

# **Chemistry Outlook**

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



Candice McCloskey, Chair

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## otes From The Chair

Candice McCloskey Georgia Perimeter College - Dunwoody Dunwoody, GA

Editor's Note: Welcome to Candice McCloskey as our new Chair. Candice went to graduate school at Georgia Tech, and did research on natural product synthesis. After obtaining her Ph.D., she did some post-doc work, then started teaching. She's been at various schools, ranging from a 4-year women's college to a 2-year school in the Caribbean to a chiropractic college. Things settled into place when she got to Georgia Perimeter College about six years ago. Candice says: "I've published an MCAT study guide, worked on a GOB text, got tenured and promoted, and now I'm chair of  $2YC_3$ ! I'd say I've found the right place for me, the two-year college."

Greetings to you all in my first message as Chair of  $2YC_3$ . I am sitting here watching my hardworking students take their Organic exam and I am thinking about how their performance in my class may well have a direct influence on their career choices and lives. It strikes me that as instructors of chemistry, we have a tremendous obligation to do the best we can for our students, and  $2YC_3$  is dedicated to helping us in this endeavor. I am honored indeed to be the chair of this wonderful organization.

When I was asked to consider running for Chair-elect, I had been a member only since 2003, when I went to my first  $2YC_3$  conference at Elizabethtown, Kentucky. It was at that conference that I discovered what a friendly and enthusiastic organization  $2YC_3$  is. In the years

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### onference Calendar

#### Calender Year 2009

184<sup>th</sup> CONFERENCE (Western) March 20-21, 2009

Salt Lake Community College Salt Lake City, UT

Contact: Neil Bastian Email: Neil.Bastian@slcc.edu

**185<sup>th</sup> CONFERENCE (Midwestern)** September 25-26, 2009

Rochester Community & Technical College Rochester, MN

Conctact: Jason Jadin Email: jason.jadin@roch.edu

**186<sup>th</sup> CONFERENCE (Southern)** November 13-14, 2009

Hinds Community College Raymond, MS

Conctact: Pam Clevenger Email: pwclevenger@hindscc.edu

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

since, as I have gotten to know the Committee chairs, members and past chairs, my admiration and my own enthusiasm for what 2YC<sub>3</sub> does has only increased.

Each conference that I've attended has proved to be inspiring, in different ways. I've learned the value of demonstrations and animations, for instance, as a means to help students visualize chemistry. I've learned how to make organic chemistry animations for my own students. I've heard new approaches to teaching organic chemistry. I've been amazed at the level of basic research that is being done by community college students, many from disadvantaged backgrounds, at various schools around the country. And at the latest conference at Anne Arundel Community College, I learned some great techniques for assessing programs. Assessment is a hot issue lately, and there will be more on assessment as well as undergraduate research at the Salt Lake Community College in March, the meeting that coincides with the Spring ACS meeting in Salt Lake City.

My hope is that more chemistry instructors at community colleges will be encouraged to join 2YC<sub>3</sub> and reap the benefits of membership. The membership and registration fees are low, and 2YC<sub>3</sub> tries to have a conference in each of the regions of the country each year (Southern, Western, Eastern, and Midwestern) so that there is one nearby. And besides attending conferences, there are opportunities for further involvement on the regional advisory boards (RABs) and of course, as a conference host.

I am looking forward to my year as Chair, and I thank the members of the Committee on Chemistry in the Two-Year Colleges for their support and encouragement.

> 186<sup>th</sup> Conference (Southern) Hinds Community College Raymond, MS November 13-14, 2009

**Conference Theme:** 

**Covalent Communities:** Sharing Ideas to Promote Chemistry Education

#### **Preliminary Information:**

The conference will include several presentations, panel discussions, and workshops. Topics will include transitioning students from science education in K-12 courses to community college chemistry courses and on to four year college chemistry courses. Also general topics of chemistry education, chemistry technology, and laboratory experiences will be included.

#### **Call for Papers:**

We extend a call for papers on the conference topic and will consider presentations on other topics that will enhance the program.

#### **Contacts**:

<u>Program Chair</u> Pam Clevenger	pwclevenger@hindscc.edu
Local Arrangements Chair Jason Webb	jawebb@hindscc.edu
<u>Exhibitor's Chairs</u> Lester Harrison Lou Anne Williams	lwharrison@hindscc.edu lawilliams@hindscc.edu

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2009 COCTYC AND SUPPORT STAFF Division of Chemical Education, Inc American Chemical Society 2009 Roster of Committee Members	Newsletter EditorJim Schneider, Portland Community CollegeP.O. Box 19000, Portland, OR 97280-0990Office: (503) 977-4618Fax: (503) 977-8020Email: newsletter@2yc3.org
Chair	Industrial Sponsors Chair
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Office: (770) 274-5060 Email: <u>chair@2yc3.org</u>	Office: (330) 972-8925
Chair-Elect 2009	Email: industrialsponsors@2yc3.org
Lance S. Lund, Anoka-Ramsey Community College	Immediate Past Chair
11200 Mississippi Blvd. NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433	Jeff Cramer, Stark State College
Office: (763) 433-1273 Email: <u>chairelect@2yc3.org</u>	6200 Frank Ave NW, North Canton, OH 44720
Chair-Elect 2010	Office: (330) 966-5457 Ext 4377 Fax: (330) 494-0571
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1637 Lawson St., Durham, NC 27703 Office: (919) 686-3773 Email: <u>chairelect2@2yc3.org</u>	Past Chairs (Members of COCTYC)Michaeleen Lee, Bucks County Community College275 Swamp Road, Newtown, PA 18940
<b>Treasurer/College Sponsors</b>	Office: (215) 968-8364 Fax: (215) 504-852
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## 2YC<sub>3</sub> Membership Form

Please consider supporting the 2YC<sub>3</sub> by becoming a member or renewing your membership. Annual dues are only \$25.

**NOTICE - Annual Dues Rate Increase**. Annual Dues are now **\$25**, and we are no longer offering a special rate on joint membership with DivCHED. If you are interested in joining DivCHED, please go to *http://www.divched.org/index* and take the *Membership* link on the left.

I wish to:			Become a member of $2YC_3$ Renew my $2YC_3$ Membership		
I am a:			Two-Year College Teacher High School Teacher		Four-Year College Teacher Other
Your Name:					
Institution: _					
Address:					
	Street			City, State	9-Digit Zip Code
Phone:				Email:	
Current Men	nber of:	ACS	DivCHED		

Names of current members are posted on the  $2YC_3$  website. The list includes names, institutional affiliation, and membership expiration date only. Email addresses and phone numbers are NOT listed. If you do NOT want your name listed, check here \_\_\_\_\_.

Please send your check, payable to 2YC<sub>3</sub>, for \$25 to:

Frank Ramdayal, Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Road, Paramus, New Jersey, 07652.

# 184<sup>th</sup> 2YC<sub>3</sub> Conference (Western)

## **"Building a Foundation in Chemistry: Assessment of Student Learning in Classroom and Undergraduate Research Situations"**

Salt Lake Community College Taylorsville Redwood Campus 4600 South Redwood Road Salt Lake City, UT, 84123

## March 20-21, 2009



# Co nference Information

For **registration**, **lodging information**, **travel directions** and the **latest information on the conference program**, visit the 2YC<sub>3</sub> website: <u>http://2yc3.org/Meetings/</u>.

<b>Program Chair:</b>	Neil Bastian	Neil.Bastian@slcc.edu	801-957-4405
Exhibits:	<b>Ron Valcarce</b>	Ron.Valcarce@slcc.edu	801-957-4830
Local arrangements:	Luther Giddings	L.Giddings@slcc.edu	801-957-5895

### Friday, March 20

9:00 - 5:00	Exhibits and Refreshments: Student Center, Multipurpose Room (Room 002)
Session 1	Student Center, Parlors A & B (Rooms 023 & 025) Session Chair: Neil Bastian
9:00 - 9:15	Welcome: President Cynthia Bioteau or VP Joe Peterson, Salt Lake Community College
	<b>Opening Remarks</b> : <u>Candice McCloskey, 2YC<sub>3</sub> President</u>
9:15 - 10:00	Keynote Speaker: Developing Assessments that Match Your Learning Goals, <u>Diane M. Bunce</u> , <u>The</u> <u>Catholic University of America</u>
10:00 - 10:30	Beverage Break: Multipurpose Room
10:30 - 11:15	Topic TBA: Thomas A. Holme, Iowa State University (Tentative)
11:15 - 12:00	Improving Understanding of Topics in General Chemistry By Implementing the Science Writing Heuristic in the Academic Laboratory, <u>Thomas J. Greenbowe and K.A. Burke: Iowa State University</u> , <u>Ames, IA</u>
10 00 1 00	

12:00 – 1:00 Box Lunch, Membership meeting, Student Center, Oak Room

Break-Out Session: Student Center, Senate Chambers (Room 030)

- 1:00 4:00 **Workshop**: "NMR Applications Across the Undergraduate Chemistry Curriculum" <u>Donald Bouchard</u>: <u>Anasazi Instruments, Indianapolis, IN</u>
- Session 2 Parlors A&B Session Session Chair: Luther Giddings
- 1:00 1:45Assessment of Data Gathered From Competency Quizzes Given in a General/Organic/Biochemistry I<br/>Course, Jason Jadin, Teresa Brown, and Heather Sklenicka: Rochester Community & Technical College
- 1:45 2:30New Innovative Approach to Student Learning: Implementation of Classroom Performance System<br/>Technology in Basic Chemistry Courses, Lori A. Kraft, University of Akron, Akron, OH
- 2:30 3:15 Art Historical and Archaeological Chemistry Research For Undergraduates, <u>Mary Virginia Orna: Col-</u> lege of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, NY
- 3:15 3:45 Beverage Break: Multipurpose Room
- 3:45 4:30 **The Chemical Education Digital Library: Web-based Resources for All**, John W. Moore: University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI
- 4:30 5:15 **Discussion and workshop regarding a grant received from the Great Lakes Fuel Cell Education partnership,** <u>Jeffrey Cramer: Stark State College, Canton OH</u>
- 6:30 Banquet: Student Center, Oak Room

#### Saturday, March 21

- 9:00 5:00 Exhibits and Refreshments: Multipurpose Room
- Session 3 Parlors A & B Session Chair: Ron Valcarce
- 9:00 10:00 ACS Guidelines for Chemistry Programs in Two-Year Colleges, John V. Clevenger, Truckee Meadows Community College (retired)
- 10:00 10:30 Beverage Break: Multipurpose Room
- 10:30 11:15 **Outcomes of Re-structuring an Introductory Chemistry Course: Incremental Changes, Measurable Results**, <u>Thomas Jose, Blinn College, Bryan TX</u>
- 11:15 12:00
   The Use of Educational Games to Teach Chemical Nomenclature, Joseph Chimeno, College of Eastern Utah, Price, UT
- 12:00 1:00 **Box Lunch:** Oak Room
- Break Out Session: Student Center, Senate Chambers (Room 030)
- 1:00 1:30 NSF: Programs and Proposal Writing, <u>Harry Ungar</u>, Cabrillo Community College, Aptos, CA

Continued next page ...

1:30 - 2:00	Panel Discussion: "Our Future: the New Faculty"
Session 4	Parlors A & B, Session Chair: Sesh Seshadri
1:00 - 1:30	Incorporating Electronic Submissions Into the Organic Chemistry Lab Course, <u>C. Michelle Turner,</u> The University of Akron Wayne College, Orrville, OH
1:30 - 2:00	Presentation on use of student teams to solve "crimes" involving chemical and biological analyses, Laurie LeBlanc and Kathryn Nette, Cuyamaca College, San Diego CA
2:00 - 2:30	My Fullbright Experience in South Africa, Ken Capps, Central Florida Community College, Ocala, FL
2:30 - 3:00	Topic TBA, Brian Glaser, Black Hawk College, Moline IL
3:00 - 3:30	Beverage Break: Multipurpose Room
3:30-4:00	Exploring the Chemistry of Carbenes with Natural Bond Order, Mohamed Ayoub, University of Wisconsin-Washington County, West Bend, WI
4:00 - 4:30	Topic TBA, Armando Rivera, East Los Angeles Community College, Los Angles, CA

#### REGISTRATION

Registration for the conference is by mail-in form. The form is available at the  $2YC_3$  website: <u>http://2yc3.org/Meetings/</u>. Download and send in the form with your payment. Please note that your registration is not complete until your payment is received.

#### LODGING

A special conference rate of \$82/night + tax is available at the Crystal Inn West Valley City. Ask for the Salt Lake Community College rate when booking.

Crystal Inn West Valley City 2254 W. City Center Ct. West Valley City, UT 84119-5404

Reservations: 1-888-988-9400 Hotel direct: 1-801-736-2000 Website: <u>http://www.crystalinnwesvalley.com</u>

#### About Salt Lake Community College

Salt Lake Community College is an accredited, multi-campus college serving the diverse needs of the Salt Lake City community. With an open-door enrollment policy, the College serves more than 60,000 students through credit and non-credit courses and workshops each year, making it the largest institution of higher education in Utah.

To accommodate student needs, SLCC has three full-service campuses: South City, Taylorsville Redwood (main campus), Jordan; eleven teaching centers located throughout the Salt Lake Valley and an eCampus for distance learning..

For directions and maps to the college, please visit: <u>http://www.slcc.edu/locations/redwood.asp</u> The Conference will take place at the Taylorsville Redwood Campus

## 185<sup>th</sup> 2YC<sub>3</sub> Conference "Resuscitating Our Chemistry Courses" Rochester Community and Technical College Rochester, MN September 25-26, 2009

#### **Conference** Theme

Over the years we have all developed great ways to teach chemistry. Even though these teaching methods work great, have you become bored with the same old approach? Are you looking to breathe new life into your courses or career? The intent of this conference is to share new methodology that will reinvigorate your courses.

#### **Preliminary Information**

We invite you to attend the 185<sup>th</sup> 2YC<sub>3</sub> Program on September 25-26, 2009. The conference will take place at Rochester Community and Technical College, located in southeast Minnesota. Rochester is the home of the world renowned Mayo Clinic and consistently ranks as one of the "best small cities" in the nation. If you have time, stay an extra day to view the fall colors in the nearby river valleys or visit some of the numerous area attractions.

We are pleased to announce that our keynote speakers will be Dr. C. Marvin Lang and Dr. Donald Showalter from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Their address promises to provide many "life supporting ideas" for our courses through the use of chemical demonstrations. Together they have more than 75 years in academia and will share many of their memorable experiences. Since 1985, they have performed over 800 chemical demonstration programs throughout the world and have appeared on several television programs.

Consult the conference website, <u>www.roch.edu/people/jjadin/2yc3</u>, for informational updates, registration information, hotel accommodations, the program, and area attractions.

#### **Call for Papers**

We currently are looking for colleagues who would like to contribute to our program by giving a presentation or leading a workshop in the areas listed below.

- Including green chemistry in the curriculum.
- Including biotechnology in the curriculum.
- New approaches in teaching allied health chemistry.
- Assessment of student learning.
- Use of technology to enhance lecture and labs.
- Teaching on-line chemistry.

We will also consider presentations on any other topic that will enhance our program.

#### **Contact Information**

<u>Program Chair</u>	
Jason Jadin	jason.jadin@roch.edu
Local Arrangements Chair Heather Sklenicka	heather.sklenicka@roch.edu
<u>Exhibitor's Chair</u> Teresa Brown	teresa.brown@roch.edu
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## News from the Regional Advisory Boards (RABs)

#### Western RAB David R. Brown, Ph.D.

#### Highlights from the 182nd 2YC<sub>3</sub> at the ACS WRM 2008 in Las Vegas, NV, September 26-27, 2008

For the first time an ACS Western Regional meeting (WRM2008) included a formal meeting of the Two Year College Chemistry Consortium (2YC<sub>3</sub>). The theme for the 2YC<sub>3</sub> Sessions was the "Challenges and Benefits of Undergraduate Research at the Two Year College" and featured a keynote address by David Brown of Southwestern College, Chula Vista, CA and a keynote report panel discussion on the Revision of ACS Guidelines for Chemistry Programs in Two Year Colleges led by John Clevenger of Truckee Meadows Community College, Reno, NV. A 2YC, banquet address by Carlos Gutierrez of California State University, Los Angeles focused on collaboration between two-year and four-year college faculty as a recipe for student success at both institutions. Approximately 74 2YC, members and their students attended and participated in paper, workshop and poster presentations along with other WRM 2008 events. The Meeting reported a total attendance of 550 and 392 abstracts from presenters traveling from places as far away as Korea, Canada, and New York. There were approximately 30 poster presentations by two year college students and faculty on undergraduate research at their institutions.

ACS President Bruce Bursten, President-Elect Thomas Lane and Past President E. Ann Nalley all participated along with recently elected Nevada Congresswoman Dina Titus. ACS Directors Bonnie Charpentier, Kent Voorhees and Janan Hayes attended and participated in the overall proceedings of this Meeting which was co-sponsored by the ACS Southern Nevada Section and the 2YC<sub>3</sub>. At this Meeting the following awards were presented:

- Stanley C. Israel Award to William A. Lester Jr of University of California, Berkeley
- E. Ann Nalley Award to Boyd Earl of University of Nevada, Las Vegas and Onofrio (Dick) Gaglione of College of Southern Nevada
- Award for Excellence in High School Teaching to Judith Ann Flint Baumwirt of Granada Hills, CA.

#### Eastern RAB Brahmadeo Dewprashad, Chair

The 183<sup>rd</sup> Conference of 2YC3 was held on November 21 and 22, 2008 on the scenic campus of Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold, Maryland. The meeting was well attended and was a great success. The keynote presentation "Funding Opportunities for Community Colleges: The National Science Foundation - Division of Undergraduate Education" was delivered by Dr. Eun-Woo Chang, Program Director, Division of Undergraduate Education, National Science Foundation. The presentation provided attendees with very useful information on funding opportunities available to STEM faculty members at two-year colleges. In addition, attendees had the opportunity to review, critique and contribute to "The

ACS Guidelines for Chemistry Programs in Two-Year Colleges: A Resource for Enhancing Chemistry Programs" being prepared by John Clevenger, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry, Truckee Meadows Community College, Reno, NV.

Linda N. Fanis, Assistant Editor, Journal of Chemical Education held workshops on "Journal of Chemical Education Online Resources" and "Explore the Chemical Education Digital Library." Both of these workshops were well attended and provided attendees with hands-on training in accessing and using valuable online pedagogical resources. There were also a number of additional engaging and informative presentations and workshops. These include "POGIL – Hyuh, What is it Good For? Absolutely Something!", "Chem Ed: Increase Conceptual Understanding in Chemistry and AP Chemistry — Activate Inquiry and Inspire Discovery!", "Students Taking Ownership of The Class and Spreading it Further for a Positive Outcome" and "Building Partnerships to Facilitate Undergraduate Research."

Attendees had many opportunities to socialize and network and even had the pleasure of sampling unique blends of chocolate during the educational and entertaining banquet presentation "Producing Chocolate: From the Trees to the Table" by James A. Saunders of Towson University. The success of the meeting was in a large part due to the excellent organization done by Dr. Lynn Tracey, Ms. Debbie Reader and Dr. June Bronfenbrenner, the Program Chair, the Local Arrangements Coordinator and the Exhibits Coordinator, respectively. We congratulate them and thank them for all the hard work they did.

There are many exciting happenings on campuses of two year colleges in the Eastern Region. For example, Dr. Moni Chauhan of Queensborough Community College in NYC is an active researcher in Nanoscience. She is from a Department that has been exemplary in taking a lead in undergraduate research at two year colleges. Dr. Chauhan has mentored numerous students in research projects in this area and her students have made presentations on their research at national meetings. Dr. Chauhan has shared her success with us at the  $182^{nd} 2YC_3$  conference in Las Vegas, Sept 26-27<sup>th</sup> 2008 and  $178^{th} 2YC_3$  conference in NJ, Sept 28-29<sup>th</sup> 2007. We commend her on the excellent work she is doing with student.

The Eastern Regional Board has been strengthened by the addition of two new board members, Janet Graden of Montgomery County Community College and Steven Hedrick of New River Community College. We welcome them to the Board and look forward to working with them to ensure a vibrant Eastern Regional Board.

#### CONTINUED NEXT PAGE ...

#### **Renew Your 2YC**<sub>3</sub> Membership Online!

NEW!! Electronic payments (credit card, bank transfer, PayPal) are now accepted! Fill out the form on the 2YC<sub>3</sub> website first (http://2yc3.org/Membership/MemberRegForm1.asp) and you will be sent to PayPal to complete your transaction. Or, you may continue to mail a check for your payment if you like.

## News from the Regional Advisory Boards (RABs), continued

#### Southern RAB Mark Matthews, Chair

As I mentioned in a previous newsletter, the Southern RAB is currently in the process of compiling a database of two-year college chemistry instructors in our region. This list is for  $2YC_3$  purposes only, such as promoting upcoming meetings in or near our region, etc. You may have already received an email from one of us. If not (or if you don't recall getting one), please take a moment and send your contact information to the board member responsible for your state.

- Mississippi and Alabama: Pam Clevenger (pwclevenger@ hindscc.edu)
- Texas: Nancy Faulk (nfaulk@blinn.edu)/Sheli Hull (shelli. hull@tccd.edu)
- Florida: John Hawes (hawesj@lakecitycc.edu)
- South Carolina: Mark Matthews (matthewsm@durhamtech. edu)
- Georgia : Glen Nomura (gnomura@gpc.edu)
- Louisiana and Oklahoma: Karen Stephens (stephensk@ mybrcc.edu)
- Tennessee and North Carolina: Martin Stewart (mstewart@mtsu.edu)
- Kentucky and Arkansas: David Vogel (david.vogel@kctcs. edu)

Please pass this information on to any colleagues and adjuncts that would like to be included in our database. We'd like our list to be as comprehensive as possible.

Finally, I'd like to welcome Elijah Pugh (epugh@wccs.edu) from Wallace Community College Selma as our Alabama representative of the Southern RAB. The board is still seeking members from Arkansas, Oklahoma and South Carolina. If anyone is interested, please let me know (see above for my email address).

#### Midwestern RAB Jason Jadin

Jason Jadin has been a Midwestern RAB member for the past 3 years. He is a chemistry instructor at Rochester Community and Technical College in Rochester, MN. He is also the program chair for the 185<sup>th</sup> 2YC, conference hosted by RCTC.

The start of the New Year is always an exciting time. I like to reflect on the events of the previous year and look forward to upcoming events. For me, a major event that will occur this year is the 185th 2YC<sub>2</sub> conference which is only 9 months away! The time has quickly passed since our college's president gladly accepted the invitation to host the conference in September, 2006. Not a lot needed to be done in 2007 so the year was spent attending conferences, taking notes, and gathering ideas. Most of 2008 was spent developing a conference theme, booking hotels, reserving classrooms, and generating a list of potential speakers. We are still in the process of lining-up speakers. Several people have accepted our offer to present, but we certainly are looking for more. I know that you all do great things in your classrooms. Why not share them with your colleagues at a 2YC<sub>3</sub> conference? The next couple of months will be exciting as we put the final program together. Look for the final program in the next Chemistry Outlook.

If anyone approaches you to host a conference, please give it serious consideration. I have found that college administrators love hosting these conferences. It gives the college great publicity. If you are worried about the planning, there are many people willing to offer suggestions and even help out. I appreciate the help and advice I have received from the Midwestern RAB members and previous program chairs.

I hope to see many of you in September 2009!

#### Travel Grant Opportunity for 2-Year College Faculty!! Applications Are Being Accepted for The Dorothy and Moses Passer Education Fund

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 applicants 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

### Conducting Research at Queensborough Community College: A Unique Experience for a Recent Immigrant

#### Part A: The Hiring and Involvement of Faculty

Queensborough Community College, one of the six community colleges that are part of the City University of New York, is located in Bayside, Queens a few miles west of Long Island. The ethnicity of the approximately 13,000 full and part time students who attend the college every semester is roughly one quarter each White, African American, Hispanic and Asian. The Chemistry Department is composed of nine full-time faculty (plus a substitute Assistant Professor), three college lab technicians and approximately 25 adjuncts.

In the early Spring of 2000 Queensborough had its first ever student conduct faculty supervised research that she orally presented at the 48<sup>th</sup> Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS) of the American Chemical Society-New York section. The project was simple- studying the product distribution of the pinacol-pinacolone rearrangement via <sup>1</sup>H NMR using different acids and buffered solutions. The results were also presented in a poster form at the National ACS Meeting in Washington DC that August and were eventually published in *Tetrahedron Letters* two years later. Dr. Sasan Karimi, Dr. Gopal Subramaniam and the author of this article were the faculty who mentored that student and several others who continued working on the project for the next eighteen months or so. This was the beginning of an extraordinary research development in a community college setting.

At that time the department had no instrumentation and the administration was not willing to invest into anything more elaborate than condensers and separatory funnels. However retirements and the subsequent hiring of young, well-credentialed and diverse faculty enhanced the drive towards establishing research as an option to good students. These faculty members include Dr. Moni Chauhan (2002), Dr. Sharon-Lall Ramnarine, Dr. David Sarno and Dr. Jun Ho Shin (2004), Dr. Mihaela Bojin (2007) and Dr. Tirandai Hemraj-Benny (2008). Moreover adjuncts expressed interest in joining the group as long as they could do most of their teaching at Queensborough instead of other institutions and they would have a desk and the permission to use our facilities. We currently have five adjunct faculty mentoring students, Dr. Subramaniam (since 2002), Dr. Luis Vargas (since 2003), Professor Syamala Ranganathan (since 2006), Dr. Soraya Svoronos and Dr. Jordan Verdis (2008). In addition our full –time college lab technicians Pedro Irigoyen and Bruce Montalbano have also co-mentored various students for several years.

The result of this concerted effort by all members of our department has led to an ever increasing number of research students and presenters in various conferences with the number estimated to be at 34 this year. Queensborough students have presented at every single URS meeting since 2000 and have had the largest number of presentations every year since 2003. They have also presented in all Middle Atlantic Regional Meetings (MARM) held since 2003 as well as the Northeastern Regional Meeting (NERM) in 2006 and the Southwest Regional Meeting in Las Vegas (2008). Poster presentations were also made at the National ACS meetings in New York (2003), Washington DC (2005), Boston (2007) and Philadelphia (2008). Since 2002 ten peer-reviewed papers bearing our students' names were published the latest appearing in November 2008. Pertinent information appears in our department's website *http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/Chemistry/* 

In subsequent issues of this newsletter factors that contributed to the progress of research in our campus will be discussed. These include grants awarded, equipment purchases, our own honors program, PLTL workshops and the establishment of an undergraduate research lab in the department.

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#### Special NMR Workshops at 184<sup>th</sup> 2YC<sub>3</sub> Conference Salt Lake Community College

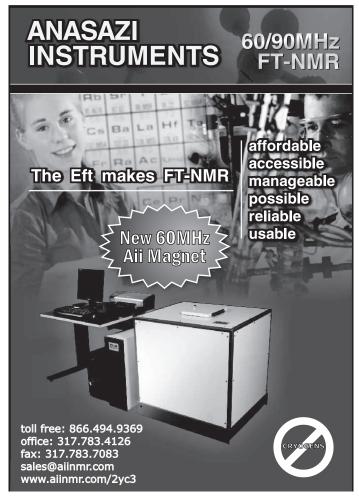
Anasazi Instruments will be presenting a workshop titled, "NMR Applications at Community Colleges." Three talks will be given by recognized experts in the field addressing pedagogy, funding, and novel applications to non-majors. Dr. Charles Abrams, Truman College will present pedagogical tools to introduce students to the basics of NMR spectroscopy. Dr. Tom Higgins, Harold Washington College will present funding opportunities for NMR instruments at community colleges, and Donald Bouchard of Anasazi Instruments will present applications of NMR for the study of foods and consumer products to create interest for non-science majors.

## Election Results 2009 2YC<sub>3</sub> COCTYC POSITIONS

Congratulations to the following new COCTYC members

- Chair-Elect 2010: <u>Mark Matthews</u>, Durham Technical Community College.
- Industrial Sponsors Chair: Michelle Turner, University of Akron Wayne College.

*Thank you* to Jeff Cramer, outgoing Chair and John Kenkel for his years of service as Industrial Sponsors Chair.





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