

Chemistry Outlook

An Activity of The Committee on Chemistry in the Two-Year Colleges **Division of Chemical Education American Chemical Society**



Michaeleen Lee, 2007 Chair

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otes From The Chair

Michaeleen Lee Bucks Community College Newtown, PA

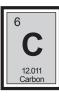
Once again it is "ponder" time. The deadline for this column will soon be upon me and so I sit at my computer wondering what I should write. I had thought that I would report on the 177th conference at Joliet Junior College but then I received the note from our newsletter editor and my deadline is before the conference! Not good! However, I am sure I can still say that the conference was great. I have looked at the program and all the arrangements and believe it is quite unlikely that you could not find something to take away with you for use in your classes or departments.

The next topic that came to mind was spring. We are about to turn our clocks ahead one hour this weekend, three weeks earlier than in the past. I, for one, am very glad about this change. Now, I realize that for a lot of you, the weather is anything but spring-like. Such is the case today in Pennsylvania in spite of our Punxsutawney Phil's prediction more than a month ago that spring would soon be here. Nevertheless, ahead the clocks will go and the season will have to catch up. It will be daylight an hour later each evening and those of you who are so inclined, and who live where the weather understands what it must do to please us humans, will be able to exercise outdoors instead of in the crowded gym. We can also stay at our desks an hour longer and maybe get home when it is light! Next week is also our Spring Break! If you are running down like I am, this is a good thing. So, let's think spring!

Maybe we have been just coasting along doing the same thing in the same way for any number of years. Could we think for a minute of how we might spring ahead during the remaining weeks of the semester? I would like to tell you about a couple of things that happened at Bucks County Community College that allowed us to do just that a few vears back.

When was the last time that you had a frank conversation with your colleagues who teach the classes coming after yours? Do you know exactly what they need your students to know in order to keep on learning? We like to think that everything we teach is critical to the success of our students but deep in our hearts we know this is not so. Some things are just more important than others. If we could focus more of our

continued on page 2



onference Calendar

2006 - 2007 Academic Year

178th CONFERENCE (Eastern)

September 28-29, 2007, Bergen Community College

Paramus, NJ

Contact: Frank Ramdayal

Phone: 201-493-3671

Email: framdayal@bergen.edu

179th CONFERENCE (Southern)

November 2-3, 2007, Durham Technical Community College

Durham, NC

Contact: Mark Matthews

Phone: 919-686-3773

Email: matthewsm@durhamtech.edu

180th CONFERENCE (Southern)

April 4-5, 2008, Baton Rouge Community College

Baton Rouge, LA (Pending)

Remember to check the web for information on future meetings! http://2yc3.org

"Notes from the Chair" ... continued from page 1

attention on these supercritical topics, perhaps more of our students could keep on going. These supercritical topics are the ones that need to be revisited over and over again as the semester progresses. How can we be sure that our students will not forget? We can't, but we do know that our students study what will be on the next test. Maybe these supercritical topics should show up on more than one test. If you do not already do so, why don't you try cumulative tests? My organic colleague and I had just such a conversation some years ago. Now, all my tests are cumulative. My students are tested multiple times on the same concepts. My colleague reports that they are better prepared to tackle the new concepts when they come to her class.

There is another advantage to cumulative tests. Students always get another chance to show that they have mastered the material. For me, this means that they always have an automatic make-up or retest. I simply score the "old" material as if it were a separate test and calculate a new grade for the previous test. If this new grade is higher than the original, then the student gets that higher grade. It works for me. I do not have to worry about the usual requests for taking a test early or late or for retests. If a test is missed, then the grade comes from the part of the next test that is on the "old" material. It works for the student. If a student has done poorly on a test, then the opportunity is automatically there to show that it has been mastered and to receive credit for that mastery.

I had planned on relating a couple of other ideas that originated with these "soul-searching" conversations but then I began to think that we have a column in this newsletter for such items. It is the "It Worked for Me" column. If you have seen positive results in your classroom from something you have done that is new or different, why don't you send your ideas to the editor. We can all benefit. Another reason for not relating my other ideas is that I am sure that I will be "pondering" again (I have two more of these columns to write!) and I may need those other two ideas for later issues of this newsletter. So for now, I will end.

I hope you are enjoying better weather and I hope to see some of you soon.

179th Conference (Southern) **Durham Technical Community College** Durham, NC

November 2-3, 2007

Theme of conference:

"Technology and Chemical Education"

Preliminary Information

We are pleased to announce that our keynote speaker will be Dr. Jim Reeves from UNC-Wilmington, a leader in chemical education and distance learning. He is co-creator of the Anytime Anywhere Chemistry Experience distance learning laboratories, which can be found at www.uncw.edu/chem/Courses/Reeves/OnLineLabs.

Call for Presenters

We are currently looking for colleagues who would like to contribute to our program by giving a presentation or leading a workshop or round-table discussion. While the focus of the conference will be in the area of technology and distance learning, we strongly encourage topics from other areas to give us a diverse program.

Current information on the conference can be found at www.durhamtech.edu/2vc3.htm.

Contact:

Mark Matthews, Program Chair

Phone: 919-686-3773

Email: matthewsm@durhamtech.edu

2007 COCTYC AND SUPPORT STAFF

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2YC₃ World Wide Web Page: http://2yc3.org, Lance Lund

(Lance.Lund@anokaramsey.edu) WebMaster

2YC₃ Membership Form

Please consider supporting the 2YC, by becoming a member or renewing your membership. Annual dues are only \$15.

Special Offer: Annual dues are \$15 for the 2YC₃ and \$20 for the American Chemical Society Division of Chemical Education (DivCHED). If you are not already a member of DivCHED, you may join both organizations today for a total of \$30, a savings of \$5.

I wish to:		Become a member of 2YC ₃					
	Renew my 2YC ₃ Membership Join DivCHED as a member (ACS members only) and 2YC ₃ Join DivCHED as an affiliate* (non ACS members) and 2YC ₃ *affiliates have all membership privileges except voting and holding elective office.						
I am a:		Two-Year College Teacher	Four-Year College Tea	cher			
		High School Teacher	Other				
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Institution:							
Address:							
	Street		City, State	9-Digit Zip Code			
Phone: _			Email:				
Current Me	mber of:	ACSDivCHED					
		rs are posted on the 2YC ₃ website. The list phone numbers are NOT listed. If you do					
2		*	,				

Please send your check, payable to 2YC₃, for \$15 (2YC₃ only) or \$30 (joint membership) to:

Patty Pieper, Anoka-Ramsey Community College, 11200 Mississippi Blvd NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433-3470.

Invitation and Call for Papers

178th 2YC₃ Conference (Northeast) **Bergen Community College** Paramus, NJ 07652

September 28-29th, 2007

Theme of conference: "Chemistry: Looking to the future".

We would like to invite all of you to come to the conference at Bergen Community College in Paramus, NJ. We are a suburban college with a 20 minute drive from New York City and all its attraction: shopping, museums, theatre, music, dance, Restaurants, Times square, the melting pot of the world's cultures. You can come early or leave later and enjoy our conference and all that New York City and New Jersey has to offer. The temperatures are generally around 80 degrees at that time of the year and there is easy access to buses and trains to get you into New York City. We are planning a field trip to visit sites of interest in New York City during the conference and if you are interested in going on this field trip, details will be made available to you before the start of the conference. We have great shopping malls within a one mile radius of the college and we are located within easy driving distance of the Catskills Mountains, Adirondack forest preserves and the beautiful upstate New York. We have an observatory on campus that will be open at nights to the public for the duration of the conference.

Preliminary Information

The sessions on Friday, September 28 will be devoted to presentations.

The conference will include several workshops on Saturday, Sept. 29th.

Call for papers

We extend a call for presentations/panel discussions on the following topics:

- Using technology to teach chemistry and the impact of technology on the way chemistry will be taught in the future.
- Data from studies that can impact on the way introductory, general, organic or analytical chemistry is taught at two year colleges.
- Forensic science, green chemistry, nanotechnology
- We will consider presentations/papers on any other topic that contributes to the improvement of teaching and learning of chemistry at the community college.

Preliminary schedule

Speaker	Торіс	Institution
Dr. Richard Gurney	Learning to be green: involve students in the decision making process	Simmons College
Dr. Moni Chauhan	The success story of Nano Science Research with undergraduates at the Community College	Queensboro Community College of CUNY
Dr. Paul Hallacher	Presentation on Nanotechnology and the work of his institution	NSF Advanced Technological Education (ATE) Center for Nanofabrication Manufacturing Education
Dr. Jeffrey Gaffney	Atmospheric Chemistry - Climate Change and Air Quality Issues	University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Dr. John Penn	Technology enables "Practice Makes Perfect, even in Education"	West Virginia University
Dr . Collins Jones	Merging curriculum for workforce and academia: Lessons from a biotechnology program	Montgomery College
Dr. Lisa Kaplan	The use of forensics to teach chemistry (learning in context)	Quinnipiac University
Dr. Brahmadeo Dewprashad	Using case studies to teach organic chemistry	Borough of Manhattan Community College
Dr. John Amend	Using Computers to Engage Students in Science: Some things we can learn from light and color.	MicroLab

Workshops

- (A) POGIL workshop
- (B) OWL Online Web-based Learning system provided by Thomson/Brooks Cole
- (C) MicroLab workshop

A detailed schedule, including online registration, travel directions and lodging will be found on the 2YC₃ website (www.2yc3.org) as the conference develops.

For preliminary data on the conference, including a printed copy of the registration form, go to http://www.2yc3bergen178.org.

If you have any suggestions for conference, please contact one of the members of the conference planning group listed below.

Dr. Frank Ramdayal, phone: 201-493-3671, email: framdayal@bergen.edu

Dr. Joan Tscherne, phone 201-612-5392, email: jtscherne@bergen.edu

 $Dr.\ Karen\ Comai-Fuerherm,\ phone\ 201-493-3574,\ email:\ \textbf{kcomaifuerher@bergen.edu}$

Industrial Sponsors

by John Kenkel, Industrial Sponsors Chair

The 2YC₃ has a very dedicated group of industrial sponsors, and I am very pleased about the way they support us both in terms their continuing sponsorship and their use of the Outlook for advertisements. We should all be grateful because they pay fees for both the sponsorships and the advertisements and so our organization benefits financially. It helps keep the fees that we ourselves pay for membership and conference registrations low. I would ask that all conference attendees please show your gratitude by visiting with their representatives and perusing their displays at our conferences. If you are unable to attend a conference, please visit the 2YC, web site to see who the industrial sponsors are and maybe when their representative comes calling, put in a word of thanks for their support.

We can use more industrial sponsors, and I am dedicated, during my term, to increasing the number. In the modern age of email and the Internet, we have a neat method to accomplish this and I would like to utilize it more. What I would like to suggest is that every time a message from a vendor (book publisher, supplies distributor, etc.) shows up in your email box, please take a few seconds and forward the message to me at jkenkel@southeast.edu. I can reply to the message and bring 2YC₃ and our conferences to their attention. They are making a sales pitch to us. We can also make a sales pitch to them and try to keep our membership and conference registrations affordable. Thanks for your help, and thanks to our fine industrial sponsors too.

Call for application for the office of Membership Chair of 2YC, for the year 2008

Application for Membership Chair for 2008 must include:

- A. Pertinent personal data such as name, college, job title, address, etc.
- B. Brief statement of pertinent qualification, signed by the nominee.
- C. A statement indicating a willingness to serve signed by the nominee.
- D. A statement of support from an appropriate person in the applicant's school.
- E. To be eligible to be nominated an individual must:
 - 1. be a two-year college chemistry teacher
 - 2. have been a dues paying member of $2\mathrm{YC}_3$ a minimum of three years prior to nomination
 - 3. be a member of DivCHED
- -Applications must be received by the Chair no later than September 1, 2007.
- -The COCTYC will serve as a nominating/screening committee to generate a slate of two candidates.
- -Each 2YC, member shall vote for one nominee and the candidate who receives the greater number of votes shall be declared elected.
- -Ballots must be received by the Chair postmarked no later than 12/31/2007.
- -The results of the election will be reported in the first possible newsletter.

Call for application for the office of Chair-Elect of 2YC₃ for the year 2009

Application for Chair-Elect for 2009 must include:

- A. Pertinent personal data such as name, college, job title, address, etc.
- B. Brief statement of pertinent qualification, signed by the nominee.
- C. A statement indicating a willingness to serve signed by the nominee.
- D. A statement of support from an appropriate person in the applicant's school.
- E. To be eligible to be nominated an individual must:
 - 1. be a two-year college chemistry teacher
 - 2. have been a dues paying member of 2YC, a minimum of three years prior to nomination
 - 3. be a member of DivCHED
 - 4. have demonstrated leadership and organizational ability by serving as Chair or Co-Chair for a conference and in one or more of the following capacities:
 - a. served three years on the Executive Committee
 - b. served as Local Arrangements Chair for a Conference
 - c. chaired a sub-committee
 - d. contributed within the past three years two or more ways such as:
 - -acted as local industrial sponsor coordinator,
 - -chaired a conference section,
 - -presented a paper at a conference,
 - -moderated a panel at a conference,
 - -other ways an individual has contributed
- -Applications must be received by the Chair no later than September 1, 2007.
- -The COCTYC will serve as a nominating/screening committee to generate a slate of two candidates.
- -Each 2YC₃ member shall vote for one nominee and the candidate who receives the greater number of votes shall be declared elected.
- -Ballots must be received by the Chair postmarked no later than 12/31/2007.

Submission Deadlines for Chemistry Outlook

I would like to extend an invitation for submissions to future issues of Chemistry Outlook. Articles of interest, including "It Works for Me!," photos from 2YC₃ conferences, or conference announcements are welcome. Deadlines for submissions to future issues of the Chemistry Outlook are listed below. For more information, please contact Jim Schneider, newsletter editor: **ischneid@pcc.edu**. Thank you!

Volume	Submission Deadline	Anticipated Arrival Date	Conference Information
2007-III	June 15, 2007	Aug. 15, 2007	178 th Bergen – Program 179 th Durham – Prelim Info
2007-IV	July 15, 2007	Sept. 15, 2007	179 th Durham – Program 180 th Baton Rouge – Prelim Info
2008-I	Dec. 15, 2007	Feb. 15, 2008	180 th Baton Rouge - Program 181 st TBA – Prelim Info

E-Cook and the Richness of Difference

By Paul Kelter

Paul Kelter is Professor of Chemistry, University Distinguished Teacher/Scholar and Coordinator of General Chemistry at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

In this paper, I talk about the 3.5-year history of an organization that, through the desire to work together and to build understanding, has grown nearly 6-fold from its inception, to become an influential advocate for professionals who teach or who are otherwise interested in first-year chemistry. In doing so, I want to make the case that **the sheer joy of knowing** - that which makes us human - is what we value. It is about the pure pleasure of considering interesting and challenging ideas and working with people, no matter where they come from, what they look like, how old they are, whom they voted for or what their parents do for a living. Together, we look at the adverbs of learning - the who, when, where, how, and most important, why, and this gives us part of our sense of purpose. This part of our sense of purpose comes from the joy of working together across these historically divisive lines of race and class that have led to so much hurt in our world. It is part our view of life that our differences in culture and in life experiences can be our greatest asset. A mentor from many years back called this "The Richness of Difference."

In October 2003, a group of chemical educators convened a mini-conference; perhaps more accurately a nano- or even pico-conference of 22 people. These are colleagues from the U.S. and Mexico who share a passion for chemical education and whose major teaching assignment was the large lecture first-year chemistry course. This meeting begat the International Center for First-Year Undergraduate Chemistry Education, or ICUC, pronounced "E-Cook" in Latin America, where we have many members, especially in Mexico, Argentina and Chile. E-cook now has over 170 members from many countries and 6 continents. Here is the link for the ICUC. Please feel free to join. Membership is free and most rewarding: http://icuc.chem.uiuc.edu/icucwebsite/icuc/index.htm

Our membership is composed of so many different types of people who support each other even when life throws them a curve ball. Liliana Mammino is an active member from Venda, South Africa, whose apartment at her university was robbed three times last year, with this most recent robbery including the thieves' calling card of a dead, bloody goat in her bathtub. We have Jose Miguel Abraham, who hosted an environmental conference that was co-sponsored by E-cook in his hometown of San Luis, Argentina. To get to this hardscrabble city, you fly from O'Hare, then to Miami, then overnight to Santiago, Chile. You then drive in the front part of a pickup truck for 4 hours across the dust of the plains. You pass a church where truckers stop to pray to the Virgen del Buen Viaje, the Virgin of the Good Trip, en route. The Universidad de San Luis is a poor school with a rich heritage. On the walls of the main conference building, they have pictures of former students who were kidnapped and killed during the brutal reign of Lt. General Videla. On a different set of walls of the conference building were posters that were put up by students of Jose Miguel Abraham outlining their environmental chemistry projects. Jose Miguel publishes a journal that includes several of us in E-cook as Editorial Board members. The journal, known by its acronym, ALDEQ, has been published for over 15 years, and is distributed throughout Latin America once a year.

Carmen Valdez Gauthier is from Peru, but did her graduate work in New Hampshire and is the director of the math and science division at Florida Southern, a college not too far from Orlando. She took her sabbatical last semester with me at Urbana-Champaign, and learned all about how we deal with having 6,000 students per year go through our general chemistry program, and not having the lab space to have them go to lab every week, so they meet every other week. I continue to learn so much about culture and language and dignity from Carmen.

E-cook had its first conference at Urbana-Champaign in May 2005, hosting 180 participants. Its theme was "The Richness of Difference." We are working to make our forthcoming conference in Boulder, Colorado this May equally successful. Its theme is "Global Communication for a Sustainable World." Here is the Web site:

http://icuc.chem.uiuc.edu/icucwebsite/fyi2007/index.html#

We had intended the conference to be in Mexico City, but recall the rather dicey political situation after the elections there last year, so after things settle down we will have the 2009 conference there.

Where, then, are we with this vision that is now E-cook? Its members publish in each other's journals because U.S. journals are not the end-all in educational policy or science. Great things are done throughout the world, and we aim to share. This is the Richness of Difference - this vision - of which I speak. We hold conferences together. This summer, I will travel to Madrid with my son, Seth, who is majoring in Chinese and Spanish. Gabriel Pinto, a professor at the Polytechnic Institute there, is hosting a conference that E-cook is co-sponsoring. In the fall, I am giving a talk in Santiago, Chile at the *Quinta Jornadas*, a major chemical education conference led by Adela Castillejos, an E-cook member from Mexico. The organization held an on-line ConfChem conference for nearly 2 months this spring that featured E-cook member papers from as far away as New Zealand. This, then, is E-cook, in which a vision takes flight and does good locally, regionally and even globally as we understand how much we can learn from others, especially those who have had different experiences than we have, and often have a most wonderful and broad view of the possibilities in education.

Attention 2-Year Chemistry Faculty-Funding Opportunity Available!

Applications Are Being Accepted for The Dorothy and Moses Passer Education Fund

Editor's note: This exceptional funding opportunity is open to 2-year college faculty to help fund a specific goal that you are working on; you can't fund a trip to a conference, but funding support for travel to workshops, etc. are eligible. 2-year college faculty have a great advantage of teaching first generation/underserved populations/non-traditional students and they should make note of that in their application.

This Fund was established by a generous donation of Dorothy and Moses Passer. Moses (Mike) Passer was for many years the head of the ACS Education Division. The Fund supports grants to provide support for teachers in programs at two- and four-year colleges or universities that do not have any advanced degree programs in the chemical sciences. The awards are to support continuing education activities that must be directly related to the applicant's teaching and must take them away from their campus. The applicant must be a full time faculty member at his or her institution. The applications are reviewed by a committee. There is no application form but the application must include a description of the proposed activity and how it relates to his/her teaching with dates, locations, titles and contacts; a brief description of the applicant's institution and department; a short curriculum vita; an itemized estimate of expenses, amount of aid requested and sources of all supplemental funds. No support will be given for general attendance at national, regional or local ACS meetings nor for any sabbatical support.

Closing dates are three times each year: **January 1**, **April 1**, and **September 1**. All applications must be received electronically. For further information or inquiries contact **Richard Jones**, **richard.jones@sinclair.edu**; mailing address: **Sinclair Community College, Dayton, OH 45402**.

Congratulations to Dr. Candice McCloskey, Georgia Perimeter College, our 2008 Chair-Elect; Kelly Befus, Anoka Ramsey Community College, formally elected Treasurer/College Sponsor; and Jim Schneider, Portland Community College, our new newsletter editor. Special thanks to Carol Handy and Bill Haley for their many years of service to 2YC₂.

ChemEd 2007

The 2007 ChemEd conference will be held at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas, July 29 to August 2, 2007. As of this writing, the program has not yet been posted on the conference web site, http://www.chem.unt.edu/ chemed07/. Please go to this site, listen to "The Yellow Rose of Texas" and then click on the "Main Menu" arrow for information.

The International ChemEd Conferences, which started in Canada in 1973, were designed primarily for teachers of high school chemistry to give them the opportunity to share as many classroom and laboratory ideas as possible. There are also a significant number of lectures, workshops and demonstrations for teachers of chemistry and the sciences at all grade levels, from elementary school through various college levels.



40 Years of Archived Materials Now Available on the Web

Thanks to Dan Harmon, Lab Assistant at Anoka Ramsey Community College, Kelly Befus and Lance Lund, both 2YC₃ officers, the last 40 years of Proceedings and Agenda books have been archived and are available on the 2YC₃ Website. They can be found under the "archived" tab on the left side of the 2YC₃ homepage. The collection of Proceedings and Agenda books, dating back to 1967, has traveled around the country and was kept by the 2YC, treasurer until recently. The original materials were donated to the Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia for safe keeping. A look at some of the manuscripts puts us in awe of what our 2YC₃ predecessors did with no computers or word processors.

A quick look at this link will also show you all the colleges that have hosted a 2YC₃ meeting since its inception in 1961 and what all the meetings were about. If your school hosted a meeting and you have pictures or other material that could also be included, please contact the 2YC₃ webmaster at lance.lund@anokaramsey.edu.



Thanks to Dan Harmon, Anoka Ramsey Community College Lab Assistant for scanning many, many volumes of Proceedings and Agenda Books for 2YC₃.

2YC₃ Conference at Joliet Junior College, March 23-24, 2007

The most recent 2YC₃ conference held at Joliet Junior College in Joliet, Il was attended by over 100 enthusiastic chemists, industrial sponsors and students, including the first ever 2YC₃ conference poster session by students conducting research. Students from some of the Community Colleges of Chicago presented papers on such topics as phytochemicals vs. allopathic chemicals in medications, and the analysis and bioremediation of gasoline. It was very excting to have student research included in the conference! We hope that you will consider attending one of these great conferences in the future!



A special thanks to the Joliet conference organizers (from left): Al Kennedy, Susanne Matthews, Marie Wolff, and Patrick Mills.



Some of the students presenting posters at Joliet (from left): Thomas Bassett, Tiffany L. Arnold, Crystal Miller, Jason Hester.



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