstanding High School Science Teacher, and it is our pleasure to honor her with the Western New York ACS Outstanding Science Teacher Award.

85 YEARS AGO IN THE DOUBLE BOND

The following appeared in the April, 1934 edition of the Double Bond

Properties of Niagara Falls H₂O

Preliminary. Procure a sample of Niagara Falls H₂O in a 100 cc. beaker. Examine for general physical properties. (Neglect small particles floating about) Smell cautiously. Check below which one the odor resembles:

- Dead Fish [x]
- Sewage Disposal Plant [x]
- Aged Eggs (x)
- Roses []

Now place a sample in Erlenmeyer flask and heat to 60°C. Collect portion of gases driven off and place in glass cage with mouse.

RESULTS: MOUSE DIES.

Connect Liebig condenser to flask and collect sample of distillate.

RESULTS: TURNS BLUE LITMUS RED; TURNS RED LITMUS BLUE.

Raise temperature to 90°C Collect sample of distillate and place in porcelain dish.

RESULTS: DISH DISSOLVES.

Raise temperature to 100°C and boil until residue is obtained. Secure sample of residue. Place sample in gas flame and examine with spectroscope.

RESULTS: CONTINUOUS SPECTRUM (Contains bunch of metals and all elements perhaps.)

Finally, place sample in a 500,000 lb. Tinsens Elsen compression testing machine.

RESULTS: MACHINE BREAKS.

Conclusions: There must be something in the water.



Western New York ACS Local Section Contact Information:**WNYACS Section Chair 2019**

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

Chair Elect 2019

Ekin Atilla
University at Buffalo, SUNY
(716) 645-4130
ekinatil@buffalo.edu

Vice-Chair 2019

Luis Velarde
University at Buffalo, SUNY
(716) 645-4243
lvelarde@buffalo.edu

Secretary 2019-2020

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

Treasurer 2018-2019

Robert Stewart
Honeywell
(716) 827-6842
robert.stewart@honeywell.com

Councilor 2017-2019

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

Councilor 2019-2021

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

Member-at-Large 2018-2019

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 2019

Andrew Murkin
University at Buffalo, SUNY
(716) 645-4249
amurkin@buffalo.edu

Education Committee**Co-Chairs**

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

Rachel Ventura
University at Buffalo, SUNY
(716) 645-1494
rdibbell@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 2019-2020

David Stewart
D'Youville College
(716) 829-7589
stewartd@dyc.edu

Member-at-Large 2018-2019

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

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