

Speaker for the November ACS Meeting

Mark Thomson, Associate Professor at Ferris State University, presented our final talk for 2012 entitled "Is it Beer? Is it Wine? Investigations into Native American Fermentation Traditions" on November 08. The meeting was held at Old Boys Brew House in Spring Lake and about 50 guests were in attendance. Mark shared his knowledge of the history and production techniques for Pulque, Chicha, and Mavi. The talk was very interesting and well received and we want to thank Mark for taking time out to give this talk.



March Speaker – Dr. Richard Lord (GVSU)

Date: Monday, March 11 at 6:30 PM (Refreshments at 6:00 PM)
Location: Aquinas College, Albertus Hall, Room 119
Title: What Can Computational Chemistry Do For Inorganic Chemists?

Abstract: A tutorial for what computational chemistry can do for inorganic chemists interested in transition metal complexes will be presented, with a focus on commonly overlooked points one should consider before entering this field. This will be accomplished by analyzing both successes and failures of density functional theory based methods for a variety of chemical questions.

Richard Lord has joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor of Inorganic Chemistry. He graduated from Indiana University in 2010 with a Ph.D. in chemistry, working under Profs. Mookie Baik and Frank Schultz. His dissertation research focused on the electrochemical properties of transition metal complexes exhibiting unusual electron transfer behavior. Immediately prior to his arrival at GVSU, he was a post-doctoral fellow at Wayne State University working with Profs. John Endicott, Berny Schlegel, and Claudio Verani on the spectroscopic characterization of transition metal complexes featuring redox active metals and ligands. His research at GVSU will use computational methods to understand how redox active ligands influence: (i) small molecule activation mechanisms and (ii) electrochemical and magnetic properties of transition metal complexes.

Public Relations Position

Michelle DeWitt (GVSU) has graciously volunteered to be the Public Relations contact for our local section. She was a great help in promoting National Chemistry Week's Chemistry at the Mall this year. Thanks Michelle! (Read about the event on the following page)

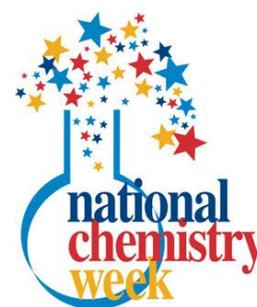
Electronic Balloting



Electronic balloting was approved earlier in the year and ballots were distributed via e-mail. A brief bio for James Parkanzky (Chair-elect) and James Koedam (Secretary) was included in the e-mail. In addition; bios for both Hank Greeb (Treasurer) and Neal Fox (Alternate Councilor, a 3 year term) were included. ALL members that were up for election were voted in! Thanks for your votes and a special thanks to Randy Winchester (GVSU) for assisting in the balloting process!

Chemistry at the Mall

National Chemistry Week was a huge success this year thanks to the efforts of Lou DuPont (Honeywell Burdick and Jackson). Lou gave his report to the Executive Committee earlier this month and included the following details. Lou mentioned that people are already talking about next year's event. He estimates that we reached out to approximately 400 young people (balloon count) and their parents. 9 colleges and local businesses participated this year and Lou hopes to have more next year by getting an earlier start with the scheduling. The December 17 issue of Chemical and Engineering News included a brief description of our section's involvement in National Chemistry Week's silver anniversary (see page 43).



Battle of the Chemistry Clubs

The MSU local section's Younger Chemist Committee (YCC) will be hosting the annual Battle of the Chemistry Clubs at the end of January. If any of the schools in our section wish to be involved, they should visit the website at <http://msuycc.wordpress.com/outreach/battle-of-the-chemistry-clubs/>. Questions can be addressed to Matt Fhaner, an organizer of the event, at fhanerma@msu.edu.

Positions Available Locally and Nationally



Our local section is looking for members who wish to serve with our local section. The following positions are available: **Membership Coordinator**, **Historian** and **Web Master**. If you have a talent for one of these positions, please contact Jim Krikke (krikkeji@gvsu.edu) for information.

Help is also needed at the National Level and the local section will compensate for travel costs. Please contact Mark Thomson ([Mark Thomson@ferris.edu](mailto:Thomson@ferris.edu)) for details on how you can help.

Please consider volunteering. It's not that much work and can be a great resume builder!

Congratulations!

The November/December issue of In Chemistry, an ACS publication for student members, gave recognition to the following schools in our section as winners of 2011-2012 Student Chapter Awards. *Student chapter presidents are in italics.*

Ferris State University: Commendable, *Harison Roy*, Advisor Pasquale DiRaddo

Aquinas College: Honorable Mention, *Kayla Lewis & Morgan Thelen*, Advisor Elizabeth Jensen

Hope College: Honorable Mention, *Dale Schipper & Elizabeth Miller*, Advisor Jeffrey Johnson

Ferris State University: Green Chemistry Award

West Michigan Section to Co-host the 2015 Central Regional Meeting

Plans are being made for the West Michigan Section to host the Central Regional Meeting with the Kalamazoo Section in 2015. Any members wishing to get involved in the planning process should contact our Councilor, Dr. Mark Thomson (FSU) at MarkThomson@ferris.edu

Offers For Students Attending ACS Meetings

The local section is happy to announce two great deals for students who wish to attend both Regional and National ACS meetings.

- 1) Central Regional meeting fees will be waived for students (high school and college) attending a Regional Meeting. (see above)
- 2) Students attending National ACS Meetings will be given the opportunity to each receive a \$50.00 travel stipend from the local section. An application form is being generated for those who wish to apply. The form will be located on the West Michigan ACS website.