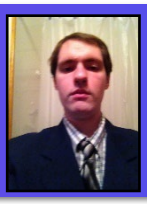
Vol 115, Issue 1 July - December 2021

HIGHLIGHTS



CNY ACS WELCOMES YOU AS WE RECAP JULY 2021 - DECEMBER 2021

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ACS Local Section Central New York

THE SYRACUSE CHEMIST

Executive Committee (2021)

Chair: Alyssa Thomas
Treasurer: Neal Abrams
Secretary: Lara Chappell
Social Media Support: Alec Beaton, Anthony Hauser, and Valerie Lopez-Diaz
Chair-Elect & Newsletter Editor: Gary Bonomo
Past-Chair & Councilor: Ivan V. Korendovych
Alternate Councilor: Olga Makhlynets
District Delegate: Prin Furst
District Delegate: Alec Beaton
District Delegate at-large: Valerie Lopez-Diaz
District Delegate at-large: Anthony Hauser
Education Chair: Miriam M. Gillett-Kunnath

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PLEASE WELCOME THE 2022 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair & Newsletter Editor: Gary Bonomo
The General Chemistry Laboratory Supervisor and Instructor at the SU Chemistry Department. Has helped with and/or organized several STEAM outreach events.

Chair-Elect: Valerie Lopez-Diaz
Adjunct assistant professor at LeMoyne College, with a PhD from Syracuse University. She has teaching experience that include General Chem Recitations & Lab, Organic Chem Lab, as well as tutoring on her free time.

Councilor: Ivan V. Korendovych
Associate Professor of Chemistry at SU and Adjunct Professor of Radiology at Upstate Medical University. More than 50 publications, and multiple awards.

District Delegate: Prin Furst
Teaches Honors and AP Chemistry in Cayuga, and runs an ACS Chem Club. NYS Master Teacher SAR in Chemistry (STANYS) – Central Region.

Treasurer: Neal Abrams
Associate Professor, Associate Chair for Undergraduate Laboratories, and Graduate Curriculum Coordinator at SUNY ESF. Active in research and educational outreach.

District Delegate: Karen Downey

Secretary: Alec Beaton
Graduate student in the chemistry department at Syracuse University studying magnetic resonance. He has been involved in ACS activities and events since high school and looks forward to serving as secretary in 2022.

District Delegate at-large: Jeremy Steinbacher
A materials chemist by training, Jeremy strives to use his broad portfolio of skills to facilitate scientific innovation at the BioInspired Institute at Syracuse University.

Past Chair: Alyssa Thomas
Associate Professor Chemistry (Utica College). National ACS Committee on Minority Affairs; subcommittee chair Membership Engagement and Professional Development.

District Delegate at-large: Sagar Bhattacharya
Graduate student at the SU Chemistry Department, interested in enzyme catalysis and directed evolution; teaching experience include General Chemistry Lab as well as Recitation, Medicinal Chemistry and Inorganic Chemistry; participated in several outreach activities of CNY ACS.

Education Chair: Miriam M. Gillett-Kunnath
SU Chemistry Department Research Assistant Professor. Mentors students in research and SC-XRD. Has helped with grant writing and/or organized several STEAM outreach events. Miriam is also our local section's primary organizer for involvement in ACS Project SEED.

Alternate Councilor: Olga Makhlynets
Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Syracuse University. Her current interests focus on fundamental problems at the interface between chemistry and biology. Participated in REU, LSAMP, ACS Seed Programs and summer chemistry enrichment experience for Syracuse City School District (SCSD) high school students.

PROJECT SEED: VIRTUAL SUMMER CAMP CABIN PROJECT

ACS Project SEED hosted a four-work Virtual Summer Camp for students from across the United States during July. It focused on students in virtual cabins led by Cabin Mentors. CNY ACS Cabin Mentors were Miriam Gillett-Kunnath, Gary Bonomo, Ahlam Zokari and Donyell Logan. Our Cabin Project involved understanding hands-on research and the synthesis of alkaline earth metal amides. An introduction to undergraduate research was provided by Miram. Information about General Chemistry Laboratory activities was presented by Gary. A synthesis demonstration was carried out by Ahlam and Donyell virtually. Students were engaged and gained a valuable understanding of how to successfully apply for and carry out hands-on undergraduate chemistry research. The skills taught included: literature search and organization, project scope, molview.org, synthesis, and characterization of target compounds.

We are honored that the Project SEED internship program was featured in the Syracuse University News: https://www.syracuse.edu/stories/research-internships-project-seed/

Bobby Kunnath and Miriam Gillett-Kunnath

PROJECT SEED: VIRTUAL SUMMER CAMP SPEAKER SESSION

In Summer 2021 Miriam Gillett-Kunnath and Bobby Kunnath gave an interactive talk to the Project SEED students entitled: *Dare to Dream Bigger! Roadmap to Success: Telling your story as you apply for colleges*. The presentation was well received and the students received valuable information about the college application process. The CNY ACS local section wishes these students success in their future endeavors.

October 30th and 31st: Zoo Boo at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo

The CNY ACS Local Section partnered with the Rosamond Gifford Zoo to present chemistry demonstrations and hands-on activities for their popular Halloween Zoo Boo. The CNY ACS tables were a huge hit with the approximately 800 attendees. The engaging activities included: making a slimy toy (polyvinyl alcohol, borax, and various mixed in decorative items such as glitter), instant snow (sodium polyacrylate and water), and polymer worms (sodium alginate and calcium chloride). There was also a chemistry spin-wheel with prizes for visitors; thank you to the Syracuse University College of Arts & Science for providing the prizes. We are very grateful to our enthusiastic volunteers (Miriam Gillett-Kunnath, Bobby Kunnath, Ali Kareem, Ginny Greib, Hana Althour, Sam England, Sagar Bhattacharya, Michelle Tran, Marwa Abedrabbah, Arub Abedrabbah, Michael Vu, Donyell Logan, Anne Dovciak, and Gary Bonomo)! The CNY ACS Education Chair (Dr. Miriam Gillett-Kunnath) did an excellent job organizing this fun event, with additional logistical support from Neal Abrams and Gary Bonomo.

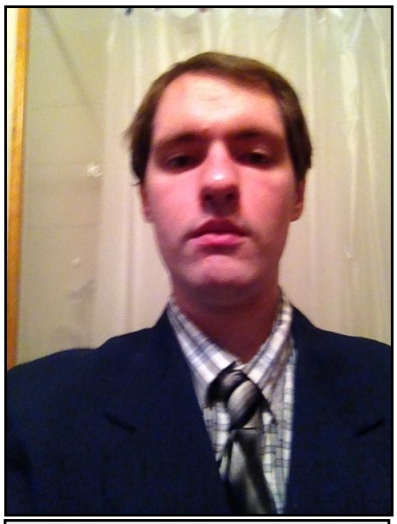
Images showing the volunteers at the Zoo Boo helping with the CNY ACS activity tables.

SCIENTISTS CORNER:

This section of the CNY ACS Newsletter highlights members of the local STEM Community. It provides their work experience, as well as their interests outside of their occupation.

Do you know a scientist who would be interested in being part of the Scientists Corner?

If so, please contact Gary Bonomo gbonomo@syr.edu for more information.



Anthony Hauser
Quality Assistance Technician for Berry Plastics and served as a District Delegate at-large for CNY ACS (2018 to 2021)

Can you tell us briefly about yourself?

I view myself as a polymath, a "jack of all trades." I've always had an interest in experimenting, even since I was a preteen, where that meant little more than adding different amounts of cinnamon and ginger to individual batches of a sugar cookie recipe. In the decades since, this mindset has taken root in every branch of knowledge I pursue… whether that means melding genre conventions in my music, applying real-world electrical engineering to action-scenes in my post-apocalyptic fiction, or spending free-time using population statistics to try and narrow the different possible systems of "hair/eye/skin color" genetics.

Can you share what it is like working in chemistry?

Personally, the most exciting jobs I've had are those which are involved most directly in the field of chemistry. Even routine tests for basic quality control measures are enjoyable as they engage your technique and add to your knowledge. And while there may be many moments of tedium, they are often worth it for the pleasure of new knowledge (whether in the form of a skill or a discovery).

What would you most like to share with other scientists/chemists?

In terms of advice, I feel that all scientists ought to maintain an awareness of interdisciplinary knowledge. It often slips the professional chemist's mind that their career incorporates fields of biology and physics as well as raw chemistry. But, more than that, there's also philosophical elements they invoke regularly, whether in terms of epistemology or ontology or even something as supposedly-obvious as "morality"/ethics… and, as the cliche goes, sometimes we get so caught up in the fact that we can do something we never take the time to question whether we should.

And, as a final point to the significance of an interdisciplinary approach to knowledge, science is best when it is freely used and freely shared. But given the complex jargon and often-impersonal "fact-based" nature of 'natural philosophy', many non-scientists view science as alien or inhuman. And drawing on the arts and literature for metaphors and models allows the scientist/science educator to bridge this gap of human connection. Think more STEAM instead of merely STEM.

CNY ACS – Exciting Volunteer Opportunities

- Science Fairs
- Chemistry Demonstrations
- Community Outreach Activities
- Career Fairs and Mentoring
- Earth Day Activities
- Planning Innovative Events
- Guest Speakers
- Additional Suggestions Welcomed

Please contact Gary Bonomo gbonomo@syr.edu to get involved and/or for newsletter feedback. Newsletter submissions welcome.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The CNY ACS will keep you posted via email, social media and newsletters.

Thank you to the CNY ACS members and volunteers from all of our counties:

- **Cayuga**
- **Cortland**
- **Madison**
- **Oneida**
- **Oswego**
- **Onondaga**
- **Seneca**

Your support in 2021 is greatly appreciated.
We look forward to continuing to work together in 2022.

Map Image Source:
American Chemical Society. Map of ACS Local Section Territories: As of February 1st, 2016. https://www.acs.org/content/dam/acsorg/membership/ls/acs-local-section-map.pdf (accessed March 6th, 2019).